

**Unapproved Minutes of the Whitefish Township Board
Regular Meeting – March 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

E. Forrester called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Motion by Forrester, second by Gratopp, for Edson Forrester to chair the meeting in the absence of the Supervisor and Clerk. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

Present: Sue Lada, Edson Forrester, Richard Gratopp.

Absent: None

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Amendments to Agenda

None

D. Review of Minutes

Motion by Forrester, second by Gratopp, to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2022, Special Meeting as presented. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

E. Clerk's Report

Clerk's report received via Karen Bender, Deputy Clerk, in the absence of the clerk.

F. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report received via Sue Lada. (Attachment #1). Sue indicated she intends to step down as Treasurer as a result of the death of her husband, Frank.

G. Supervisor's report

Supervisor's report received via Edson Forrester. A moment of silence was requested by E. Forrester in recognition of the service of Frank Lada as Supervisor. He will be greatly missed.

H. Presentations of Bills

Motion by Gratopp, second by Forrester, to pay bills in the amount of \$45,860.63. No discussion. **Motion carried** (Attachment #2)

I. Correspondence/Recognition/Announcements

E. Forrester recognized and thanked Frank and Sue Lada for the job they have both performed for the Township and commented that they will be long remembered.

J. Public Comment

Several members of the community provided expressions of condolences and thanks in recognition of Frank Lada.

Greg Lee expressed interest in the Treasurer position.

David Cords expressed concern regarding how the Township will pay for potential increases in costs for EMS Services and offered his suggestions for consideration.

Roland Bell commented on the Planning Commission recommendation to be addressed under New Business as well as considering the appointment of someone with experience in a supervisory role in township or city government to fill the Supervisor vacancy.

K. Land Division

No land divisions.

L. Departmental/Committee Reports

- Fire department report received from Loren Degeler. The new pagers have been received and are working well.
- EMS report received from Renee Gray (read by E. Forrester). (Attachment #3)
- Custodian report received from Dale Graham. There is a problem with the drains/septic system at the Library. Snow banks may need to be moved back. The roof at Sawmill Creek Pavilion may need to be shoveled. The roof on the Community Center needs to be checked to see if action is needed.
- Transfer Station report received from Kim Hartman. The snow banks at the entrance are causing visibility concerns for snowmobile traffic. Kim has identified a place for putting up a communication kiosk but will wait until the ground thaws before taking further action.
- Library report received from Rick Bicknell. In addition to the drain issue mentioned above, there is an issue with the boiler working correctly but they are still able to heat the library because of the air handling units installed last year. There is a remodeling project underway. Interviews for the Library Director position are scheduled the week of March 7.
- Zoning Administrator/OEO report received from S. Miller. (Attachment #4)
- No Zoning Board of Appeals report received.
- Planning Commission report received from Scott Erickson. Public Hearing was conducted on February 23 on 2 matters which are being presented to the Board for action under New Business Item 1. Additionally, the Board of Review will meet March 14 & 15 to hear citizens' petitions.
- No Assessor report received.
- No WFT Environmental Cleanup Committee report received.

M. Guest Speaker

None

N. Old Business

1. 2022 Fireworks

We are still scheduled to provide fireworks on July 4, 2022. Securing the display is still a problem with shipments from China, but the operator we have hired is still confident that we will still be able to provide a magnificent show in July.

2. Emergency Medical Service contracts

Motion by Forrester, second by Gratopp to continue to table the Emergency Medical Service Contract. Discussion. **Motion carried.**

3. Policy for Covid 19 Vaccine Mandates

R. Gray has submitted a policy for Board action. **Motion by** Forrester, second by Gratopp, to table the Policy for Covid 19 Mandates. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

4. Clerk Vacancy

Forrester suggested the Board address this under Item 5 of New Business.

O. New Business

1. Planning Commission Recommendations to WFT Board for action:

The Board has 2 recommendations for action from the Planning Commission.

- a. **Motion by** Forrester, second by Gratopp, to adopt the ordinance identified as 2021-03-03, Ordinance to Impose a Moratorium on the Issuance of Permits, Licenses, or Approvals for Short Term Rentals, as presented and recommended by the Planning Commission. No discussion. **Roll Call Vote:** Forrester – Y, Gratopp – Y, Lada – Y. **Motion carried.**
- b. **Motion by** Forrester, second by Gratopp, to accept the language change from the Whitefish Township Planning Commission as presented. No discussion. **Roll Call Vote:** Forrester – Y, Gratopp – Y, Lada – Y. **Motion carried.**
- c. Bender raised a question regarding the number of the ordinance identified as 2021-03-03. Planning Commission secretary stated that the numbering was changed to 2022-03-03. **Motion by** Forrester, second by Gratopp, to void the Moratorium ordinance previously approved in paragraph 1.a. above. No discussion. **Motion carried.**
- d. **Motion by** Forrester, second by Gratopp, to approve the ordinance identified as 2022-03-03, Ordinance to Impose a Moratorium on the Issuance of Permits, Licenses, or Approvals for Short Term Rentals, as presented and approved by the Planning Commission. Discussion. **Roll Call Vote:** Forrester – Y, Gratopp – Y, Lada – Y. **Motion carried.**

2. FYE 2023 Budget Head Start:

Department heads should be looking at budget expenses and needs for FY 2022-2023 so as to avoid budget modifications after budget approval.

3. Poverty Policy updates

Motion by Forrester, support by Gratopp, to amend the Whitefish Township Policy for Poverty Tax Exemption to accept the new guidelines provided by the federal government. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

4. Cloverland Electric Resolution

Motion by Gratopp, second by Forrester, to table discussion until a future meeting. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

5. Whitefish Township Board Vacancy and subsequent vacancy

a. Supervisor vacancy

Motion by Gratopp, second by Forrester, to accept the letter of interest from Earl Skeans for the Supervisor position. Discussion. **Roll Call Vote:** Forrester – Y, Gratopp – Y, Lada – Y. **Motion carried.**

b. Clerk vacancy

No interest has been expressed to date for the Clerk position. In the interest of having a full board going forward, E. Forrester offered his resignation as Trustee upon placement in the Clerk’s position for the temporary period until the next general election.

Motion by Gratopp, second by Lada, to accept E. Forrester intent to be the Whitefish Township Clerk until the November election. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

c. Trustee vacancy

Motion by Forrester, second by Gratopp, to accept Paul Quinn’s letter to replace E. Forrester as Trustee as he moves into the Clerk position. Discussion. **Roll Call Vote:** Gratopp – N, Lada – N, Forrester – N. **Motion failed.**

6. Township Elected positions for November 8th General election

All Board positions that have been appointed since the November 2020 General Election will need to be on the mid-term ballots in 2022. The relevant filing deadlines are as follows:

By 4:00 p.m., April 19, 2022	Candidates for partisan and nonpartisan offices file nominating petitions (or fees if applicable) and Affidavit of Identity for the August primary . Withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m. on April 22.
By 4:00 p.m., July 21, 2022	Candidates without political party affiliation seeking partisan offices file qualifying petitions and Affidavit of Identity for the November general election . Withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m. on July 25.
By 4:00 p.m., July 22, 2022	Write-in candidates file Declaration of Intent forms for the August primary .
By 4:00 p.m., Oct. 28, 2022	Write-in candidates file Declaration of Intent forms for the November general election .

7. Letters for Bank accounts updated

This topic is tabled until a Treasurer is appointed.

P. Sign and Return Minutes to Clerk

Signed minutes returned to the clerk.

Q. Adjournment

Motion by Gratopp, second by Forrester, carried to adjourn meeting at 8:14 p.m.