

~~Unapproved~~ **Approved minutes for December 5th board meeting**

Call to order: at 7pm by supervisor Forrester

Roll call: Gomery here, Bean here, Roach here, Forrester here, Skeans Absent

Pledge of allegiance

Amendments to agenda: Scott Erickson wrote a letter to be re-appointed to board of review. Add that under new business under item seven. Support by Gomery all in favor say aye 4 yes 0 No motion carries.

November 7th board meeting minutes review: Gomery makes a motion to approve November 7th meeting minutes as expressed support by Forrester, all in favor say I, 4 Yes 0 No motion carries.

Clerk Report: In meeting with IRS to get fines and penalties waived was a success. IRS performed an audit of the township IRS file and the IRS is processing all penalties and fines of 2022/2023.

Treasurers Report: Winter taxes have been sent out and some coming back to be processed.

Supervisors Report: Supervisor Forrester had been gone for almost all of November but continues to work through equipment failures, phones have been planned to be replaced and contract signed is going to happen soon. We will be looking at bids on furnaces in this meeting its on the agenda. Steve has been plowing and working through plow mechanical failures and they have all been fixed. We had a meeting about the TAP grant and that will be discussed as well in this meeting. Generator parts have been received and Wolverine should be here to repair that and get that running again. I feel very displeased with that service and we will be looking to replace that service in the future.

Presentation of bills: Total payroll for November was 32,256.47 Total bills for November was 56,307.90 for a grand total of 88,564.37 Forrester makes motion to pay bills Gomery seconds no discussion, roll call Roach Yes, Bean Yes, Gomery Yes, Forrester Yes.

Announcements: Foster Swift gave notice of injunction to stop Michigan Public Service Commission. It stops building of Windmills and Solar panels anywhere they want. Christmas tree lighting and bean boil at miss Dena Allens store Saturday December 6th from 6-9 pm. Forrester was ready for a big bowl of ham and bean soup cooked over a nice wood fire in a Dutch oven. The Supervisor sounded hungry. Santa Claus will be there. Gomery makes note that its now State law that you stay 200 feet behind plows you can get a ticket of 200 dollars.

Public Comment: none

Reports

Fire Department: No report

EMS: All shifts in November were covered by Whitefish EMS staff. We had 2 calls for the month of November and both calls were covered by Whitefish EMS. Asking to hire four providers which will be in our agenda.

NEMSA: Revisions in the articles of incorporation to include Drummond Island and Detour EMS will be closing as of April 1st of 2025. Budgets and plans continue to be addressed as well. Also attending township meetings to get more involved. Sincerely Renee Gray Whitefish Township EMS Director.

Library: The director of Whitefish Township Community Library, Gretchen Hall have met all requirements for Certification from the library of Michigan and received state level 4 paraprofessional certificate. Annual gingerbread house is underway at the library we have 9 participants this year voting by patrons takes place from December 4th through December 21st winners will be announced on December 28th first place wins 50.00 amazon gift card, 2nd place wins 25.00 amazon gift card, 3rd place wins 15.00 amazon gift card. Saturday December 7th is the Christmas wreath making class call staff to get involved. Library statistics for November: adult visitors 152 student visitors 46 computer uses 38, wireless users 29, added library members 4, additions to library 66, number of items checked out 348. **Board of Appeals:** no report

Blight information: no report

Planning Commission: no report

Public Speaker: none

Old Business

Board Vacancy: Ordinance Enforcement Officer vacant, ZBA positions vacant ZBA alternate positions vacant. Two weeks we will have blight enforcement vacant and board of review.

Master Plan Update: Township board received a draft of the Master Plan a while back pushed to planning to request a survey being done the meeting minutes of November 6th address the draft surveys that was presented motion by Gomery second by Mandeville recommend to the board of trustees that the proposed draft of the Master Plan of 2024 that a public survey will not be done and that the 63-day public comment period be open by the board. Forrester makes a motion for the board to approve the Whitefish Township Master Plan of 2024 and open the 63-day public comment section. Support by Gomery no discussion all in favor say aye 4 yes 0 no motion carries.

Tap Grant Road Project Update 2: The dot meeting November 13th went through the whole project identified certain technical things some of what the Township will look at if we are happy with where the lighting is proposed and the concrete sidewalk area as to how to color it how to pattern it so where pedestrians will walk and not walk. Alanson and Indian river pictures of their downtown improvements will be placed around so people can view. Recommendations would be red color and flat concrete. Hoping to have this finished by February 2025 and let out in August of 2025 for bids. Starting project in spring of 2026. Supervisor Forrester states he has not moved forward to talking to the President of the Tourism Council Jim Stabile. Have the treasurer to take the townships 120,000 and get our own certificate and help increase that money. Gomery asks Supervisor about Knepper and a report for the month and there is a document from Knepper that states that December will be his last monthly pay and will drop to an hourly pay if need be. In early November he was working with DOT to help get papers corrected and he did a lighting plan with DOT.

Bike Path Update 2: Gomery brings up how painting shouldn't be done on the bike path. Clerk Roach states he agrees and sent notification to Chippewa County Road Commission to order new bike path signs and be put up in the spring of 2025 and when the road update happens on Whitefish Point Road in the spring/summer of 2026 bike path will be extended and signage will be put back.

Telephone System Upgrade/Replacement: The phone system has been approved by the board and waiting for the installation the new system will be better there will be no copper wire so lightning strikes won't destroy any equipment because it doesn't travel through fiber.

New Business:

Resolution Board of Review: State statue presented by the assessor. General property tax act 2061893 Have to have a resolution to hold board of review meeting to review this. Week of the 2nd Monday of December. Alternate start dates of December and July board of review meetings. Forrester makes a motion to accept the resolution Gomery seconds the motion, no discussion, roll call vote Supervisor Forrester Yes, Treasurer Kim Bean Yes, Clerk Fred Roach Yes, Trustee Glen Gomery Yes. Resolution Accepted on December 5th 2024.

Sick Time Policy: IN 2025 full time employees will be eligible for sick time under the new state law that is coming out in February 2025. All companies with at least 1 full time employee must abide by the sick time law. Clerk has drafted a policy that curtails to the Townships needs and adheres to the state law. Sometime in February this policy will take place and we must have this in effect. Updates will come with this policy as time nears close.

Furnace: Bids were received for the new furnace from Don Earl heating and Great Lakes Service no bid was returned from Mark and Sons. Don Eral has Amana and Great Lakes wants to install a Daikon 12year parts on Daikon and lifetime heat exchanger replacement 10,998.00 for 2 Daikon and 2 Amana air purifier if needed 12,393.00. Gomery makes motion to have Great Lakes install the Daikon furnaces, second by Roach no discussion all in favor 4 yes 0 no motion carries.

Schedule 2025 Township Board Meetings: Change board meeting dates to second Thursday of the month instead of the first Thursday the 14th of august will be the first Thursday instead. Second Thursday gives Treasurer time to reconcile bank accounts. Second Thursday gives Clerk time to receive bills and get them paid and not paying any in arrears. Motion by Forrester to approve changing the Board meeting dates to the 2nd Thursday of each month except August will be the first Thursday second by Bean all in favor 4 yes 0 no motion carries

EMS Staff Hiring: Four new hires for EMS Eric Weingade, Leah Allen, Britany Hallifax, Brandy Dunbar. Clerk Roach makes a motion to hire all four to EMS Supervisor Forrester supports, all in favor 4 yes 0 no motion carries.

Deputy Clerk added to Township Bank Accounts: Resolution to put Deputy Clerk on the bank accounts so they can pay payroll and pay bills in the Clerks absence. Resolution of Whitefish Township 1205 20224A Whitefish Township Board of Trustees determine there is a reason to add names to access the Whitefish Township bank accounts of Soo Coop Credit Union Renee Gray shall be place as a user of these accounts. Except the Tax account. Motion by Gomery to accept resolution and to add the named Deputy Clerk Renee Gray to the bank accounts of Whitefish Township. Second by Supervisor Forrester,

no discussion, roll call vote Trustee Gomery Yes, Treasurer Kim Bean Yes, Clerk Fred Roach Yes, Supervisor Forrester Yes. Resolution Passes

Scott Erikson to be re-appointed to Board of Review: Mr. Erickson wrote a letter to the board to be reappointed to the Board of Review in 2025. ~~Motion by Forrester to appoint Mr. Erickson to the Board of Review for the 2025 year. Second by Gomery no discussion all in favor 4 Yes 0 No Scott Erickson is reappointed for the 2025 year for board of review.~~

Motion by Forrester to appoint Mr. Erickson to the Board of Review for 2025 and 2026 two-year term. Second by Gomery no discussion all in favor 4 yes 0 no Scott Erickson is reappointed for the 2025 and 2026 years for Board of Review.

Adjournment: Motion by Gomery to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm Second by Forrester no discussion all in favor 4 yes 0 No meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm December 5th, 2024