



Minutes of **SPECIAL MEETING**
Held **July 28, 2011**

Township of Springfield

Laura Moreau, Clerk

Call to Order: Clerk Moreau called the July 28, 2011 Special Meeting of the Springfield Township Board to order at 7:00 pm at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present

Laura Moreau	Township Clerk
Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
Judy Hensler	Township Trustee
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Roger Lamont	Township Trustee
Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee

Board Members Not Present

None

Others Present

Mike Forst	Property Manager
Charles Oaks	Fire Chief
Vicki Sievers	Chief Assessor

Clerk Moreau stated that the first order of business is to elect a chairperson pro tem to lead the meeting.

Treasurer Dubre moved to elect Trustee Dave Hopper as Chairperson Pro Tem. Trustee Vallad supported the motion. Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hensler, Hopper, Lamont, Moreau and Vallad; No: None; Absent: None. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.

New Business:

1. Supervisor Vacancy: Candidate review and selection

Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper explained that tonight's meeting is to attempt to fill the Supervisor vacancy. Interviews for candidates were held on meetings on July 19 and July 25. Of the twelve applications received, eight persons were interviewed that the Board felt deserved further consideration. Each of the interviews was approximately an hour. The goal for tonight's meeting is to choose someone to fill the remainder of the term of Mike Trout. By State law that needs to be done by August 11 otherwise a Special Election must be called. Eight diverse and interesting candidates applied for the position. This is



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unchartered terrain for the Board. Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper suggested that they do a poll of all Board members to determine the top one or two choices of each, then a list can be generated or perhaps consensus can be reached. He asked if any Board members had any objections.

Board members indicated their agreement with the suggestion for how to proceed.

Treasurer Dubre stated that her top two would be Roger Lamont and Collin Walls.

Trustee Hensler stated that her top choice is Paul Zelenak and she is undecided on her second choice. It is between Virginia Fischbach and Neil Willson.

Trustee Vallad stated that his top two choices are Collin Walls and Paul Zelenak.

Clerk Moreau stated that her top choice is Paul Zelenak and she would give consideration to other candidates mentioned as a potential second choice.

Trustee Lamont stated that his top choice is Roger Lamont and his second choice is Collin Walls.

Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper stated that his top choices, in no particular order, are Collin Walls and Paul Zelenak. He asked the other Board members if they wanted to keep the list at three.

Trustee Hensler stated that they could take the top three that had the most votes.

Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper stated that the top three were Paul Zelenak, Collin Walls and Roger Lamont. He stated that Trustee Lamont was entitled by State law to abstain or to participate in the selection process and asked Trustee Lamont what he intends to do.

Trustee Lamont reiterated that by State Statute it was his right to make that determination. It is his intention to fulfill his obligation as Trustee and represent the Township and vote throughout the process. He stated that based on the letter from Greg Need, Township Attorney, dated June 15, he does have the right to abstain if he wants but it also says that he has the right to represent the voters. This is what he intends to do. Trustee Lamont stated that in terms of an appointment, more votes represent more of the Township. He stated that even though he is a candidate, it is appropriate that he votes.

Clerk Moreau noted that this information is important for the Board, and for members of the audience to understand, because the number of Board members voting on a motion will determine the number of votes needed to make the appointment. If Trustee Lamont



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participates in the process it will take four votes to appoint a Supervisor. But if he abstains, a majority of three is all that would be required.

Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper asked the Board what the next step would be. It was decided that the Board would start with the candidate who received the most votes. Both Paul Zelenak and Collin Walls were mentioned by four Board members. Clerk Moreau offered to start with her comments regarding candidate Paul Zelenak.

Clerk Moreau stated that her choice is Paul Zelenak. Initially she felt that the Board should first open up the Supervisor vacancy to existing members of Township Boards and Commissions. It was determined by the Board that it would be appropriate to open up the search to all residents. She is glad that they opened up the process and believes that they found a highly qualified candidate in Paul Zelenak. She made many calls for references and she consulted with others who know Paul including residents and officials in Oakland County. She found that Paul is highly respected in the County and heard many positive comments. He is not well known to Township staff or to the Board, but anyone who took the time to talk to Paul when he came to the Civic Center left that interaction being very impressed with his personality and his effort to be prepared and informed. Some of the comments that others stated about Paul were that he is conscientious, professional and detail oriented and that Springfield really “can’t go wrong” with Paul. She felt in his question and answer period that he demonstrated that he had a command of the issues and very clearly understood the opportunities and the challenges facing Springfield Township. She believes he can step into the Supervisor’s role and immediately take the reins and he also can offer an innovative and creative approach to the Township’s future. She stated that her support was for Paul Zelenak.

Board member Vallad stated that as he went through the eight candidates, there were several that were qualified and the interview process helped him adjust a ranked list. His first impression was that there were two candidates who stood out and Paul was one of those. He stated that Paul’s experience in municipal government and experience in several communities provide and excellent background. Paul Zelenak is a very well qualified candidate.

Trustee Lamont stated that Paul Zelenak is a good public speaker and he does have a lot of experience in the City of Rochester Hills, Ortonville, Bloomfield Hills, Garden City and Lake Orion. His question would be why did he keep switching jobs. In the last 11 years, he has represented 5 different communities. One of the questions on the interview sheet was do you plan on running for reelection. Although Paul said yes, Trustee Lamont doesn’t get the feeling of a sense of security for the long term. He stated that is why Paul Zelenak was not on his list.



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Treasurer Dubre stated that Paul Zelenak was not on her list either and she had the same concern regarding the job changes and the fact that he has not been involved in Springfield Township.

Trustee Hensler stated that they had a diverse group of well-qualified candidates and very professional resumes and interviews. The common thread throughout the interviews and resumes seemed to be preserving our rural atmosphere, strong family values, the importance of the budget and managing growth. Since these factors were common to all candidates she focused on other areas such as experience, management style, communication skills, vision, goals, professionalism and the ability to lead the Township into the future. Because of that her first choice is Paul Zelenak because of his extensive experience in government that offers Springfield Township a wonderful opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. He is a true professional who would bring a new level of expertise to the Township. Trustee Hensler believes his learning curve would be minimal and the 16 to 20 items from the Status Report requiring immediate attention would be in capable hands and appropriate action would be implemented. She thinks that the Township could benefit from Paul's extensive network of other area professionals. His total preparedness and knowledge was apparent in the interview and she feels strongly that this is the best choice for the Township. She thinks that he offers the most expertise with the most seamless transition. There would be no vacancies on Boards or Commissions.

Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper stated that Paul was one of his top two candidates. He knows that the election cycle is fast approaching; registration is required by May for the August primary. If the term were longer, he might be more apt to look at someone with less experience in local government. Paul Zelenak brought good ideas. There is a difference between Township government and city government and Paul would be below Collin for that reason. But Paul is the most equipped of the other candidates to get up to speed quickly. He feels comfortable with either of these two choices. He stated that Carol Jones provided a letter of support for Mr. Paul Zelenak to all of the Board members.

Trustee Vallad stated that he has known Collin for over 20 years. He stated that Collin's 32 years experience as Supervisor is what the Township needs in an interim position. He reviewed all of the candidates and several of them have experience in local government which shows a commitment to the local government and residents. He thinks that Collin in 2008 would have run for Supervisor if Mike Trout had not run. He stated that this is important, this shows a commitment to service, not only to government, but the community as a whole. Collins knows the job. He stated that if they were to check with County references and local references, the respect is there for Collin. He stated that the experience is important. He stated that there is work to do with some of the projects that have been started and are now off track. He stated that Collin having been in that position can do this. He stated that he is in support of Collin Walls.



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Clerk Moreau stated that they were reminded of Collin's successful career at his interview. She was again impressed and grateful for what he has accomplished for the Township. She understood that she didn't need to call on Collin's references. She stated that if it is the Board's intention to simply fill a vacancy until the election, then Collin could do this well. However, Clerk Moreau's top choice would be to find and select a candidate that could provide transition and also to springboard into the next cycle. She stated that it has not always been a smooth road over the last 3 years, but they have certainly made strides and forward momentum. Projects and goals have begun and areas of improvement were targeted. She stated that she was interested in how Collin felt about these areas and where he saw the Township going. She stated that she asked Collin about this in the question and answer period but she did not really hear an answer. She was wondering about things like the lumberyard property, Davisburg Beautification Day, Dixie/Davisburg signalization and some of the other projects related to the Parks and Recreation millage. She stated that Collin's experience and abilities are well known to the Board, but she wasn't clear on his intent for 2012 and beyond. She stated that she has great respect for Collin, but he is not her top choice.

Trustee Lamont stated that Collin Walls was his second choice after himself. He has a lot of respect for Collin. He had issues as a resident in 2001 and shortly thereafter he wound up on the Planning Commission. Because of Collin, in 2004, he ran for Trustee. He stated that his references are the residents of Springfield Township in his opinion. He can step in and fill the position in the interim. He stated that the decision is usually in the hands of the residents and the Township Board rarely makes the decision. He stated that although they have a need to fill the position, it really should be in the hands of the voters. He stated that knowing that he was not in the top two choices; his support would then go to Collin Walls.

Treasurer Dubre stated that she had Collin as the second choice because she knows he is capable and Collin has a care and commitment to this community the likes of which she has not seen before. He would be able to step in and there would be no training. The reason he was her second choice is because of his honest answer of knowing if he would run or not. She stated that Collin Walls is the person to step in and fill the spot and carry on what he started many years back. Some of the comments that were made about Paul apply to Collin as well, for example, knowledgeable and detail oriented. He has the respect in the community and that gives him the edge over Paul. She stated that having time off and having hind site has given her a chance to evaluate his performance and he definitely has the commitment to the community. She stated that her support for Collin is secondary to Roger Lamont because he offers something different than Collin.

Trustee Hensler stated that she concurs with the comments that have been made regarding Collin's commitment level. However, she has talked to many residents and they seem to feel that he did a wonderful job in the past, but most of them feel that he has done the job and it is time for Springfield to move forward.



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Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper stated that Collin's vision is around us. He has shaped this community and is the reason why most of the people in the audience are living here. Several things are important like controlled development, green space, Parks and Recreation and these things happened while he was Supervisor and this is why Collin Walls is his choice.

Treasurer Dubre stated that the majority of the Board has identified these two candidates as the top two. She asked if they should still discuss Roger Lamont since it is just Roger and she who voted for Trustee Lamont. She stated that Trustee Lamont has a lot of the same traits that Collin has, but has some additional pluses that Collin doesn't have like 31 years in the private sector which would help him bring the private sector to the job. She stated that she has no doubt that he can learn the job, especially if the Board is looking for someone to learn the job and then run again. Roger Lamont could learn it, and he has been and will be committed. He has been on the Zoning Board and the Planning Commission and went through the rezoning process as the Chair. He has human resources and budget experience. He demonstrates an ability to listen and give honest and open feedback to people. He has a welcoming nature. She stated that Trustee Lamont is her first choice and Collin Walls is her second choice.

Trustee Vallad stated that Trustee Lamont is well qualified and his experience in Township government is admirable and the right kind of experience. He stated that it is the experience in Township government and service to the community that helped him make his choice. Trustee Lamont would be his third choice. He thanked Trustee Lamont for his service.

Clerk Moreau also thanked Trustee Lamont for his service and stated that she served on the Planning Commission with Roger during a challenging time. She stated that she had difficulty deciding on a second choice. Trustee Lamont has shown a commitment to the Township through the various ways that he has served, however her focus was on selecting a candidate who could step right into the Supervisor role and address some immediate challenges. She stated that she has a high level of respect for Trustee Lamont, but knowing what the priorities are for the Township he is not her top choice.

Trustee Lamont stated he made it clear during his interview his feelings about the Township. He has been on the Board for seven years and he does not always agree and that is why there are seven Board members. He stated that it takes this perspective to have checks and balances. They need to have transparency in government and they have to let the public know what is going on so that all the residents who want to come to a meeting like this can come. The public needs to have input and everything that the Township government does should be transparent.



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Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper concurred with Trustee Vallad and stated that Trustee Lamont was his third choice. He stated that the difference between second and third was the government experience. He stated that it is different being an administrator at the Supervisor level, although he is sure that Trustee Lamont can handle it, but the budget is coming up and he was concerned about the training period. He stated that Karen Binasio has submitted a letter of support of Roger Lamont.

Trustee Hensler restated that Trustee Lamont has many years of experience in the corporate world and she is sure that he could bring those skills to the Township, but at this time she feels like another candidate is the right choice.

Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper suggested opening the meeting to the public for brief comments.

Bev Shaver, 11171 Bayshore Ct. and member of the Planning Commission, stated that she has known Paul Zelenak for 25 years and she met him in an Assessing class originally. On the professional level, Paul's positive aspects were represented through the interview process. On a personal level, there is a group of Assessors that get together every two months. She stated that everyone looks to Paul for advice and for his opinion on a municipal question. She stated that he is well known and has many contacts already established that would be beneficial for the Township.

Faye White, 9615 Forest Ridge Drive, stated that she has had the privilege of working with Collin first as her homeowner's association president. Collin was a personal force and a person to go to for issues in the Township and she has great respect for Collin. When he chose to retire she was shocked. She stated that she believes that Collin Walls would be a great person to fill in but her question would be, would he run again? She stated that the Township needs to get on track and to move forward. She reviewed Paul Zelenak's resume several times and looked at all of the qualifications and she is very impressed. It looks like the path that the Township is taking concerning pathways and development is the direction that he is taking. She stated that she is in support of Paul Zelenak.

Doug Weaver, 10801 Rattale Lake Road, stated that the Board members made good points. He stated that he is a long term resident and he knows Collin. He has known people who jump from job to job. He stated that might not be a bad thing with Paul and his experience, but it is still possibly a concern. He stated that the Board's job is not to find someone who is planning on being in the Supervisor position long term, their job is merely to fulfill the term. He stated that Collin Walls is a great person to fill in until the next election whether he wants to run or not should not be a determining factor for the Board.



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Mary Smith, 10058 King Road, stated that candidate Virginia Fischbach could not attend tonight but she wanted to thank the Board for their support. She stated that both she and Ms. Fischbach support Collin Walls.

Greg Kazmierski, 10900 Rattalee Lake Road, stated that he knew Collin from the Davisburg Rotary Club and he quickly became knowledgeable about him and his family's place in the community. He stated that he recognizes Collin's commitment and dedication to the community. He still is president and member of the Rotary Club.

Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper stated that they need four votes to have a majority.

Clerk Moreau suggested follow-up comments from the Board members to see if anyone has changed their top choices after Board discussion and public comment.

Trustee Hensler stated that she wanted to comment on a raised objection to Paul Zelenak. She stated that she does not believe that his job changing is a serious issue and that he explained it. She does not see career moves as an indication that you are not committed to your job or your community. She stated that he is qualified to fulfill the balance of the term and she feels that Paul brings a broader spectrum of experience to the table.

Clerk Moreau stated that the Board's role is to fulfill the term; however, the selection sends a message and it has implications for the candidate they select. She stated that if the Board selects a candidate that they have found to be capable in the short term and someone who has the potential to make an impact on the community down the road it sends a message about where we are going and what our potential is as a community. She stands firmly behind the idea that Paul Zelenak can make a great contribution right off the bat and would be the right decision for the future. She stated that there is a difficult decision ahead of them. If it was just filling a spot, the Board would not have gone through all of the time and trouble for the interviews and special meetings to determine what the Board is really looking for in a Supervisor. She stated that this person has 15 months to prove himself before the residents vote next year. She believes the Board should give that opportunity to Paul Zelenak and she has every confidence that the smart voters in Springfield Township will determine if we made the right selection. She stated that she remains in support of Paul Zelenak.

Treasurer Dubre stated that her support goes to Collin Walls. She doesn't deny that Paul has skills, but she knows that Collin Walls is the reason that the direction the Township is going is what drew her to Springfield. She believes wholeheartedly that he would give 100 percent. She stated that if his intent was not to run, she knows that he would work with the best candidate to help them.



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Trustee Lamont stated that his support goes to Collin Walls. He stated that Collin has all of the credentials that they need to move forward. He stated that the incumbent will have the advantage in 2012, but then the voters will ultimately make their decision. He stated that he supports Collin Walls.

Trustee Vallad stated that his preference is that the voters decide but he does not want to pay for a special election. He stated that his support goes to Collin Walls. In the thirty plus years that he has been involved in the Township there were things that Collin did, and he doesn't know if all of those things came out in his interview, that show the passion and caring for the community. He stated that this is what the Township needs at this time period and then let the voters decide in 2012.

Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper stated that he has not changed his thoughts. He feels that both candidates are qualified. However, Collin Walls is still his first choice, especially for this short term. In 2012, the voters will decide.

Clerk Moreau moved to appoint Paul Zelenak to complete the vacated term of Springfield Township Supervisor ending November 20, 2012. Supported by Trustee Hensler. Vote on the motion. Yes: Hensler, Moreau; No: Dubre, Hopper, Lamont, Vallad; Absent: None. The motion failed by a 2 to 4 vote.

Trustee Vallad moved to appoint Collin Walls to the remaining term of Springfield Township Supervisor, term ending November 20, 2012. Conditioned on Mr. Walls being sworn in to the position prior to August 11, 2011. Supported by Treasurer Dubre.

Paul Zelenak, 10115 Red Cedar Court, stated that he wanted to thank the individuals who supported him through this process. He stated that he feels it is important to vote unanimously, whether they agree or don't agree, with the selection of the individual. He stated that they not only support Collin Walls in this position, you support the decision made by the Trustees as a group. Everyone in the community should know that it was a unanimous decision.

Clerk Moreau noted that the majority of the Board supports Collin Walls and in the interest of having consensus and showing support, she will vote yes on the appointment. She wanted to condition her impending yes vote to indicate support for the next fifteen months.

Trustee Hensler concurred with Clerk Moreau's comment.

Treasurer Dubre stated that she is pleased that the Board was able to come to a consensus in a positive way.



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Trustee Vallad stated that he would encourage all of the other candidates to volunteer for appointments to show a commitment to the residents.

Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper stated that he would like to thank the applicants and the public for their attendance and interest.

**Vote on the motion. Yes: Dubre, Hensler, Hopper, Lamont, Moreau, Vallad;
No: None; Absent: None. The motion carried by a 6 to 0 vote.**

Clerk Moreau administered the Oath of Office to Collin Walls as Springfield Township Supervisor, term ending November 20, 2012.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

Hearing no other business, Chairperson Pro Tem Hopper adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Dave Hopper, Chairperson Pro Tem

Laura Moreau, Township Clerk