

**Winterfield Township Regular Board Meeting  
January 11, 2022  
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Hammar at Winterfield Township Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken by Blackledge.

**Members Present:** Mark Hammar, Supervisor; Bonnie Blackledge, Clerk; Linda Peterson, Treasurer; Fred Prielipp and Shelly Laughlin, Trustees

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** DeWayne Rogers, Director, Clare County Road Commission; Andrew Laughlin; Carl and Julie Traynor; and Rich Dommer

**Review of Agenda:** Hammar requested adding "Poverty Guidelines" to the agenda under New Business. **Motion by Hammar, second by Peterson, to accept the agenda as amended. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Review Minutes November 9, 2021: Motion by Laughlin, second by Prielipp, to approve the November 9 Meeting Minutes as written. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Financial Report:** Peterson said that the last statement she received from the ChemFlex account was for October. Horizon Bank (took over mid-September) shows something that looks like it could be a CD. She is working with the bank to resolve this issue. **Motion by Blackledge, second by Hammar to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 11, 2022. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment:**

**Andrew Laughlin (Planning Commission Chair)** said he is attending tonight to present a memo from the consultant regarding the acceptance of the draft Master Plan. After this is approved, the Zoning Ordinance and Map will be done.

**Carl Traynor (Transfer Station Attendant)** reviewed 2021 statistics from the Transfer Station. There were 4555 customers, 4716 yards of trash in the small dumpsters, and 576 yards of trash in the large dumpster. Peterson said she has not heard one complaint about the fees going up.

**Clare County Road Commission Managing Director, DeWayne Rogers** gave a presentation to the Board. He said there will be a new website functioning within the next month. It should be user-friendly and will have a function where someone can request a service. He spoke about upcoming projects for 2022, such as Keehn Road and Cook Ave. He showed slides of work that the Road Commission has done throughout Clare County, including the bridge on Haskell Lake Road.

**County Commissioner's Report:** Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh was ill and could not attend.

**Zoning Officer's Report:** None – Todd Flint was absent.

**Treasurer's Report:** Peterson said taxes are rolling in. She needs a new computer as hers isn't working very well.

**Planning Commission Report:** Andrew Laughlin reviewed what they had been working on. Shelly Laughlin said that Todd Flint has not been attending meetings.

**Clerk's Report:** Blackledge asked for approval of \$84.99 that she charged to the credit card for a preprinted W-2 Kit. Peterson signed the voucher.

**Trustees Report:** It was mentioned that Dorwin Clark's Zoning Administrator sign was still in his yard.

**Supervisor's Report:  
Old Business**

**American Rescue Plan Funding Grant:** Hammar attended an online class about American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) payments and how townships can use the funds. He distributed a handout put together by MTA that covers eligible uses. We have to tell the Federal Government how we plan to use these funds by April 30. We should receive approximately \$48,000. He recommends that the Board reads through the handout and comes prepared to discuss ways to spend the grant at our March meeting. Computers for the Township officers may be one idea since they are getting outdated.

**Cemetery Ordinance and Resolution:** The Board reviewed the draft Cemetery Ordinance. Peterson asked whether they had planned to add cemetery hours to the ordinance as the previous draft included that stipulation. Hammar said that they decided not to include hours since a violation would be difficult to enforce. **Blackledge moved to adopt the proposed cemetery ordinance with an effective date 30 days after publication. Prielipp seconded. Roll call vote: Shelly Laughlin – yes, Fred Prielipp – yes, Linda Peterson – yes, Bonnie Blackledge – yes, and Mark Hammar – yes. Motion carried.** Blackledge will send the ordinance to the Marion Press for publication.

Instead of listing the fees in the ordinance, it refers to a resolution that will be approved periodically when fees need to be adjusted. **Hammar moved to approve Resolution 2022-1, To Set Cemetery Fees. Second by Laughlin. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Planning Commission Appointments:** There are three candidates for two positions – Richard Dommer, Sandy Land, and Julie Traynor for the term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024. **Hammar moved to appoint Julie Traynor to the Planning Commission. Laughlin seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Hammar moved to appoint Richard Dommer to the Planning Commission. Prielipp seconded. Ayes-4, Nays-1 (Laughlin). Motion carried.**

**Board of Review Appointments:** Blackledge discovered that the Board of Review appointments are supposed to be made every two years on the odd years. The last time it was done it was on the even year (2020), so we need to correct this by appointing them for one year from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Starting in 2023, the appointments will take place on the odd years. **Hammar nominated Carl Traynor, Scott Peterson, and Dan Blackledge as members and Bonnie Fox as alternate for 2022. Blackledge seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.** Blackledge will send in the registration form to MTA for training for these members and the supervisor.

**Little Free Library:** At the November meeting, Blackledge stated that she and her husband, Dan, would like to build a Little Free Library and place it on the Township property. They would take care of it and there would be no charge to the Township. Several possible sights were discussed with a decision to be made in the spring. **Blackledge moved to allow the library structure to be placed on the Township Hall property. Hammar seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

#### **New Business**

**Master Plan:** The Planning Commission is requesting that the Board approve the distribution of the proposed Master Plan. A memorandum from consultant Adam Young outlining the next steps was presented to the Board. **Hammar moved to authorize the distribution of the proposed Winterfield Township Master Plan in accordance with Section 41 of the Planning Enabling Act. Peterson seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Poverty Guidelines:** Blackledge distributed Resolution 2020-1, Establishing Poverty Guidelines for Exemption from Property Tax Contributions. **Hammar moved to accept the 2021 poverty guidelines from the State Tax Commission. Peterson seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Keehn Road Project:** The extension of the blacktop on Keehn Road for .61 miles is being considered as a project for 2022. The estimated amount is \$83,604.23. **Peterson moved to approve the Keehn Road project. Hammar seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Hammar said that Point Broadband is putting fiber optics down along some of the Great Lakes Energy power lines. There have been some problems with the repeater/router at the ISP tower. Bob Balzer is the new Community Affairs Manager for Consumers Energy, replacing Harmony Nolan. There will be an MTA meeting of the Clare County Chapter on January 17 at the basement of the Courthouse.

**Budget Report:** Blackledge included a budget report for the fiscal year 2021-2022, 7/1/21 through 1/11/2022 for the General Fund, Transfer Station Fund and Road Fund.

She noted that the Cemetery account in General Fund is over by \$5,000 due to the work that was recently done by Pete's Contracting. **Blackledge moved to increase the Cemetery budget by \$5000 to \$18,600. Linda seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Review Township Expenditures: Blackledge moved to approve the General Fund checks 5523 through 5561, and the Transfer Station checks 2138 through 2145 as shown on the reports. Second by Hammar. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Adjournment: Blackledge moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm. Laughlin seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Blackledge, Winterfield Township Clerk