

Approved

~~Unapproved~~ Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 7pm

7052 N M-123, Paradise MI 49768

906-492-3452

Supervisor Forrester called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

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

Absent: None

Citizens present: 10

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**C. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:** Motion by Forrester to move Item 6(EMS Staffing Direction) up to discuss with EMS report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Becker. 5 YES, Motion Carried.

**D. REVIEW OF MINUTES:** (Regular Meeting October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023) Motion by Forrester to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gomery 5 YES, Motion Carried.

**E. CLERK'S REPORT:** Still working to correct our financial reporting. EMS Director and Trustee Gomery met with Clerk Becker last month to begin working towards transparency in reporting. Tonight, 3 reports were presented to each Trustee. Please provide feedback as to how you're wanting to see reporting. Trustee Gomery and Clerk Becker created a document with input on ways direct our EMS Director which we will talk about during the EMS report. Director Gray is very willing to work with our township. There is a FOIA request from Clerk Becker to the Michigan State Police asking for the physical complaint alleged by a member of our community against 2 board members. The FOIA request has not yet been granted. Clerk Becker has spent a good chunk of my time talking to Michigan State Police and our attorney this month. Due to this complaint being filed, there have been significant repercussions for our township. We are in communication with our accountant and auditor who have reservations working with us due to this complaint. Still working on bank reconciliations – BS&A and other townships have been unwilling to help. Our website is up!! The Web address with [whitefishtownshipmi.gov](http://whitefishtownshipmi.gov) There are still changes being made and Clerk Becker would like feedback for any changes you wish to see. Our Scanner is still broken so a few forms are still not available online. Clerk Becker and Treasurer Bean will be hosting Community Event Nights. Please see the Flyers around town and dates on the website. The former site of Wantful Things, formerly the Whitefish Bay Coffee Co, will be bringing back the Christmas Tree lighting December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**F. TREASURERS REPORT:** Treasurer Bean and her deputy have been training for Tax on BS&A. Taxes are still being collected, \$14,000 collected in October. Winter Tax Bills are going to the printer this month. Motion by Bean to raise our NSF Service Fee from \$15.00 to \$35.00. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Forrester, 5 YES Motion Carried. Statement by Gomery about Clerk's Report. Trustee Gomery addressed the extra time and money the alleged charges against our Board are and will continue to cost our Township.

**G. SUPERVISORS REPORT:** Supervisor Forrester has been working with EGLE on the property next door, Attorney phone calls and reworking the requested policies from last month.

**H. PRESENTATION OF BILLS:** Payroll: \$36,079.77, Bills \$63,502.10. TOTAL: \$99,581.87 Clerk Becker pointed out the EMS ambulance yearly payment as detailed in their budget as well as Director Gray and all the positive changes she has been making in the EMS Payroll. Motion by Becker, Second by Forrester, amended motion to represent presented Fire Vehicle (\$1,568.84) repair bills which amended the Bill total to \$65,070.94, TOTAL for month \$101,150.71. Trustee Gomery and Director Gray shared the conversation they heard during our EMS meeting with BS&A regarding their extreme lack of customer service. Roll Call Vote: Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Becker Y, Bean Y, Forrester Y. 5 YES, Motion Carried

*Edson Forrester*

*EFS*

*Glen Gomery*

*Katie Becker*  
*Kim Bean*

**I. CORRESPONDENCE/ RECOGNITION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Thank you to Renee Gray and Kenzie Lucas for planning the Trunk and Treat, great turn out! An email was shared from Homeowner Dale Stuckey concerning proposed STR regulations.

**J. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Debbie Skeans thanked the board members who helped clean up the Yukon lawn this summer. She also shared her opinion on the alleged charges brought against the township board. Supervisor Forrester and Clerk Becker shared that the complaint was FOIA'd but until we receive the report we are unable to share specifics on the alleged complaint. Mike Cook shared his opinion on STR's and the email that was presented during public comment. Renee Grey shared her opinion on the alleged charges brought against our Township Board Members. Bridget Nordruft asked if we would be migrating minutes from the old website. Supervisor shared we would be moving forward with posting information, not posting old information.

**K. DEPARTMENTAL/ COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FIRE:** No Report

**EMS:** 15 runs in October, 76 runs since June -highest ever in this timespan. Maintenance is needed at EMS building, Staff is working on training and renewals, Director will identify the new solutions to EMS staff this weekend at training. EMS Authority is creating articles of incorporation. The Authority or a stand-alone township mileage will both present a mileage of close to 5 mills. Clerk Becker and Trustee Gomery shared their recommendations such as adjusting shift times, adjusting hourly pay and on-call pay. This will be an ongoing discussion.

**LIBRARY:** No Report

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:** No Report

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** No Report

**WFT ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP:** No Report

**L. GUEST SPEAKER: NONE**

**M. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Vacancy Ordinance Enforcement Officer:** No interest currently.

**2. Housing Project Discussion:** Motion by Forrester to continue working with the DNR to procure the proposed 40-acre parcel 2<sup>nd</sup> by Skeans. Clerk Becker expressed concern over taking on new projects when the EMS crisis is right in front of us as well as Zoning and Blight concerns, pending criminal charges, Budget concerns etc. Supervisor Forrester expressed we should continue making progress forward, there were no concrete answers at this time. The plan would be to have a developer take on this project as to not be a burden on the township. 5 YES, Motion Carried.

**3. Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing:** Ordinance is on the Website and available in the office for viewing. According to the Township attorney, the Planning Commission needs to run the Public Hearing which will happen on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Clerk Becker raised questions about the dates people can begin applying. When will the documents be available for applicants? Supervisor Forrester shared they would be available at the Public Hearing.

**4. Purchase Policy Review:** Motion by Becker to amend the Credit Policy as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gomery. Clerk Becker read the amended changes. 5 YES, Motion Carried.

**N. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Whitefish Township Environmental Clean-Up Committee:** Motion by Skeans to abolish the Whitefish Township Environmental Clean- Up Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Forrester. Trustee Gomery cautioned this board and boards going forward about creating committees such as this. By his relocation, we have gained no traction with by having this committee created. 5 YES, Motion Carried

**2. Board authorization Acquire Property from CCRC:** Motion by Forrester for the board to approve the Supervisor to engage in discussions to acquire the property North of the Community Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Becker, 5 YES Motion Carried.

*Sh Gray*      *EFS*      *AMP*      *Kate-Ann*      *K Bear*

**3. Baseline Assessment for CCRC Property:** Motion by Forrester to approve the Supervisor to move forward with EGLE and the Brownfield application, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gomery 5 YES, Motion Carried.

**4. Amend Tax Levy 2023:** Motion by Forrester to amend error in Tax levy and adopt Resolution 11022023 as read, from Headlee rollback amount to appropriated amount, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Skeans. Roll Call Vote – Gomery Y, Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5 YES, Motion Carried.

**5. Expenditure and Budget Reports:** Clerk Becker shared the board needs to reach out with the numbers and reports they are wanting to see.

**6. Zoning Fee Schedule for Adoption:** Supervisor presented a new Zoning Fee Structure prepared with Zoning Administrator Bill West. Clerk Becker identified clerical errors on Fee schedule. Wording in Ordinance states "STR Operating License", Fee Structure lists it as a Permit. Clerk Becker Requested wording be corrected. Clerk Becker asked for clarification on what exactly each fee would cover regarding applications and permitting. Trustee Gomery suggested each fee should go up to \$500.00. Supervisor asked how we can justify \$1,000.00? Fee Schedule was returned to Zoning Administrator as it still needs to be reworked.

**7. EMS Staff Scheduling:** Moved to EMS Report

**O. SIGN AND RETURN MINUTES TO CLERK**

**P. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Forrester to adjourn at 8:25pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Becker, 5 YES Motion Carried

*Eh Day*

*efl*

*AMW*  
*Hatch*

*KBeck*