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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Anthony Bartolotta, Supervisor  
Kim Markee, Clerk  
Steve Thomas, Treasurer  
Jeff Gilbert, Trustee  
Sam Harris, Trustee  
Marie E. Hauswirth, Trustee  
Gary Wall, Trustee

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

|                  |             |                |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Joellen Shortley | Megan McCoy | Debbie Wertz   |
| Gary Biron       | Jen Thom    | Barakah Miller |
| Sharon Thomas    | Anne Mobley | Kevin Lynch    |

Supervisor Bartolotta called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Emotional Support Animal**

- Joellen Shortley, Attorney, explained that the individuals asking about this are very passionate about defending animals. Many of these animals are mixed breeds.
- Clerk Markee said there are currently numerous requests that have been denied because of our ordinance in place regarding dangerous animals
- Clerk Markee and Trustee Gilbert said emotional support animals are very different than service animals. Ponies are now allowed to be service animals.
- Joellen explained there are other states that allow emotional support animals in designated HUD housing that have been approved by the owners of the housing. She suggested we provide criteria where we may consider emotional support animals, such as a doctor's request stating that the patient needs this animal for specific reasons, the management of the housing would need to provide an approval allowing the animal, and a note from the veterinarian stating the breed of the animal. **Action Item: Supervisor Bartolotta asked Joellen to draft language with criteria for an emotional support animal.**

**Dog Licenses**

- Treasurer Thomas informed us that the Treasurer's Office will continue providing dog licenses and help residents apply online for the licenses. Oakland County will also help residents apply online, since the only way to receive dog licenses is online.

**Mission Square/ Corebridge**

- Treasurer Thomas is planning to go to one company for the Township's pension plans. There were no objections.

**Marine Patrol Services**

- Supervisor Bartolotta asked if anyone was interested in contributing \$12,500 to Marine Patrol Service for Cass Lake per Keego Harbor's request from West Bloomfield, Waterford, Orchard Lake, and Keego because of safety concerns on Cass Lake. There was a lot of discussion, and it was determined that Supervisor Bartolotta should deny Keego's request, and the

homeowners should be asked to contribute money since several of the Waterford Lakes homeowners donate funds for marine patrol. Clerk Markee said Oakland County should provide this as part of its services, according to Scott Underwood. Trustee Hauswirth said we have 34 named lakes, and it could get expensive if we did it for one lake, because the other lakes would want us to give them money too. Clerk Markee suggested providing some Maine Patrol for lakes with DNR public access. Trustee Wall thought this would be expensive because there are quite a few with DNR public access. **Action Item Bartolotta: Until we understand what the other communities are doing, Waterford will not support giving \$12,500 to Keego Harbor and will suggest that the Lake owners contribute the necessary funds for Marine Patrol.**

### **Road Funding Public Act 188**

- Trustee Harris asked if everyone received his emails over the weekend, and all responded yes. Supervisor Bartolotta was concerned about a resolution coming forward without his approval because he doesn't want to spend money on this right now. Clerk Markee mentioned there are numerous things we do not know and should reach out to the department heads to understand the labor impact of taking this on. Also, the RCOC (Road Commission of Oakland County) is receiving \$49 million more from the State to spend on roads. **Action Item Markee: Find out how much of the additional money for roads is for subdivision/local roads.** Clerk Markee suggested that roads are very important to all of us, and they are 94% poorly rated by the RCOC; therefore, we need to do something. She does not have a problem with providing a line item in the budget, \$1.0 million for the current 10% off process, and \$1.0 million for the PA188 process, and possibly more. She thinks the three elected officials need to talk about this in early 2026 and possibly do a budget amendment to allow the PA188 process, depending on what the department heads say. We need to bring it forward to the whole board during a public board meeting with the process and the resolution. Trustee Gilbert had many questions about how it would work. Trustee Harris would like his neighborhood to be the first one to use PA188 funds. Trustee Hauswirth said we need to have a process, and with the people Trustee Harris has, maybe they could draft a policy for Waterford and understand the extra work that each department may experience with implementing PA 188. Trustee Wall thought the three elected officials should talk with the department heads. **Action Item: The three full-time elected officials will discuss in early 2026 with the Department Heads.**

### **Opioid Settlement Funds**

- Joellen Shortley, Attorney, thought we should have criteria and request RFPs from organizations that would like to be considered for opioid funds. Trustee Hauswirth wants the money to go for prevention. Trustee Gilbert would like to see what Joellen did for other communities. Clerk Markee would like funds to purchase five AED units for the Fire Department and the rest to be divided between Waterford Youth Assistance and Waterford Community Coalition. We will get more funds in future years that may be given to the Police Department. Debbie Wertz, Waterford Community Coalition, said that they would appreciate any amount, and to make sure whoever you choose is certified. She is certified in drug prevention training with children. The Waterford School District is asking her to do more training. The Trustees asked Joellen to make one of the criteria be for Waterford residents and Waterford Schools. Debbie asks the schools to evaluate each program and uses their input for her evaluations. Megan McCoy, Waterford Youth Assistance, said they would also

like to help and be considered for some of the funds. Supervisor Bartolotta would like to receive quarterly updates on how the opioid funds are being used. **Action Item: Joellen will put together some criteria and wording for an RFP for the Board to review**

#### **Trustees Topics of Concern**

- Clerk Markee asked about the Community Center. Supervisor Bartolotta said he will have Plante Moran come in quarterly starting in January to provide updates to the Board.
- Trustee Wall said we had to make many cuts because we were overbudget. We need to concentrate on the footprint of the building because we do not want to build anymore once it's built. Trustee Harris asked about the programs and what programs will be there, and will pickleball be there. Supervisor Bartolotta reminded the Board that we need to keep in mind the funds that will be required for the new fire station.

#### **Public Comments**

- Debbie Wertz would like everyone to vote for the Community Coalitions Christmas Tree that they entered to win \$20,000.

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.