

Unapproved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board
February 1st, 2024
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: Earl Skeans, Edson Forrester, Katie Becker, Kim Bean

Absent: Glenn Gomery

Citizens present: 11

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

C. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA: Motion by Becker to move approval of Meeting Minutes to Item #7 under Old Business, Second Skeans 5/5 YES - Motion Carried

D. CLERK'S REPORT: Election season is in full swing! The Public Accuracy Test of Ballots will be Friday February 16, 2024 at 10 am. The permanent Ballot Box was installed, Thank you Rick Brockway! Please ONLY place Ballots in this box!

F. TREASURERS REPORT: 28 days left to pay Summer and Winter taxes from 2023. They are all due on February 29th, 2024. We have \$81,000 delinquent from summer taxes alone. Close to half of the Winter taxes have been collected.

G. SUPERVISORS REPORT: Attended Chippewa County Road Commission Meeting, Attended EMS Authority Meeting, Attended Court Hearing for alleged arsonist that burnt buildings in our Township. He has been charged with 3 fires. DOT/ TAP Grant meeting on February 21st. NEMS Authority Meeting in Kinross on the 21st as well. There was a request received to re-open the Circle Drive at the dump where brush is dumped. This will be revisited this summer.

H. PRESENTATION OF BILLS: BILLS: \$15,165.26, PAYROLL: \$24,010.36 TOTAL \$39,175.62 Motion by Becker, Second by Bean. ROLL CALL Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried

I. CORRESPONDENCE/ RECOGNITION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS: There was a press release concerning our TAP Grant and its Donors in the Newberry News. EMS Mileage Question and Answer information is available on the table for residents. There is a CapTel 2400i Phone that was donated and is available for a hearing impaired resident in our Township, please contact Supervisor.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT: Debi Skeans asked if we were talking about the Beautification Project? Supervisor Forrester confirmed yes, New Business Item #2. Debi Skeans asked if we knew how much the Tourism Council planned to donate? Supervisor Forrester confirmed 50% was the pledged Donation from the Tourism Council. Debi Skeans also donated Wheels for the Township to build 2 more chair mover dollies.

K. DEPARTMENTAL/ COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIRE: NO REPORT RECEIVED

EMS: 7 calls this month, with 108 calls this past year – an increase from last year, a trend expected to continue. EMS meetings will continue this month. Motion by Forrester, Second by Becker to hire Kevin Mioduct for our Township EMS Roster. Renee Gray stated that with his permission, she would release his background check performed at Kinross to Whitefish. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

LIBRARY: Report Received – Labeling all DVD's, 2 donated Therapy lights for Seasonal Depression will be available for checkout.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Meeting Feb 1st, 2024, 3 public attendees no variances presented.

PLANNING COMMISSION: The Planning Commission met on Jan 31st. There was no action taken as the meeting wasn't posted correctly on the admitted fault of our attorney. There will be a Public Hearing on Feb 28th, 2024, 7pm for action to be taken on the ordinance.

L. GUEST SPEAKER: NONE

M. OLD BUSINESS

1. Vacancy of Ordinance Enforcement Officer, ZBA Appointments, ZBA- Alternates and BOR remain unfilled:

2. Blight Enforcement: Mr. Skeans reported we are working with our attorney to find out concrete details about this gift shop. Motion by Skeans amended by Forrester, second by Becker to have our attorney take action on Parcel number 016-700-027-00/ 8024 N M123 and to have the funds moved as needed. Roll Call Vote - Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES Motion Carried.

3. Housing Project Update: The State is wanting to sell the property at current market value which our township cannot afford. Request by Gomery to have permission to continue to pursue the project, Motion by Forrester, Second by Skeans. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

4. Zoning Ordinance for Discussion: The planning Commission reviewed the proposed Zoning Ordinance. There is a new Public Hearing Scheduled for February 28th, 2024, 7pm.

5. Budget Amendments: Trustee Gomery expressed concern on Building and Grounds overspending and Land Improvements Overspending. Budget Amendments will take place once Election Season is over in all areas where we overspent.

6. Transfer Station Fee Schedule: Motion by Becker, Second by Gomery to accept the Fee Schedule as presented. We will use and honor all the remaining \$1.50 tickets until the Township runs out. We will then move to \$2.00 Tickets. 5/5 YES, motion Carried.

7. Meeting Minutes: Motion by Becker, Second by Skeans to accept January 4th, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. 5/5 YES, motion carried.

N. NEW BUSINESS

1. Parking Wheel Stops at Library: Motion by Skeans, second by Becker to approve the purchase as presented. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

2. Joint checking and Savings Account at CSB: Supervisor Forrester is requesting a joint checking account (between Tourism Council and the Whitefish Township) be created with designated use for the TAP grant. Lynda Ferguson spoke on behalf of the Tourism Council stating that 50% of the pledged amount will be donated by the Tourism Council. Clerk Becker made a motion to take action towards creating a joint bank account between Whitefish Township and the Tourism Council, Second by Forrester. Clerk Becker expressed concern with creating a joint account without a written, attorney approved commitment from the Tourism Council. There has been major discrepancy between the amount pledged by the Tourism Council ranging from \$19,000.00 up to 50% of the total amount. Trustee Gomery expressed the same concern. Supervisor Forrester clarified we need meeting minutes and facts from the Tourism Council. Supervisor Forrester reminded the board we have already passed resolutions to pay this amount and we need to honor those. The clarification was made by Clerk Becker that there is no intention to falter on that commitment, only that this needs to be done correctly. Clerk Becker revoked the motion on the premise that a workshop is scheduled between the Tourism Council and The Whitefish Township Board. Motion by Forrester to have Supervisor Forrester and Treasurer Bean meet with the Tourism Council to develop an agreement together, second by Becker. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

3. North Shore Property: Request made by Trustee Gomery to have permission to inquire on the possible sale of the North Shore property to a Non-Profit willing to keep this land with the Public Trust. Motion by Becker to support the request as presented, Second by Bean. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

4. Camera System Purchase: Speaking with Electrician as to best course of action.

5. Post Employment for Custodial/ Maintenance Personnel: Motion by Becker, Second by Gomery to post the vacated Custodial position. Trustee Gomery asked if this would be part time and how many people? Supervisor Forrester stated he is looking for a Part Time Custodian and Part Time Maintenance person as this is 2 different skill sets. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried

O. SIGN AND RETURN MINUTES TO CLERK

P. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Becker to adjourn at 7:59pm, 2nd by Gomery. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried