

Unapproved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board Regular Meeting – April 2, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Ertel called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Present: Frank Lada, Karen Bender, Darryl Ertel, Richard Gratopp. Edson Forrester arrived at 8:01 a.m.

Absent: None

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Amendments to Agenda

None

D. Review of Minutes

Motion by Ertel, second by Gratopp, to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2020, Regular Meeting as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Roll Call Vote: Lada - Y; Gratopp - Y; Forrester - Y; Bender – Y; Ertel – Y. Motion carried.

E. Clerk's Report

Bender thanked Diane Pederson, Steve Guidebeck, the election workers and voters for contributing to a well-executed primary election. Also thanked Fresh Coast Café for providing food for the election workers.

Bender provided a reminder of filing dates and petitions for upcoming elections. Three forms are required to be filled out, including a notarized signature required on the Affidavit of Identity.

All March paychecks have been mailed.

The Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant Application for the expansion of Saturn Memorial Township Park was submitted on March 31, 2020.

F. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report received via Frank Lada. (Attachment #1). Lada also reviewed the total anticipated funds from taxes for each department.

G. Supervisor's report

Supervisor's report received via Darryl Ertel.

Motion by Ertel, second by Bender, to suspend fees for the transfer station until the next board meeting. Roll Call Vote: Lada - Y; Gratopp - Y; Forrester - Y; Bender – Y; Ertel – Y. Motion carried.

No budget workshop meetings will be conducted during the timeframe of EO 2020-21. Department heads and board members are requested to provide suggestions to Ertel who will work on the budget in the meantime. If the Stay Home orders are lifted prior to the annual meeting, we will have a budget meeting then.

H. Presentations of Bills

Motion by Bender, second by Gratopp, to pay bills in the amount of \$38,905.00. Roll Call Vote: Roll Call Vote: Lada - Y; Gratopp - Y; Forrester - Y; Bender – Y; Ertel – Y. Motion carried. (Attachment #2)

I. Correspondence/Recognition/Announcements

Ertel recognized and thanked Edson Forrester for 33 years of service to the State of Michigan working in Corrections. He retired as of March 31, 2020.

Ertel recognized and thanked Karen Bender for successfully holding her first election.

Ertel recognized and thanked Karen Bender, Sean Ley, Bruce Lynn, and the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society for working on the grant and submitting it on time.

J. Public Comment

David Cords asked Lada questions regarding bank deposits during EO 2020-21.

David Cords asked a question regarding current activities of the Recreation Committee and the Recreation Plan. Ertel responded that EUP Region Planning will be heading up recreation planning for the Township and reaching out to members for their input. He also asked about improvements to Wildcat Road for access to the township park. Ertel responded that there is an agreement with the Chippewa County Road Commission to make improvements and will begin work this summer. There was also some discussion regarding camping in the future.

Brian Wachter asked a question regarding a township employee traveling out of the area and returning to Township facilities and potentially putting others at risk. Ertel responded that this concern is being addressed with the individual.

K. Departmental/Committee Reports

Fire department report received via Edson Forrester.

Motion by Ertel, second by Bender, to allow the acting fire chief to purchase PPE equipment not to exceed \$6000 (information provided in packet). Discussion. Roll Call Vote: Lada - Y; Gratopp - Y; Forrester - Y; Bender – Y; Ertel – Y. Motion carried.

Motion by Ertel, second by Gratopp to support the acting fire chief to rig the new Honda side-by-side with emergency and flood lights and any graphics, such as Whitefish Township Fire Department or EMS emblems, to get it ready as soon as possible. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: Lada - Y; Gratopp - Y; Forrester - Y; Bender – Y; Ertel – Y. Motion carried.

Discussion on storage of vehicles for wild land response at a firefighter's house due to space restrictions. Topic will be discussed again at a future board meeting (May or June) while other options are investigated.

EMS report received via Renee Gray.

No Library report received.

Zoning Administrator/OEO report received Edson Forrester.

No Zoning Board of Appeals activity this month.

Planning Commission meeting for March was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

No Assessor report received.

L. Old Business

1. **Planning Commission opening:** William West submitted a letter of interest as an applicant for the open position. Motion by Ertel, second by Lada, to accept William West as a Planning Commission member. Roll Call Vote: Lada - Y; Gratopp - Y; Forrester - Y; Bender – Y; Ertel – Y. Motion carried. Request made for William West to contact the clerk to be sworn in and to provide him with other Planning Commission members' phone numbers as well as a copy of the ordinance.
2. **Fire and EMS:** Motion by Ertel, Second by Bender to hire Edson Forrester as the Fire Chief. Discussion. Bender withdrew support; Ertel withdrew motion.

M. New Business

1. **Building and Grounds Equipment:** The current township mower needs to be replaced. Ertel provided information on 2 options. Motion by Ertel, second by Forrester, to request permission to purchase for Building and Grounds maintenance a Kubota Z726XKW-3 60" Zero Turn riding lawnmower with attachments for a total of \$8459.00. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: Lada - Y; Gratopp - Y; Forrester - Y; Bender – Y; Ertel – Y. Motion carried.

N. Land Division

No land divisions.

O. Sign and Return Minutes to Clerk

Signed minutes returned to the clerk. Members who participated via conference call should contact the clerk to arrange a time to sign the minutes.

P. Adjournment

Motion by Ertel, second by Forrester, carried to adjourn meeting at 9:13 a.m.