

Un-Approved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board

Date: November 4, 2021

Supervisor Lada called the meeting to order at 7PM.

Roll call- Present: Frank Lada, Sue Lada, Edson Forrester, and Rebecca Miller.

Absent: Richard Gratopp

Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendment to agenda: None

Review of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by E. Forrester to approve Board Special Meeting minutes dated 10/14/2021.

Seconded by F. Lada. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report:

Clerk's Report given by R. Miller. The Assessor budget is over in amount of \$16.45. Miller asks board if it is ok to move funds within a department. E. Forrester makes a motion to move \$16.45 from account ending in 801 to account ending 729 under the Assessor. F. Lada supports. Discussion: E. Forrester says to take a look at the expenditure report. F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y. R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Motion carried. Further discussion: Clerk can move funds within a department, but the Board has to be aware of it first.

Miller will be attending the Wolf Management Advisory Council meeting the next day in Gaylord.

Update on the outcome of the meeting will be provided at the next board meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report given by S. Lada. The current total banking balance is \$686,875. Will deposit \$19,545 to bring balance up to \$706,420. Treasurer is now working on Winter taxes. Supervisor Lada clarifies that the total of \$706,420 is the entirety of funds available in the Township. There are no CD's or other investments. Treasurer confirms.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor's Report given by F. Lada. The Township is currently in the yearly audit, which is done remotely. F. Lada encourages all Township employees to take advantage of the many online training opportunities through the Michigan Township Association (MTA). Planning Commission Secretary Terry Humphry resigned; Scott Ericson would like to fill the position.

Motion by E. Forrester to accept Mr. Humphrey's resignation from his position.

Seconded by F. Lada. F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y. R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Motion carried. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by E. Forrester to accept Mr. Erickson's letter and appoint him to fill the Planning Commission Secretary position for the period of Mr. Humphrey's term. Seconded by F. Lada. F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y. R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Motion carried.

Presentation of Bills:

Presentation of Bills given by R. Miller. October payroll totals \$18,368.65. Total bills \$19,351.14.

Motion by E. Forrester to accept the bills as presented. Seconded by F. Lada. F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y. R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Motion carried.

Land Divisions- 3: Presented by Clerk Miller.

016-203-004-00 / 016-203-206-00-

Motion by E. Forrester to approve the Resolution on the two parcels 016-203-004-00 / 016-203-206-00.
Seconded by F. Lada, F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y, R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Resolution passed.

016-284-019-00-

Motion by E. Forrester to approve the Resolution on the parcel 016-284-019-00.
Seconded by F. Lada, F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y, R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Resolution passed.

016-435-005-00-

Motion by E. Forrester to accept the Resolution on the parcel 016-435-005-00.
Seconded by F. Lada, F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y, R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Resolution passed.

Supervisor Lada calls attention to the fact that Jack Grimes had recently taken the position on the Planning Commission Board, making a full board.

Motion by F. Lada to accept Jack Grimes as a Planning Commissioner. Second by E. Forrester, F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y, R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence/Recognition/Announcements:

Supervisor Lada wanted to thank the US Coast Guard and Mike and Sue Ruben for all the work they did on the cemetery, as well as The Wheelhouse who opened up when they were closed and prepared their meals. He also wanted to recognize all the hard work that the Environmental Cleanup Committee has done. Recognition to Kim Hickman who is doing a good job.

Public comment:

Bill West would like to echo the recognition for the US Coast Guard and the Environmental Committee, as well as the Township for their efforts in hiring, orientation, and training. Bill also inquired about speed limit signage and a traffic study. Supervisor Lada responded by stating that the zoning signs the Township purchased for Curly Lewis, Northbound M-123, and N. Whitefish Point Rd cannot be put up, as MDOT has denied the need for them. MDOT may be willing to post signs that illustrate a picture of ambulance/fire truck; they are not willing to consider changing the speed limit at this time.

Bridgett Nordruff would like the Township to consider a Wolf Management plan.

Departmental/Committee Reports:

Fire Department-Fire report given by Fire Chief Forrester. A new roster of employees was provided.

Motion by F. Lada to accept the new Fire Department roster. Seconded by R. Miller, F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y, R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Motion carried.

EMS- EMS report given by Fire Chief Forrester.

Custodian-Custodian report given by Dale Graham. Preparation for Winter is underway and on time. The new signs that were purchased from the Road Commission were delivered already damaged. They have been returned for an exchange.

Transfer Station-Transfer Station report given by Kim Hickman. Reclaimed siding is being put up, weather permitting. An awning is needed. Hickman will get a plan together and present to Board.

Library-Library Report given by Rick Bicknell. Kelli Conway was appointed to the Library Board. There is still one vacancy. Their sealed bid auction earned \$400. Another auction will be done at a later date.

Zoning Administration-Zoning Report given by S. Miller. There are 2 Special Use Permits pending Miller states that the remaining applications are incomplete or incorrect, despite attempts to reach the applicants to inform them. E. Forrester suggests Miller to attempt contact with the 2 residents, and if they do not respond, to submit applications to Planning Commission to make the decision.

OEO- S. Miller attempted to contact the residents about an abandoned couch, with no success.

Zoning Board of Appeals- None

Planning Commission-Report given by Bill West. During the last Planning Commission meeting, they approved the Moratorium on Short-Term Rentals (STR's). They denied the request to a Zoning Ordinance word change. Terry Humphry submitted new forms to streamline the STR process and reflect the Zoning Ordinance. Bill will send the Resolution on the Moratorium to the Township Board.

Assessor- None

WFT Environmental Cleanup Committee-Report given by Bridget Nordruff. The Chippewa County Road Commission received a formal notice from EAGL stating their plan is insufficient. EAGL will receive testing results in 4-6 weeks and are currently looking for funds to pay for the cleanup.

Guest Speaker: Knepper Development (Paradise Corridor Enhancement)

Mr. Knepper was approached by the Paradise Tourism Council (Jim Stabile) to research and present a long-term plan for Corridor Enhancement to revitalize the Paradise area through a combination of grants and matching funds. This plan will look to be done during the time that MDOT will already be reconstructing M-123 (from 2024-2026). Knepper states that though he is in the beginning phase of this project, he believes that approximately 20% of the total costs will need to be provided by Whitefish Township in some way.

Old Business:

1. Wilderness Barn ownership: Supervisor Lada states the auditor will address the transfer of ownership of barn to the Fire Department. Discussion: E. Forrester says to do whatever the auditor says to do.
2. ARPA progress: Since EMS Director Gray is not in attendance to provide an update on her plans for ARPA funds, the discussion is tabled for now, until further input is provided.

New Business:

1. EMS budget adjustment for ambulance lease: Clerk Miller stated that the EMS budget does not include the Ambulance Lease, which is in excess of \$36,000. Miller makes a motion to allow \$36,000 to be moved from within the EMS fund to cover the Ambulance Lease. Supervisor Lada will get more clarification from the Auditor on what course of action to take regarding the budget change. F. Lada makes a motion to table Clerk's motion until further direction can be had from the Auditor. R. Miller seconds. F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y, R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Motion carried. Tabled for now.
2. New Fire Chief Appointment: Fire Chief Forrester has resigned, pending a new successor. Loren Degeler has submitted a letter of intent to fill the position. Motion by F. Lada to accept the appointment of Loren Degeler as the new Fire Chief, effective immediately. Seconded by E. Forrester. F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y, R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Lada to adjourn the meeting. Second by R. Miller. F. Lada- Y, S. Lada- Y, R. Miller- Y, E. Forrester- Y. Motion carried to adjourn meeting at 9:09PM.