

**Unapproved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board
Regular Meeting – April 6th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Present: Edson Forrester, Earl Skeans, Glenn Gommery, Judy Griebel, Katie Becker

Townspople: 15

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Amendments to Agenda: Adopt Description of Zoning Admin

Motion Forrester, Second Becker, Yes 5, No 0 Motion Carried

EMS Dept. Township Sponsored Education Program

Motion Forrester, Second Becker, Yes 5, No 0 Motion Carried

C. Review of Regular Minutes Feb 2nd, 2023 and Special Meeting March 14th, 2023

For Feb 2nd, 2023 Motion by Skeans, Second Gomery – Yes 5, No 0 Motion Carried

For March 14th, 2023 Motion by Forrester, Second Gomery – Yes 5, No 0 Motion Carried

D. Clerk's Report – Clerk Becker explained to the board and townspeople that due to lack of cooperation, paper checks would still be printed this for payroll month. Less than half of regular township employees turned in the direct deposit information on time delaying the entire process. The Fire and EMS departments have been great about turning bills and payroll in timely. The library will also begin this

E. Treasurer's Report: Treasure Griebel requested \$700.00 for training from another local area treasure.

Motion for \$700.00 Training Funds by: Griebel Second by Forrester

Roll Call: Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Gomery Y, Becker Y, Griebel Y

The treasure provided a basic overview of account balances. Treasure Griebel stated that Tax Settlement checks would be sent out to local entities (Whitefish Township School, EUPISD, EMS/Fire Library etc.) within 7-10 days from the meeting so they could begin working on their new budgets.

F. Supervisor's report: IT Right is here this week working in the office to get a quote for what is needed to update our office. There will be a need for some replacement equipment. Civil Engineers were asked to help the Planning Commission with their wording in documents.

G. Presentations of Bills: Payroll \$23,178.02 Bills: \$29,336.99 Total: \$52,515.01

Motion by Forrester, Second by Gomery

Roll Call: Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Griebel Y, Glenn Gomery Y, Becker Y.

Motion carried.

H. Land Division: 2 land divisions 016-280-002-50, waiting on these divisions.

I. Public Comment: Jason Hughes introduced himself to the board and acknowledged his application for ZBA Board. Becky Dullman shared her concern about the proposed STR Changes. She is concerned about what these changes will mean for our community and its members. Becky shared all the positive changes she felt STR's would mean for our community. Scott Erickson was concerned about the propane cost in the township bills. He inquired why we no longer did a pre-buy. It was shared by Supervisor Forrester that we changed propane companies. Mr. Erickson asked for the companies contact info. Erin Strangnum shared that her

STR application is waiting with the planning commission for approval as it was turned in during the lapse in the moratorium. She shared with the board that her STR is in compliance with the current STR ordinance.

J. Departmental/Committee Reports

Fire department: No report received

EMS report: A report was received along with a proposal for Whitefish Township to become the sponsor for the EMS Education program.

Motion Forrester, Second Becker

Roll Call: Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Griebel Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y

Library report: Rick shared the WTCL budget vs actual 2022-2023 revenue and expenses.

Zoning Administrator: New lot with a prop variance 4/13/23 for the meeting.

Planning Commission: Chairperson Erickson shared the Zoning Enabling Act 110 of 2006 with the board. This act lays out zoning policies for the township. Special Meeting 4/17/23 and Public Hearing on 4/26/23.

Guest Speaker: None

K. Old Business

1. Zoning Administrator Job Description Changes: Motion: Forrester, Second Gomery

Roll Call: Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Griebel Y, Becker Y Motion Carried

2. Post Audit Policy 20230406B: Motion Forrester, Second Becker

Roll Call Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Griebel Y, Becker Y Motion Carried

3. ZBA Appointments : 1 vacancy 2 alternates. One letter received from Dennis Beddell. Motion to appoint: Forrester, Second Griebel

Roll Call Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Griebel Y, Becker Y Motion Carried

4. Housing Project Discussion: Trustee Gomery is still attending meetings and gathering information. Trustee Gomery mentioned that towns member, Erin Strangnum and Becky Dallman both have vast experience with affordable housing in Michigan and would like to work with them to help bring this to Whitefish Township.

5. EMS Authority Letter to Participate: Edson sent a letter of intent to the newly formed EMS Authority. Motion to have our township participate: Forrester, Second Becker

Roll Call Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Griebel Y, Becker Y Motion Carried

6. Zoning Ordinance Change Review: The board asked Mr. Erickson to provide copies of the newly proposed Ordinance for their review. It was requested we have this information within the next week to prepare for our May meeting.

New Business:

1. Web Page Design Vendor: Clerk Becker shared with the board the need for a new website design for ease of use and transparency within our community. This motion also represents the need for a fully managed website. Motion by: Becker, Second by: Forrester

Roll Call Vote: Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Gommery Y, Griebel Y, Becker Y. Yay 5, Nay 0. Motion Carried

2. Resolution 20230406 to Ratify : Extending Short Term Rental Moartorium for another year. Motion By: Forrester, Second by: Glenn Gommery

Roll Call Vote: Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Gommery Y, Griebel Y, Becker N, Yay 4, Nay 1. Motion Carried

3. **Fireworks Display Permit:** Katie Becker is working with local agencies to secure funding for 4th of July fireworks. Several thousand dollars of verbal donations have been pledged so we are applying for the permit. Motion: Forrester, Second Becker: Yes 5, No 0 Motion Carried

4. **Clerk Training:** Clerk Becker is making the board aware of the need for election training as well as further training provided by the MTA. She will provide information as it comes available.

5. **Hall Fee Waiver Request:** Cindra Moore asking to hold Yoga classes free of charge, requesting building fee to be waived. Motion Forrester, Second Becker Yes 5, No 0 Motion Carried

6. **Hire New Employee:** Trustee Gomery and Clerk Becker served as the hiring committee for this position. They recommended that the Township offer employment to Jake Hall.

Motion Skeans, Second Forrester

Roll Call Skeans, Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Griebel Y, Becker Y Motion Carried

7. Executive Session- Employee

8. Return to open Session: Present: Edson Forrester, Earl Skeans, Glenn Gommery, Judy Griebel, Katie Becker

Motion by Forrester, Second by Becker to return to open session at 8:45pm. 5/5 YES Motion Carried

Adjournment; Motion by Forrester, second Gomery to adjourn meeting at 8:55pm, 5/5 YES Motion Carried.