

**Unapproved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board**  
**March 7<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: Glenn Gomery, Earl Skeans, Edson Forrester, Katie Becker, Kim Bean  
Absent None, Citizens present: 27

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:** Motion by Kim Bean to amend agenda to add a Resolution to have the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer added to CSB account, Second by Forrester, 5/5 YES. Motion Carried

**D. Review of Meeting Minutes (Regular Meeting Feb 1<sup>st</sup>):** Motion by Becker, Second by Gomery to accept Minutes as presented, 5/5 YES. Motion Carried.

**E. CLERK'S REPORT:** Thank you to our Election Workers for their help and insight! Special thank you to our Chippewa City Clerk, Robin Troyer and her continued help. Board of Canvassers is still working to certify Elections. We had 292 Total Voters including Absentee Ballots, 121 Absentee Ballots issued, 110 Returned (94 prior to election day, 16 on election day) with a 90.9% return rate. I received only one concern about a voter who had yet to receive her absentee ballot. I contacted the voter, and the message and phone calls were never returned. We did utilize the State Provided Bureau of Elections approved Ballot box. At a Bureau of Elections Training last fall, the clerk was informed that grace would be given to rural townships that may not be able to comply with all the Prop 2 guidelines timely. The Supervisor and Clerk have been spending a lot of time on FOIA requests, Budget requests and working to figure out the duties of this office. There was a petition filed by a Township Citizen to recount the election. This recount will be done by the County Clerk, County Board of Canvassers, 2 Election Workers from our Township and myself. The Township will have to pay for the entire cost of the recount.

**F. TREASURERS REPORT:** The Winter Tax Season is Complete! The County Treasurer will receive the Rolls on Friday 3/8/24.

**G. SUPERVISORS REPORT:** Attended MDOT Tap Grant Meetings, attended NEMS Meetings, Township Health Inspections also took place in February. MDOT will be contacting homeowners about their driveways. September of 2025 is the projected date for contractors to bid on this project. Hoping to start in Spring of 2026 with plans to avoid Summer Constriction. The Tourism Council is planning to give half of the balance owed to Support the Tap grant. The Feasibility Study did come back from NEMS. Many Townships were very discouraged with the cost of the EMS Authority. We are working to acquire the CCRC property next to the Township building pending the EGLE Baseline Study.

**H. PRESENTATION OF BILLS: BILLS: \$28,487.89, PAYROLL: \$27,634.76 TOTAL \$56,122.65.** Motion by Skeans, Second by Gomery. ROLL CALL Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried

**I. CORRESPONDENCE/ RECOGNITION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Supervisor Forrester commended both the Clerk and treasurer for their parts in running an election and collecting taxes this year. The Clerk received a letter from a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student at Byron Center Christian School asking about our town. Katie Becker obtained her serve safe certificate and along with Kim Bean are serving meals through the department on Aging Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. Supervisor Forrester brought out a proposal from 2019 concerning Medical Marijuana in our township for the boards review.

**J. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Doug Smith will be starting a community newsletter entitled "Paradise News". He is looking for Positive News in Paradise. Janeen Hall is asking for more information about Public Act 233.

**K. DEPARTMENTAL/ COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FIRE:** No Report was Received. Payroll was not received in a timely manner and was not paid.

**EMS:** 4 emergency requests for the month of February. 3 of the requests had no one on the schedule however all 4 were covered. General Maintenance is still needed at the EMS Building.

**LIBRARY:** We are working to relabel our DVD Collection. We had 260 visitors this month with 420 items checked out.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:** No Action Taken

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** The Planning Commission reviewed and recommends that the Board of Trustees pass the Ordinance as presented.

**L. GUEST SPEAKER: NONE**

## **M. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Vacancy of Ordinance Enforcement Officer, ZBA Appointments, ZBA- Alternates and BOR remain unfilled:** No action taken.

**2. Camera System Purchase:** Motion by Forrester to purchase the proposed Camera system in the amount of \$259.99 ANKEE 3K lite, Second by Becker. Clerk Becker suggested amending the motion to include the quote for installation by an electrician. Forrester Motion to amend as such. 5/5 YES. Motion Carried.

**3. Housing Project Update:** NO UPDATE

**4. Zoning Ordinance:** Supervisor Forrester provided some changes to section 6.10 of the Zoning Ordinance based on the public comment received at the Planning Commission Meeting. Those changes were provided to each member and the Supervisor requested the board review those changes. There was a request for a public hearing to be held by the Board of Trustees. This hearing will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10am.

**5. Budget Amendments:** Original and Activity of the budget has been provided. We are planning to make Budget Amendments. We are still well underneath our allotted expenditures.

**6. Resolution 03072024A:** Motion by Forrester, Second by Bean to add the current Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer to all accounts Central Savings Bank. ROLL CALL Gomery Y, Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES. Motion Carried

## **N. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. MTA April 22 Meeting:** Motion by Becker, Second by Skeans to give permission for Supervisor Forrester to attend a Budget workshop provided by MTA. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

**2. Poverty Tax Exemption Policy:** Motion by Skeans, Second by Bean to approve Resolution 03072024 as presented. ROLL CALL Gomery Y, Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

**3. Maintenance Project Approval:** Transfer Station Project \$500.00 – Open Circle Drive, Ramp on Recycling Trailer, replace building facade with Material on hand, Saw Mill Creek Park \$500.00, Place Gravel to fill holes in Parking lot, Cemetery \$3000.00 – New Signage and walkways. The money is currently allotted for Cemetery project. Please Redirect supervisor with any opposition.

**4. Michigan Township Par-Plan Resolution:** No Action Taken

**5. Zoning & Planning Fee Schedule:** Motion by Gomery, Second by Becker to accept the new proposed Fee Schedule as presented. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried

**6. PACC Letter Hall Use:** Motion by Gomery, Second by Skeans to approve the presented dates (August 13-19, 2024, September 14, 2024, October 31, 2024 November 29-30, 2024) with the hall rental fee waived for the Chamber of Commerce. 4/5 – Forrester Abstained YES, Motion Carried.

**7. Hall Rental Waiver Request:** Motion by Becker, Second by Gomery to waive the Hall Rental Fee for the following dates on behalf of the Paradise United Methodist Church. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried. Motion by Forrester, Second by Becker to approve the United Methodist to have the hall fee waived for July 4<sup>th</sup> as well. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried. Clerk Becker also asked if the Supervisor had received any interest from the public in regard to heading up the fireworks for July 4<sup>th</sup>. At this point, there will be no firework display on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**8. Approval to Schedule Road Brine:** Motion by Forrester, Second by Bean to approve proposal as presented in the amount of \$14,720.00 for Road brining. Trustee Gomery expressed concern as to the amount of the Brining. Based on comments from the public, and concern from Trustee Gomery, Supervisor Forrester withdrew his motion, Treasurer Bean withdrew her support. Supervisor Forrester encouraged the public to present their concerns to him.

**9. Resolution to Support Repeal of Public Act 233 of 2023:** Motion by Becker, Second by Gomery to instruct the Supervisor to prepare a letter to our Representatives on behalf of our Township. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

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

**P. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Becker, Second by Forrester to adjourn at 8:04PM. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried