

October 11, 2021

To: Washtenaw County Election Commission

Chair - Darlene O'Brien, Judge of the Probate Court

Secretary - Lawrence Kestenbaum, County Clerk/ Register

Member - Catherine McClary, County Treasurer

Dear Election Commissioners,

Please find my response to the recall petition as filed October 4, 2021. It is my assertion that the claims included in the petition are unclear and factually deficient. The recall petition lacks sufficient clarity and factual information.

I understand the gravity of the allegations made by the petitioner and offer the following refutations to the petition. I am unable to attend the meeting due to obligations of my full-time work, which do not allow for time to attend. I offer the following information to directly refute the claims made in the petition with the understanding that the review of the petition as offered does not meet the threshold for clarity and standing in factual basis.

Issues noted on petition submission:

- 1) Moved to delete residents comments he deemed subjective from Board Minutes.

It is unclear which comments the petitioner refers to, but in any event, this item is factually untrue. As a Scio Trustee, I noted that there was a concern for sufficient clarity and objective capture of public comments in meeting minutes. The synopsis of Trustee and public comments, as written by the Clerk, was incomplete. The minutes for the meeting as approved and presented for the June 22, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting on the Township website are inclusive of all comments made during public comment.

- 2) Twice voted to deny residents, who are attending remotely due to health concerns, the ability to speak during public comment.

The Scio Township Board of Trustees has included periods for public comment of three minutes at the beginning and at the end of all meetings and on action items the Board will vote on at each meeting held during this term of office. All public meetings held by the Scio Board of Trustees have included the opportunity for public comment both for those attending in-person and also those joining via Zoom, based on the emergency order put in place by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. Those residents attending via Zoom are afforded the same opportunity to speak as those attending in person.

- 3) Voted to double the salary of the part-time Supervisor, deliberately bypassing the Township's Compensation Commission.

This claim is unclear in asserting "deliberate bypass." There is no basis for presumption of a deliberate act. The factual background to the article is as stated. It was determined in March of 2021 that the role of Supervisor required a commitment in excess of 40 hours per week. As the previous Scio Board of

Trustees had determined, for the previous supervisor, a salary representative of the time commitment was required for services rendered. This action was not without precedent in the Township. Additionally, the Scio Board of Trustees allocated sufficient full-time position funds in the 2021 budget to account for the full-time compensation of the Supervisor's position, which passed by a vote of 7-0. Following direction offered by The Woodhill Group as GASBY accounting experts who serve as the Township's consulting contractor, it was represented to the Board that compensation for the Supervisor could be affected retroactively. This recommendation from Woodhill was later found to be incorrect and because the Board of Trustees unknowingly relied on that bad advice, it cannot be determined as encompassing a deliberate act. The Board of Trustees' actions taken following allocation of funds in the 2021 budget was not an attempt to bypass the compensation commission. The compensation commission did not exist when the budget was approved.

- 4) Is attempting to limit fellow Board members comments to once per agenda item with one follow-up, thus eliminating robust discussion and debate.

It is unclear what "attempt" is being made. As a matter of fact, all Board of Trustees members have been afforded the opportunity to speak to all issues as included in agendas and business dockets. There is no procedure in current Township meetings that limits participation by any Board of Trustee member.

As my statements above outline, the four reasons provided by the submitter of the recall petition are not of sufficient clarity. I, therefore, request the entire petition be rejected.

Sincerely,

Alec Jerome