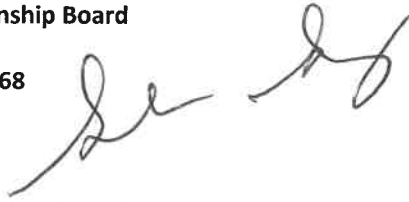


Approved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board  
January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
7052 N M-123, Paradise MI 49768  
906-492-3452



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: 9

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**C. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:** Motion by Forrester to add Zoning Application for Review as #6 under New Business, second by Skeans. 4/4 YES - Motion Carried. Motion by Becker to add discussion concerning the TAP Grant as #5 under Old Business, second by Forrester. 4/4 YES – Motion Carried.

**D. REVIEW OF MINUTES:** (Regular Meeting Minutes December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023) Motion by Forrester to approve with the mentioned grammatical error presented being corrected 2<sup>nd</sup> by Skeans 4/4YES, Motion Carried.

**E. CLERK'S REPORT:** Election season is in full swing! We are still needing election workers, please see Clerk Becker for an application. Supervisor Forrester and Clerk Becker did attend the tourism council meeting as promised. That information will be shared during the TAP grant discussion. Absentee Ballot Applications did start going out this week. Due to the changes from proposal 2, there are new documents we are waiting on to send the remaining ballots. The training for election workers has not been set as of now.

**F. TREASURERS REPORT:** Winter Tax Collection is going very well! Property that has gone to BOR, the updates have been made a new Tax Bills have been sent out. Treasurer Bean is still fielding questions about online Tax pay, we are not using it.

**G. SUPERVISORS REPORT:** TAP Grant summary is out for review. There is a press release being drafted to keep people informed with a time schedule for 2025-2026. There will be a Motorcycle Rally from Hell, MI to Paradise, MI July 26<sup>th</sup>-July 28<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Forrester met with the Road Commission and was given permission to have EGLE complete the needed Baseline Study. The Medical Authority will meet on January 10<sup>th</sup> and the meeting is open to the public.

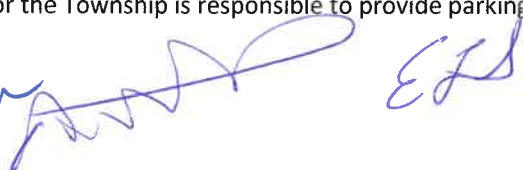
**H. PRESENTATION OF BILLS:** BILLS: \$79,213.75, PAYROLL: \$20,988.47 TOTAL: \$100,202.22 Clerk Becker pointed out the bill totals are high due to the final and correct payout for both the EUPPISD and Whitefish Township Schools. The money was moved from the Tax Account at the end of the 2022 Winter Cycle and was used to pay those checks. Motion by Becker, Second by Forrester. ROLL CALL Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 4/4 YES, Motion Carried

**I. CORRESPONDENCE/ RECOGNITION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Clerk Becker shared that there has been claims that correspondence has not been read at meetings. Please forward any correspondence directly to the Clerk. There was a letter received by Bill Magnum. He did not express it to be read publicly. The board has reviewed and addressed the needed concerns.

**J. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Supervisor Forrester stated he will be sticking to the 3-minute max for public comments. JoAnn Cook requested a meeting with MDOT concerning this road project. The local businesses do not know what is happening any longer. Supervisor Forrester and Clerk Becker both confirmed a meeting would be requested. JoAnn shared that local business will not be able to survive the length of this project. Supervisor Forrester stated that MDOT will be doing road construction even if the township cannot do the Beautification Project. Janeen Hall stated several people in our township are not aware of the EMS Meetings and that they are scared to come to the Township Meetings. Clerk Becker shared that the EMS Meetings have been publicized on our Website, Facebook Page and it has been posted all over our town. Supervisor Forrester said if there are people who are scared to come to the meetings, have them call him directly and we will find a way to get to them directly. Clerk Becker will call the Eagle Radio Station in Newberry to see about a Public Service Announcement. Jody Laub is also concerned about local business and what this Road project will do to our small town. She is also concerned about public parking and wonders who will be responsible for the new sidewalks etc. Trustee Skeans shared that the MDOT road project will happen no matter what our township decides. Jody Laub is concerned about the Grandfather Clause in regards to her business signage? Supervisor Forrester shared that we would schedule an MDOT meeting. Clerk Becker stated we should do as much work and planning as we can now and not wait until 2026 – especially a parking issue. Supervisor Forrester stated the State, nor the Township is responsible to provide parking for local

Katie Becker

K Bean



Edson

businesses. Mike Cook shared that we do need an MDOT meeting quickly to settle these concerns. Debi Skeans also shared her desire to start MDOT Meetings again. There will be a meeting bring Old and New Ideas back to Paradise for events in our area. The first meeting will be 6pm February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, prior to the Township Meetings. Janeen Hall also asked about the Money being used for the TAP Grant. She is asking why the community wasn't consulted about setting money aside for this project. Supervisor Forrester stated when you go to the polls and you elect members of our community to speak and make decisions for you, you did have a say. You are represented. You can come to our meetings and to our office 5 days a week to have your voice heard. We have a budget meeting in June of every year. Janeen again stated so many people do not know about the meetings. Clerk Becker stated there were 60 people at our budget meeting. Janeen Hall stated that the Township is reaching further into taxpayer pockets to take more money. Supervisor Forrester stated that is False. Our Township Operation millage has not been raised.

**K. DEPARTMENTAL/ COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- FIRE:** Fire Report received – work has been done on fire truck damaged during structure Fire. Vehicles are being moved around for use during winter months.
- EMS:** 5 calls this month, EMS meetings will continue this month.
- LIBRARY:** 300 patrons this month, budget looks great, DVD Rentals will be free moving forward
- ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:** Meeting Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- PLANNING COMMISSION:** The Planning will need to schedule a special meeting to appoint officers and adopt meeting dates due to the cancelation from November 15<sup>th</sup> lack of Quorum.

**L. GUEST SPEAKER: NONE**

**M. OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Vacancy of Ordinance Enforcement Officer, ZBA Appointments, PC- Alternates and BOR remain unfilled:** Motion by Forrester to accept Paul Quinn as ZBA Member, second by Becker. 4/4 YES motion carried.
- 2. Housing Project Update:** Gomery absent, no report.
- 3. Zoning Ordinance Fee Schedule for Discussion:** Zoning Administrator West shared the Zoning Fee Schedule for review by the board. Motion by Becker to accept Fee Schedule as presented, second by Forrester. It was clarified by Bill West and Supervisor Forrester the Short-Term Rental Fees will be \$350 (\$150.00 application for Special Land Use Approval and Approved Special Land Use Permit at Issuance \$200.00) total for the first year and \$300 (Special Land Use Short Term Rental Permit Annual Renewal Fee) for each year after. ROLL CALL Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 4/4 Yes Motion Carried
- 4. Transfer Station Fee Schedule:** The discussion was tabled as the Fee Schedule was incomplete.
- 5. TAP Grant:** Motion by Becker to have the Clerk added to all communication between the Township and MDOT pertaining to the TAP Grant for accountability purposes, Second by Forrester. 4/4 YES, Motion Carried.

**N. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Credit Union Accounts:** Motion by Forrester, second by Becker to have Deputy Treasurer Dena Allen added to our bank accounts. Clerk Becker is not allowed to be on the Tax account. Motion amended to say Resolution 01042024A to be accepted with proposed changes. ROLL CALL Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean. Motion Carried.
- 2. Medical Authority Board Appointments:** Motion by Forrester to remove himself as the primary contact with the EMS Authority and appoint Chris Lucas in his place, making himself the alternate Second by Bean. 4/4 YES, Motion Carried.
- 3. Property 016-222-030-00 at 8337 N M-123:** Motion by Forrester to Authorize Blight Enforcement Officer Skeans the needed authority to impose civil infractions in this matter as he deems necessary, second by Becker. ROLL CALL Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. Motion Carried.
- 4. Budget Amendments for February 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting:** Supervisor Forrester asked each board member to look through the provided Budget to suggest amendments for our February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, meeting.
- 5. Resolution for Poverty Tax Exemption:** Motion by Forrester to accept Resolution 01042024 in regard to Poverty Tax Exemption as read, second by Bean. ROLL CALL Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 4/4 YES, Motion Carried.
- 6. Zoning Application for Land Use:** Motion by Forrester to accept the Zoning Application as presented, second by Bean. ROLL CALL Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 4/4 YES, Motion Carried

Clerk Becker spoke to the amount promised by Tourism Council for TAP Grant project. Supervisor Forrester and Clerk Becker attended the Tourism Council Meeting and were told that the Council is planning to donate \$35,000 towards this project however they only have \$19,000 in their fund currently and are unaware of how they will raise the rest of the pledged \$35,000. This will leave the Township to fund the remaining \$215,000 to make this project happen. There has been speculation that the Tourism Council previously promised a pledge of 50% of the project amount. Documents will be sought to confirm.

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

**P. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Becker to adjourn at 8:33pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Forrester. 4/4 YES, Motion Carried

