

Un-Approved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board

Date: February 3, 2022

A. Supervisor Lada called the meeting to order at 7PM.

Roll call- Present: Frank Lada, Sue Lada, Edson Forrester, Richard Gratopp, and Rebecca Miller. **Absent:** None

Citizens present: There were four citizens present.

B. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

C. **Amendments to agenda:** None.

D. **Review of 01/13/2022 special meeting minutes.**

Motion by R. Gratopp to approve Board Meeting minutes dated 01/13/2022.

Seconded by R. Miller. Roll call vote: F. Lada-Y S. Lada-Y R. Miller-Y E. Forrester-Y R. Gratopp-Y: All in favor. Motion carried.

E. **Clerk's report.** Given by Clerk Miller. Miller announced her leaving the Clerk's position, effective February 13, 2022. Miller stated the job is really a full-time position and that a livable wage needs to be considered. Clerk Miller stated there was \$500 still owed to the contractors who provided the fireworks event in 2021.

Motion by F. Lada to approve Rebecca's resignation as of 02/13/2022.

Seconded by R. Miller. Roll call vote: F. Lada-Y S. Lada-Y R. Miller-Y E. Forrester-Y R. Gratopp-Y: All in favor. Motion carried.

F. **Treasurer's report.** Given by Treasurer Lada. The Township has now closed the Nicolet bank account, and needed a letter from the IRS to provide to bank. Lada will open the new bank account tomorrow at Citizens Savings Bank. Treasurer Lada stated that February 28th is the last day to pay Winter taxes. Treasurer Lada completed more MTA trainings this month.

G. **Supervisor's report.** Given by Supervisor Lada. Lada states there was an outstanding bill from McGahey Construction from work done on the Wilderness Barn in the amount of \$8,700. Discussion was held regarding how much the quote was originally given as (\$73,000) and why the amount was increased and by whom was it approved. E. Forrester explained some of the charges on the quote and that some of it was not completed. Forrester also notes that the remainder of the work to be done may be able to be done with Township employees this summer.

Motion by E. Forrester to approve \$8,700 for work completed at the end of 2020.

Seconded by R. Gratopp. Roll call vote: F. Lada-Y S. Lada-N R. Miller-N E. Forrester-Y R. Gratopp-Y. Majority (3:2) in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by F. Lada to amend the meeting agenda to address applicant for posted positions in Township. Seconded by R. Miller. Roll call vote: F. Lada-Y S. Lada-Y R. Miller-Y E. Forrester-Y R. Gratopp-Y: All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Lada stated that Mr. John Jasinski submitted a letter of interest for the position on the Planning Commission board. Lada believes Mr. Jasinski would be a good fit as Township Clerk as well.

Motion by F. Lada to appoint John Jasinski as Township Clerk.

Seconded by R. Gratopp. Roll call vote: F. Lada-Y S. Lada-Y R. Miller-Y E. Forrester-Y R. Gratopp-Y: All in favor. **Motion carried.**

- H. Presentation of the bills.** Given by Clerk Miller. Miller states that the total payroll amount includes pay for one employee, who has to submit the rest of their new hire paperwork before they are paid. Payroll total came to \$20,307.19 and bills came to \$30,165.11.

Motion by E. Forrester to approve the February total bills in the amount of \$50,472.30. Seconded by R. Gratopp. Roll call vote: F. Lada-Y S. Lada-Y R. Miller-Y E. Forrester-Y R. Gratopp-Y: All in favor. **Motion carried.**

- I. Land Division-YES.** Clerk Miller read aloud the **RESOLUTION 2022-02-03-1** regarding a DNR split, **PARCEL NO 016-277-001-00**.

Motion by F. Lada to approve resolution #2022-02-03-1 for parcel #016-277-001-00. Seconded by E. Forrester. Roll call vote: F. Lada-Y S. Lada-Y R. Miller-Y E. Forrester-Y R. Gratopp-Y: All in favor. **Motion carried.**

- J. Correspondence/recognition/announcements:** The Township Board thanked Clerk Miller for her service to the Township.

- K. Public comment:** Planning Commission Chairman Scott Erickson inquired about a workshop for making changes to the Township's policies that need revision, and asked that residents be given the opportunity to submit input. A resident mentioned that the notice board placed at the Transfer Station should be moved to a location where residents can see the announcements posted on it better. Supervisor Lada will discuss the issue with Mr. Hickman.

- L. Department/Committee reports:**

FIRE- Given by Chief Degeler. Four runs including the use of the fire department snowmobile, lift assist, rescue, and EMS assist. Employees met this month and trained on the use of the snowmobile. Twenty new pagers along with training manuals and equipment was purchased. The FIRE I and II training has been delayed due to COVID until sometime in February. No update on the new start date. There was discussion on an easement on the FIRE/EMS property being used by neighbors for access. Chief Degeler said he has no problems with that as long as there is still room for the emergency vehicles.

EMS- Given by Supervisor Lada (Director Gray absent). EMS provided service for 6 calls. EMS is still understaffed; there is 1 student taking training virtually through Pickford. Coverage contracts that Director Gray submitted to Bay Mills, Luce County, and Kinross EMS locations were discussed. No responses have been given at this time. Discussion of ARPA funds for EMS should occur when Director Gray is available.

CUSTODIAN- None given.

TRANSFER STATION- Given by Transfer Station Attendant Kim Hickman. No news to report. Hickman will meet with Supervisor to discuss the issue of the posting board location at the Transfer Station.

LIBRARY- Given by Library Board Member Scott Erickson. Erickson stated the position for Library Director is still open, as is a position for the Library Board. Library is still trying to decide on renovations for the spring. There is a sealed auction which includes a

snowblower. The hot water boiler system is still not working. Supervisor Lada said he has not heard back from them yet, but will follow up.

ZONING ADMINISTRATION- Given by Clerk Miller. Zoning Administrator report states 1 permit is in process. Miller also reports that the ZA is still having problems with receiving emails sent by Township board members, so Clerk printed off the forms for him and has copies in the main office for residents.

OEO- Given by Clerk Miller. No enforcement actions are being taken this month.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS- None.

PLANNING COMMISSION- Given by PC Chairman Erickson. Erickson states that Secretary West will be done serving the PC board on March 9, 2022, so they will have 2 PC Board positions open to be filled. Erickson asks that space be provided for the PC board in the Zoning office with a desk, computer, and storage because original documents should not be stored in the homes of board members. Erickson explained the reason for cancelling the last public hearing (February 2, 2022).

ASSESSOR- None.

WFT ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP COMMITTEE- Given by Supervisor Lada. Lada read email update on EGLE from Bridget Nordruff. The report indicates a significant level of diesel fuel.

M. Guest Speaker- None.

N. Old Business:

1. **2022 Fireworks.** Supervisor Lada stated they plan to secure the same plan as last year. They need an amount of poundage of explosives to complete the permit. They will meet again in May and put it on the agenda for the March 3rd board meeting.

O. New Business

1. **Planning Commission Application.** The Planning Commission still needs members to serve on their board.

2. **FYE 2023 Budget Head Start.** Supervisor Lada wants to address the Corrective Action Plan detailing the Township's shortcomings on budget management. Lada suggests the Board begin discussing the yearly budget much sooner so that important items and expenses are not missed. This would prevent adverse action in receiving loans and a State Audit. Items such as the Wilderness Barn budget and details, the Ambulance Lease, and Utilities and Buildings and Grounds budgeting for both FIRE and EMS. A Special Meeting will be scheduled next week with EMS Director Gray to finish the discussion.

3. **Planning Commission Request for Desk Space and Computer.** Discussion on items needed and costs so that the PC can have a desk, computer, storage options, and a shared printer between the PC and Zoning Administrator.

Motion by E. Forrester to allow Township Supervisor to use Buildings and Grounds authority to work with Planning Commission Secretary/Co-Chair to establish an area suitable for use to all staff, using within Supervisor's spending discretion.

Seconded by R. Miller. Roll call vote: F. Lada-Y S. Lada-Y R. Miller-Y E. Forrester-Y R. Gratopp-Y: All in favor. Motion carried.

4. **Discuss Public Remote Access to Meetings.** Supervisor Lada states that a resident demands to have remote access to public board meetings, and asks Board if they're willing to spend large amounts of money on public access. Forrester is willing to allocate \$3,000. Miller is willing to consider spending funds on access, and suggests that ARPA and other grants may be available to pay for the cost.
5. **Discuss Snow Removal Policy.** Supervisor Lada discussed the amount of snow required to plow, and asked Chief Degeler his opinion. Degeler says snow should be plowed when no more than 2 inches of snow have accumulated. Lada thinks it should be 1 inch, but will discuss with EMS Director Gray on her opinion. Discussion on the need for additional staff to cover the plowing when Custodian Graham is unavailable. Forrester believes the plowing should be done by 9AM. Miller asks a time limit, because EMS/FIRE may need their lot plowed during off hours since emergencies happen at all times of the day and night. Supervisor Lada will discuss at the next board meeting.

Motion by F. Lada to adjourn meeting at 9:01PM. Second by R. Gratopp, Roll call vote: F. Lada-Y S. Lada-Y R. Miller-Y E. Forrester-Y R. Gratopp-Y: All in favor. Motion carried.