

Approved

Unapproved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board

Special Meeting

Date: December 5th, 2023, 9am

7052 N M-123, Paradise MI 49768

906-492-3452

Supervisor Forrester called the meeting to order at 9:00am

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: Present: Edson Forrester, Kim Bean, Earl Skeans, Katie Becker

Absent: Trustee Gomery

Citizens present: 1

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

D. PUBLIC COMMENT: Rick Brockway inquired as to why all Department heads, specifically the Fire Dept and Library Board Members/Director do not attend the meetings. Clerk Becker urged Supervisor Forrester to encourage all Department heads/ Directors to attend the meetings. Citizen Dave Cords sent an email on 12/5/23 which he requested to be added to the official meeting minutes. He voiced concerns about EMS and lack of preparedness regarding posting of township meetings. Clerk Becker will add his E-mail to the official record of this meeting. Clerk Becker previously spoke with Mr. Cords and shared with him that the EMS discussions have been publicly going on for months. Trustee Skeans Shared that there is a public meeting schedule circulating regarding EMS Services in Whitefish Township. Clerk Becker will add this meeting schedule to the official record of this meeting.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Milage for Emergency Medical Services Ballot Wording: Motion by Forrester, Second by Skeans to adopt the EMS ballot wording as read. The option presented on the February 27th, 2024; primary ballot will be for Whitefish Townships standalone EMS Service at the rate of 5mills. Clerk Becker also read Resolution 12052023 in regard to this Milage Request. Clerk Becker will hand deliver the Ballot Language to the County Clerk by 4pm today 12/5/2023. ROLL CALL Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. Motion Carried

2. Emergency Services Wage Changes: The rates were not available for review. These rates will be added to the Agenda for the December 7th township meeting.

3. Ordinance Discussion: Clerk Becker presented 2 Sample blight Ordinances as well as a sample Nuisance Ordinance provided by our Township Attorney. Clerk Becker shared that while Blight is hard to prove and prosecute, we owe it to our Township to appropriately handle these instances. Clerk Becker shared all information she found via FOIA requests to the Chippewa County Health Dept, Chippewa County Building Dept, Chippewa County Register of Deeds, Cloverland Electric and Chippewa County Building Inspectors. Supervisor Forrester stated that the public's perception does not always match with the actual definition of Blight. He also shared we need to identify a quantified statement of Blight to take to court. Regarding the Yukon specifically, Supervisor Forrester stated there is a window out because of the Gift Shop fire, Construction Material not finished and repair issues such as painting. Clerk Becker pointed out these all violate our current Blight Ordinance. Supervisor Forrester stated we must apply that standard to every building in our township, including homes. Treasurer Bean shared we need to educate the public of what Blight really is and that we need to actually investigate these issues. Trustee Skeans shared he is in favor of taking the time to attack these Blight issues. Clerk Becker stated she would like to see Blight Enforcement powers given to a board member as a Non-Statutory Duty paid at the hourly rate set for an Enforcement Officer. There was no motion made to assign those duties at this time. There was no action proposed or taken, however Clerk Becker stated she would like to continue this discussion at December 7th's meeting.

Sh. Samy
Earl Skeans
Katie Becker
Edson Forrester
Kim Bean

4. Custodian's Job Description & Responsibilities: Supervisor Forrester provided a copy of the Current Description. Clerk Becker asked if these duties were monitored? Supervisor Forrester stated there is no Supervisor present to enforce these duties and break times. Clerk Becker raised several concerns with tasks that were assigned by the Supervisor that have not been completed. The custodian was even offered help to complete these tasks and hasn't done them. Clerk Becker stated we discussed termination in March and even though the Custodian ramped up his performance in April and May, we are right back to the same performance that prompted these concerns in March. Plowing is not being completed timely in front of the buildings specifically the EMS and Fire station, the Clerk has been setting up tables/chairs for meetings as the Custodian is not here, the Custodian admitted going through Clerk Becker's personal vehicle so he could move it to plow. Clerk Becker motioned to go into closed session to discuss the custodian's performance, Second by Skeans. Closed Session to commence once Public Meeting is adjourned. 4/4 YES, Motion Carried

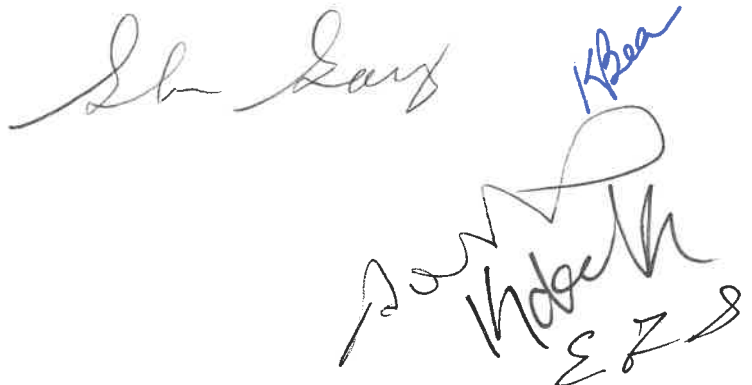
5. Public Hearing Zoning Ordinance: There was not a Quorum to complete the public hearing previously scheduled on November 15, 2023. Supervisor Forrester stated there is now no urgency to complete the Public Hearing. Clerk Becker questioned that statement and urged the Planning Commission to still work swiftly to complete this to avoid larger issues with the current Moratorium.

6. Payroll Policy: Motion by Becker to accept the Payroll Policy as read, Second by Forrester. The payroll Policy identifies specific pay dates as well as specific dates that Department Heads/ Directors need to follow to ensure prompt payroll payments. There was a discussion about projected payroll information. If the need for a payroll projection is needed, the projection will be corrected on the following payroll cycle. Roll Call Vote, Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 4/4 YES, Motion Carried.

G. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Forrester, Second by Skeans to recess Open Session at 10:15am to go into Closed Session regarding Employee Performance. 4/4 YES, Motion Carried.

Returned to Open Session at 10:47am

Motion to Adjourn by Forrester, Second by Skeans – Adjourned 10:47am



Sh. Kay
K. Bean
J. Skeans

Katie Becker

From: David Cords <dcords@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:11 AM
To: Edson Forrester; Kim Bean; Katie Becker
Subject: Today's special meeting

Good morning Edson, Katie and Kim. I am writing in the hopes this letter becomes part of the official meeting minutes and is read during the meeting.

I am once again disappointed that the township continues to push these special meetings with little to no notice on the township residents. I have been informed of the 18 hour rule set by the state of michigan for these meetings but feel the township hierarchy use them to keep the residents off guard and not informed of issues that ultimately will have a major impact on our taxes.

While I agree that keeping a EMS department is paramount for its citizens and visitor's health and well being one needs to question the cost of it and if it is more beneficial to join with other communities. I've talked to Renee about this via Facebook and get the impression that keeping this service "in-house" is better for the community. Unfortunately during the covid times our volunteer staff could have cost the community governmental money due to unwillingness to get the covid shot. I am also questioning the fact that our department is volunteer run and not 'professionally' staffed. I and I'm sure others would rather the township hierarchy have these community oriented issues where the plusses and minuses are completely laid out for each scenario before any questions are drafted that will be part of an election. I believe that this quickness to action has led the township to many problems like what we are having with the short term rentals. I urge each member of the township hierarchy to step back and get community input on the EMS department before any questions are drafted that would be ultimately voted upon by the residents. Given that we have a brick and mortar building and very nice equipment we should use these as a building block for any type of joined community involvement.

Thank you,
David R Cords
Whitefish Township Property Owner

Sh Sand
Kim
Paul
Math
EFJ



Whitefish Township EMS

Public Meetings at the Community Center

Thursday December 28, 2023 at 5pm

Friday January 5, 2024 at 6pm

Saturday January 13, 2024 at 10am

Sunday January 28, 2024 at 2pm

Thursday February 8, 2024 at 5pm

Saturday February 17, 2024 at 3pm

Monday February 19, 2024 at 6pm

These meetings will be held to discuss the future of our EMS department. If you would like to continue to have an ambulance respond from Paradise when you dial 911 for your emergency, please plan to attend these informational meetings.

Sh. Gray
K. Bear

ELI
Madeline