

Township Board Meeting  
September 2, 2021 at 7 pm

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Lada at 7:00 pm

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

(Absent – Miller (?))

Approximately 10 members of the public were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Amendments to Agenda: None (full Board not present)

Review of Minutes: August 19, 2021 Special Board Meeting, and June 15, 2021 Board Meeting.

Motion by Forrester, second by Gratopp to approve.

Role Call vote: All Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer S. Lada presented August financial transactions shown on reports in Board Member's packets, and available to the public on same documents.

Supervisor' Report: Supervisor Lada reported ongoing efforts and progress resolving signage issues, and proposed Board approval of the Chippewa County Road Commission signage improvements quoted at \$763, with that cost including the provision and installation of new signage - specifically: two “Zoned Township” additions to the two signs along M123 announcing Whitefish Township borders, one “Hidden Drive” sign along N. Whitefish Point Road, and a replacement for the existing Transfer Station sign.

Motion by F. Lada to approve the expense, not to exceed \$1000, second by Forrester.

Role Call vote: All Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Presentation of Bills: Supervisor Lada present the bills, detailing expenses.

Motion by Forrester to approve and pay as shown and discussed.

Roll Call vote: All Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Land Divisions: None.

Correspondence, recognition, and announcements: None.

## Public Comment:

Many of the public present spoke of concerns regarding the Whitefish Township Zoning Ordinance as to enforcement and regulation of Short-Term Rentals.

Board members present gave information and discussion in response, detailing ongoing efforts underway and ongoing to resolve the concerns, including details of the ongoing drafting and approval of improved public documents regarding short term rental application and regulations, as well as the consideration of a moratorium and/or proposed amendments to the January 4, 2018 Whitefish Township Zoning Ordinance. Planning Commission Secretary Humphrey gave information and discussion regarding the Planning Commission's role and ongoing efforts addressing this issue. Supervisor Lada reported discussions and advice from the Township Attorneys Foster and Smith to await Michigan State revised regulations currently pending before taking any action for now, noting that any actions taken before then could likely have to be reversed.

Supervisor Lada read aloud one letter received from a concerned resident and landowner regarding Short Term Rentals in the neighborhood of North Superior Drive.

Board member and previous Interim Zoning Administrator/Zoning Enforcement Officer Forrester presented and discussed previous and ongoing efforts regarding the issue as well as information about how the process works within existing Statutes and Ordinances.

A member of the public commented, recognizing the good efforts and success of Whitefish Township Firefighters and EMS along with many other first-responders from other jurisdictions, containing and extinguishing the one structure fire and one wildfire this last month.

Further Public Comment was asked for by Supervisor Lada and there was none.

## Department / Committee Reports:

**Fire Department:** Fire Chief Forrester reported on the calls responded to in August – one structure fire and one wildfire, extinguished.

**EMS:** Forrester presented the EMS report for Renee Gray, EMS Director, reporting 11 emergency responses in August, and noting that Renee reported that Whitefish Township EMS is short of providers.

**Custodian:** Custodian Dale reported results and progress about new and improved

vehicle barriers at the Whitefish Township Cemetery, and that The Coast Guard is placing markers at graves of “Unknown Mariners” in the cemetery. Dale also reported that the Township pickup truck is due for maintenance and inspection, presenting a quote from Soo Motors for that work, \$601.20.

Transfer Station: Scott Erickson reported that the new concrete slab is done and in use, and that efforts are underway to replace the existing cable barrier at the road entry.

Library: Scott Erickson reported the library has a new Director, Christine Hickman, and that winter hours will now be in effect.

Zoning Administrator: Zoning Administrator Miller's report presented by Supervisor Lada, Miller not present, reporting three Special Land Use Permits approved and four pending, and that all calls received have been returned.

Zoning Enforcement Officer: ZEO Miller's report presented by Supervisor Lada, reporting no Zoning ordinance violations in August.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Chairman Robert Klein was not present, no report given.

Planning Commission: Planning Commissioner Gratopp reported and that the next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for October 13, 7 pm, and reported on the August 11 Meeting and Public Hearing. Planning Commission Secretary Humphrey reported ongoing efforts regarding improved application and regulation forms for land use matters that come before the Planning Commission to improve applicant's and the Township 's processes. Humphrey also reported that the fee structure in those matters in under review.

Assessor: Assessor not present, no report given.

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, detailing communications and ongoing efforts and plans, as well as answering questions from the public and the Board.

Motion by F. Lada, second by Forrester to Table any action on this matter and place it on the agenda for the next Board meeting. Roll Call vote: All Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker: None.

Old Business: Supervisor Lada read aloud a letter from the not-for-profit EUP Connect organization regarding the presentation by their representative as guest speaker last Board Meeting, noting that the Township is being asked to participate and pay public funds to improve internet connectivity. No action taken.

New Business: Supervisor Lada reported a request from Township Clerk Rebecca Miller for reimbursement of her \$315 expense for 22.5 hours of Township Clerk Training by Karen Bender (Deputy Clerk and Glenn Gomery (Clerk). Motion by F. Lada to approve and pay, second by Forrester. Roll Call vote: all Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Supervisor Lada moved to approve the Meeting and adjourn, second by Forrester, All Board members present voted Yes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm.