

Un-Approved Minutes taken by Bill West, Planning Commission Chairman
Township Board Meeting - August 5, 2021 at 7 pm

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Lada at 7:01 pm

Roll call: Present - F. Lada, S. Lada, Gratopp, Forrester
Absent – Gomery

Approximately 20 members of the public were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Amendments to Agenda: None (full Board not present)

Review of Minutes

Clerk's Report: F. Lada read aloud portions of the Clerk's Report.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by S. Lada

Supervisor's Report: Presented by F. Lada

F. Lada requested authorization from the Board for Supervisor Lada to take an online grant research and writing training course recommended by the EUP Regional Planning Commission.

Motion by F. Lada to approve \$425 payment to Grant Writing USA training course.
Discussion: None. Motion seconded by Gratopp; all Board members present voted Yes.
Motion passed.

Motion by F. Lada to accept the low bid (\$650) for gravel delivery to the Transfer Station, Forrester seconded, all Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Supervisor Lada reported that he acted as Secretary for the July 20th Board of Review Hearing. Approximately 20 reviews were handled and all Board members were present at that Hearing.

Supervisor Lada reported the current road brining costs.

Supervisor Lada reported ongoing discussions with MDOT about road striping at the M123 intersection, and improvements to existing speed limit signage along M123.

Supervisor Lada reported that he informed EUP Regional Planning and the DNR that the Township did not budget funds for the Saturn Park project.

Supervisor Lada reported his ongoing discussions with the Chippewa County Road Commission regarding the posting of signage on M123 announcing that Zoning Ordinance is enforced in Whitefish Township, and other possible signage at the Transfer Station.

Supervisor Lada reported the receipt of bids for scheduled site work at the Transfer Station, recommending that the low bid be accepted.

Supervisor Lada reported on the status of the Library building air conditioning project, and his discussions with the Coast Guard about grave sites at the cemetery.

Supervisor Lada reported the outcome of the Township garage sale, noting that \$46 was received and any unsold items were destroyed and discarded.

Supervisor Lada presented the bills for Clerk Gomery. Motion by F. Lada to approve, seconded by Gratopp, all Board members present voted yes. Motion passed.

Presentation of Bills: Supervisor Lada presented The Bills for Clerk Gomery.

Motion by Forrester to approve the minutes from, supported by F. Lada.

Discussion: None

All Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Land Divisions: None

Supervisor Lada reported on correspondence / recognition and announcements.

Public Comment: Public comments were made by Scott Erikson, David Heyboer, and David Cords.

Guest Speaker: JoAnne Galloway, Executive Director of the non-profit Center for Change spoke about UP internet connectivity issues, progress, and plans.

Supervisor Lada reported on progress toward a grant in the works from The American Rescue Plan fund. Grant funds have not yet been received.

Motion by F. Lada to place the funding matter on the agenda for the next Board meeting, Forrester supported.

Discussion: None

All Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Department / Committee Reports:

Fire Department: Forrester reported on the calls responded to and electrical issues at the Fire & EMS building.

EMS: Supervisor Lada presented the EMS report for Renee Gray, reporting 10 emergency responses in July, and noting milestones of service – Edson Forrester, 20 years, Renee Gray, 25 years, and Sonny Skeans, 30 years

Custodian: Dale reported that the painting work at the Community Center is complete other than some detailing to be done in August, that the library roof is done, and recommended tree trimming be done at the Community Center.

Transfer Station: Scott Erikson reported on brush burning at the transfer station and progress toward new concrete work scheduled for the coming weekend.

Library: Rick Bicknell reported the library has a new Director, Christine Hickman, and on efforts to reopen all services.

Zoning Administrator: The position is vacant at present, no report given.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Robert Klein reported on the July ZBA Meeting, and discussed the compensation paid to Board members.

Planning Commission: Richard Gratopp reported that no meetings were held in the last two months, and that the next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for August 11, 7 pm, as well as a Planning Commission Public Hearing also August 11, 6 pm.

Whitefish Township Environmental Cleanup Committee: Committee Chair Bridgette Nodurft presented the Committee's report, detailing the present status of the proposed environmental cleanup at the previous Chippewa County Road Commission land north of the Community Center. Committee members Rick Bicknell and Kelli Conway spoke in response and addition to Bridgette's presentation.

New Business:

Supervisor Lada reported the resignation of Glen Gomrey as Township Clerk, and moved to accept the resignation.

Discussion: F. Lada gave recognition and thanks for Glen's excellent work.

Motion seconded by S. Lada. All Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Supervisor Lada reported that Rebecca Miller has applied for the position, and

recommended the Board approve. Motion by F. Lada to accept the applicant.

Discussion: None

Second by Gratopp.

Roll call vote: F. Lada Yes, S. Lada Yes, Forrester Yes, Gratopp Yes. Motion passed.

Supervisor Lada asked Rebecca Miller if she had interest in being appointed as a Zoning Board of Approvals member, ex-officio, Rebecca agreed to accept the position.

Motion by F. Lada to approve, seconded by S. Lada.

Discussion: None.

Roll call vote: F. Lada Yes, S. Lada Yes, Forrester Yes, Gratopp Yes. Motion passed.

Supervisor Lada reported that Sheamus Miller has applied for the position of Zoning Administrator / Zoning Enforcement Officer. F. Lada moved to accept the application and approve the appointment, Forrester seconded.

Discussion: None

Roll call vote: F Lada Yes, S. Lada Yes, Gratopp, Yes, Forrester Yes. Motion passed.

Supervisor Lada reported that Ashley Lowell submitted a letter of resignation as a Planning Commissioner, and that Jack Grimes has applied for the position. F. Lada moved to accept Ashley Lowell's resignation and approve Jack Grimes as replacement.

Forrester seconded.

Discussion: None

Roll call vote: F. Lada Yes, S. Lada Yes, Gratopp Yes, Forester Yes. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Supervisor Lada reported on ongoing efforts toward the environmental cleanup at the previous Chippewa County Road Commission land north of the Community Center.

Board and members of the public discussed ways to discourage or prohibit public access to the shorefront at the Community Center and the previous Chippewa County Road Commission property because of hazards of access and possible exposure to environmental hazards.

F. Lada moved to adjourn, Forrester seconded, All Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 9:14 pm.