

**Unapproved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board
May 3rd, 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: 22

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

D. Review of Meeting Minutes – April 4th, 2024: Motion by Gomery, Second by Becker to accept the minutes as presented, 5/5 YES. Motion Carried.

E. CLERK'S REPORT: The month was spent learning about petitions and approving the Zoning Referendum Petition submitted by 2 members of the community. Clerk Becker also offered her resignation, effective May 3rd, 2024, and thanked the community for the opportunity to serve. The Board made no motion to accept her Resignation at this time.

F. TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer and her Deputy attended MTA Training last month. Lots of valuable information was gained. The Treasurer is still collecting Leased Land Taxes only.

G. SUPERVISORS REPORT: Par – Plan Insurance Presentation – Adam Gandolfi

H. PRESENTATION OF BILLS: BILLS: \$18,768.55, PAYROLL \$33,017.80: TOTAL \$51,786.35 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: Glen Gomery Spoke to the Clerk, Thanking her for her service for the last 18 months. He also urged the community to come together to fill this gap and serve.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT: Joann Cook offered her thanks to the Clerk for her service. Pete Wurdock from the Newberry News inquired on the Status of the blighted Gift Shop in town. Debi Skeans offered her thanks to the Clerk for her Service.

K. DEPARTMENTAL/ COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIRE: NO REPORT RECEIVED

EMS – Grant Review: 5 Emergency requests for the month of March. All calls were covered by scheduled providers. Director Gray urges the Board to stay with NEMSA for the time being. Motion by Forrester, Second by Becker to accept the offered Grant Help from the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program. This grant will offer advice and contacts to work toward ramping up our workforce. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

NEMSA: Chris Lucas, Township representative to NEMSA, asked the board to stay with NEMSA for the time being.

LIBRARY: Working on the Annual Budget and preparing new ballot language.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: No Action Taken

BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT: Motion by Skeans, second by Becker to approve clean up funds up to \$10,000 for clean up on parcel 016-222-030-00. The property presents a severe risk to public health and safety warrants township action in protection of the public. Whitefish Township should approach the District Court for judgement to clean up the property and be reimbursed through lein or property tax on said property. ROLL CALL: Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester N, Becker Y, Bean Y. 4/1 YES. Motion Carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION: NO REPORT CURRENTLY

L. GUEST SPEAKER: Jennifer France – Candidate for 50th Circuit Court Judge

Bridger Nodurft – Speak on “FOIA” Freedom of Information Act – Spoke on her requested FOIA items.

M. OLD BUSINESS

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

2. Employee Interviews – April 22nd: Clerk Becker and Trustee Skeans interviewed 3 candidates; none were hired.

3. Housing Project Update: NO UPDATE

4. Fire Millage Resolution: Motion by Forrester, Second by Gomery to accept the Resolution and Ballot Language as presented. Clerk Becker read Resolution 05022024A and requests that Supervisor Forrester double check the ballot language before it is signed, he agreed to do so. ROLL CALL: Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES. Motion Carried

5. Library Millage Resolution: Motion by Becker, Second by Forrester to accept the Resolution and Ballot Language as presented. Clerk Becker confirmed with Supervisor Forrester that the language was approved by an attorney. Both Supervisor Forrester and Rick Bicknell confirmed. ROLL CALL: Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES. Motion Carried.

N. NEW BUSINESS

1. Office Access: Motion by Gomery, Second by Bean to restrict access to the Township office Business Section (Area behind the front counter) to the Board of Trustees, Deputies, and the Assessor. 5/5 YES. Motion Carried.

2. BS&A Software Purchase: Some Discussion was had but Treasurer Bean asks for more time to read through the presented quote. Tabled for the next meeting.

3. Grounds – Spring Cleaning: Motion by Becker, Second by Skeans to approve a quote from VerBryck Landscaping for \$1,025.00 to clean up Sawmill Creek, Community Center and EMS Buildings. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

4. Resolution NEMSA Withdrawal: Motion by Becker, Second by Skeans to discuss the townships options in this area. Representative Chris Lucas was present and will discuss the Townships concerns of 24/7 care, as proposed with our EMS Millage. Motion by Gomery, Second by Bean to table this issue until more concerns are answered by NEMSA. 5/5 YES, Motion Carried.

5. 2024/2025 Budget: Preliminary Numbers were provided for the Boards Review

6. Proposal Petition Zoning Ordinance: Motion by Forrester, Second by Gomery to accept the Resolution and Ballot Language as presented. ROLL CALL: Skeans Y, Gomery Y, Forrester Y, Becker Y, Bean Y. 5/5 YES. Motion Carried.

7. Wage Employee & Boards for Budget Hearing:

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