

Unapproved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board
April 4th, 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: 34

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA: Motion by Edson Forrester to amend the date on Old Business Number 4, Second by Skeans, 5/5 YES. Motion Carried

D. Review of Meeting Minutes (Special Meeting March 25th): Motion by Skeans, Second by Gomery to accept Minutes as presented, 5/5 YES. Motion Carried.

E. CLERK'S REPORT: The Recount was conducted, and the initial results do stand as they were presented. The Clerk thanks our citizens for exercising their rights to this recount. The recount did cost the township \$651.59. The Clerk did share that another complaint was filed with the Secretary of State, filed by a township citizen. It has been alleged that by sharing the factual EMS information on our website that we were attempting to sway citizens to vote yes. It was also alleged that we violated Campaign Finance Law by allowing the EMS Staff to host informational meetings in our building. The Clerk, once again, encourages all township citizens to please come to her with concerns and questions. This is a huge learning process and rather than cost the township more money – her door is always open. Please reach for an appointment! Emails(clerk@whitefishtownshipmi.gov) and phone calls will be returned. The Clerk is still dealing with recourse from the Election and that is taking away from the time it takes to complete her normal duties.

F. TREASURERS REPORT: The Winter Tax Settlement is almost completed. There were still errors from past treasurers and those have also been worked through. A Special Thank you to Deputy Treasurer, Dena Allen for all her help. All Bank statements and accounts have been reconciled through February. Accurate Financial Reports were provided to the board and the public. Supervisor Forrester shared there has been some discussion to move the Township Meeting to later in the Month, so our financials are timely. This will be an ongoing discussion. Please email the Supervisor with feedback (supervisor@whitefishtownshipmi.gov)

G. SUPERVISORS REPORT:

H. PRESENTATION OF BILLS: BILLS: \$17,190.87, PAYROLL \$33,951.87: TOTAL \$51,146.74 Motion by Becker, Second by Gomery. ROLL CALL Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried

I. CORRESPONDENCE/ RECOGNITION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS: Correspondence from Health dept for License Renewal, Emails from Citizens about Road Brining, Ambulance agreement from 2019 is shared for your information, Complaint about Secretary of State for review.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT: Dave Cords shared his opinion towards the Marijuana Ordinance specifically that the money from these proposed businesses goes towards Fire and the Library accounts. Scott Erikson provided a notice of intent to File a Petition to invoke a voter Referendum concerning the Zoning Ordinance. He also requested an amendment of the March 25th, 2024 minutes regarding his comments about Short Term Rentals. He shared his opinion on Road Brining and Thanked the Clerk and Treasurer for their roles in the Township. He also questioned the moving of ARPPA Funds to the EMS account.

Clerk Becker Motioned to amend the Meeting Minutes as requested, Second by Forrester. 5/5 YES, Motion Carries.

Roland Bell spoke about an email that was sent and not received by the board. He shared his concerns about a Master Plan and the proposed 2019 Marijuana Ordinance. He stated he would have the entire board recalled. Jim Cook shared his concerns about Road Brining. Dave Holden also shared his opposition to the Proposed 2019 Marijuana Ordinance. Eric Johnson shared his concerns about Road Brining. Bridget Nodurft shared concerns about selling Saturn Park. She wants to know where that money will go. Supervisor Forrester shared the history (from boards previous) and the lack of maintenance at the park. Jim Stabhil inquired about swapping Saturn Park with the DNR vs selling it. Debi Skeans started a GOFUNDME for the Township Fireworks fund. They have raised \$2k as of the creation of these minutes. Janet Vogel asked about a target cost for the Fireworks - \$12k is the display cost, \$2k to install the platform.

K. DEPARTMENTAL/ COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIRE: Report Received, February and March Payroll was paid this month. Replacement Equipment was requested. Motion by Gomery, Second by Skeans to purchase equipment in the amount of \$7,606.00. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

EMS: 3 Emergency requests for the month of March. 1 of the 3 requests had no one on the schedule however all 3 were covered. General Maintenance is still needed at the EMS Building.

LIBRARY: Working on the Annual Budget and hosted a class last month.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: No Action Taken

PLANNING COMMISSION: Special Meeting/ Public Hearing to be held on May 22nd to overview Special Land Use Permits. The Commission is asking for input on the Master Plan. Please send Correspondence to the Clerk (clerk@whitefishtownshipmi.gov)

L. GUEST SPEAKER: Justin Knepper – MDOT TAP Project Grant Writer. Mr. Knepper met with Local business and property owners along the Corridor. He shared an overview of the project with the Board.

M. OLD BUSINESS

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

Motion by Forrester, Second by Becker to appoint Debi Skeans as an alternate on the Board of Review. 4/5 YES, 1 Abstain, Motion Carried.

2 Road Brine: Motion by Forrester, Second by Skeans to approve the Road Brining Quote as presented. Trustee Gomery Spoke to the Chippewa County Road Commission and they will reimburse \$2k to Whitefish Township towards this project. 4/5 YES, 1 NO. Motion Carried.

3. Housing Project Update: NO UPDATE

4. 2023/2024 Budget Adjustments: Motion by Forrester, second by Becker to make the amendments as presented. Roll Call Vote - Gomery Y, Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried

5. TAP Grant Donation Agreement: Motion by Skeans, Second by Forrester to accept the TAP Donation agreement between the Township and The Paradise Tourism Council. Roll Call Vote – Gomery Y, Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

N. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Co- Sponsor Firework Contract: Motion Forrester, Second by Becker to accept this Contract as written. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

2. Approve Public Display Permit: Motion by Forrester, Second by Becker to approve this Permit as presented. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

3. Approve Fire Milage Language: Motion by Forrester, Second by Skeans to approve the Ballot Language as presented. Roll Call Vote – Gomery Y, Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

4. Approve Library Milage Language: Motion by Forrester, Second by Bean to approve the Ballot Language as presented. Roll Call Vote – Gomery Y, Skeans Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

5. Marijuana Dispensary Ordinance: Motion by Forrester, Second by Becker to approve this Ordinance from 2019 as Presented. Roll Call Vote – Gomery N, Skeans N, Forrester N, Becker N, Bean N. 0/5 YES. Motion Failed

6. Request for Camping – Ham Radio Group: Motion by Becker, Second by Gomery to allow a variance for Camping during the timeframe presented. Supervisor Forrester sha red we do not have any jurisdiction to allow a variance there. Motion Rescinded by Becker, Support Rescinded by Gomery. No Action Taken.

O. SIGN AND RETURN MINUTES TO CLERK

P. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Becker, Second by Forrester to adjourn at 9:07PM. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried