

**Winterfield Township Board Meeting
March 14, 2023
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; and Fred Prielipp, Trustee

Members Absent: Shelly Laughlin, Trustee

Others Present: Stacy Pechacek, Chief Deputy Clerk, Clare County; Dave Hoefling, County Commissioner; Dave Bondie, Deputy Supervisor; Todd Flint, Zoning Administrator; Bruce Scarborough, Supervisor, Redding Township; Susan Brower, Clerk, Redding Township; Nancy Scarborough, Trustee, Redding Township; Ken Brower; Tom Burger, Deputy Clerk, Redding Township; and Bill Hoefling.

Review of Agenda: Motion by Prielipp, second by Hammar, to accept the agenda as presented. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.

Review Minutes January 10, 2023: Motion by Hammar, second by Prielipp, to approve the January 10 Meeting Minutes as written. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Peterson presented the Treasurer's report for March 14, 2023. **Motion by Blackledge, second by Hammar to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 14, 2023. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

Public Comment: None

County Clerk's Office – Stacy Pechacek, Chief Deputy: Pechacek spoke about the new legislation related to Proposal 2022-2 that requires each township and city to provide nine days of early voting to its voters for state and federal elections. Clare County put together a plan where the County Clerk would assume responsibility, but the townships and cities would be required to pay a yearly fee. Other plans are being discussed since there was a lot of resistance to the fee structure.

County Commissioner's Report, Dave Hoefling: Hoefling said that MSU Extension has issued their annual report, mentioned his six committee assignments, and discussed the election cost share.

Zoning Officer's Report: Todd Flint relayed an ongoing issue with a split application. There have been a lot of inquiries about short term rentals. The Planning Commission will be involved with that issue. Flint would like to open up the Township Hall to the public once a month on Wednesdays for four hours in the afternoon. Blackledge agreed to work with him on the purchase of a file cabinet that can be locked. She will also work

with him to place an announcement on the web site related to the open hours and including zoning permits and procedures.

Treasurer's Report: Peterson settled with the County on March 6th. She said the tax collection went well.

Planning Commission Report: Due to Laughlin's absence, there was no report.

Clerk's Report: Blackledge gave an update on what she and other nearby clerks have been discussing regarding the County contract. She is in agreement with the County managing the early voting process, but isn't happy with the cost allocation. Signed copies of the Poverty Exemption resolution that was approved at the January meeting were distributed. She noted the correspondence that was received since the last meeting.

Trustees' Report: Prielipp mentioned that he attended a meeting at the Road Commission and found it interesting.

Supervisor's Report:

Old Business

Marion District Library – Blackledge and Hammar are on a committee working to establish the Marion District Library. They are hoping to have the agreement ready to approve at the May meeting.

Township Attorney – Since the Township doesn't have an attorney due to the closing of the office of Dreyer, Hovey and Post, Blackledge volunteered to put together a Request for Qualifications to send out to attorneys that deal with local government. Todd Flint and Dave Bondie said they will send her some names.

Comments from Clare County Road Commission – The Super Six 2024 prices are coming in high. This year's contract includes 5.5 miles from Twin Lakes to the County Line that includes cutting the shoulders and bringing in aggregate. Bondie explained that the cost will be the same as what we approved - \$90,000 – to widen both sides. In 2024, the entire section will be paved as part of Super Six.

New Business

Handrails - Mark Fitzpatrick, Building Inspector for Clare County, met with Hammar and looked over the stairs that were recently repaired and the existing handrails. He said he has several recommendations based on ADA. He would like to see the rails go across the whole building. He approved how we have posted the maximum occupancy of the Hall. Hammar is going to continue to work with Fitzpatrick to bring the building up to code.

Spongy Moth Spraying – Hammar presented the spraying program for 2023 for Winterfield Township and the entire County.

Property Liability Quote – Connie Monson from Michigan Municipal League sent a request to Blackledge asking if she could quote our liability insurance. Board members said that would be okay, so Blackledge will follow up.

Comments from the Supervisor – Hammar said he wrote a response to Jerry Becker regarding why we opt out of FEMA. Also, the State of Michigan wants us to comply with reporting for Liquor Licenses. Forfeitures in the Township need to be reported to the State. They also wish to know how much we collected in taxes for marijuana. There are issues regarding a split on Van Trail. The Planning Commission held a special meeting at 4:00 pm today regarding that split.

Public Comment: Carl Traynor said there is a problem with the heater at the Transfer Station. **Hammar moved to authorize Traynor to replace the space heater at the Transfer Station. Blackledge seconded. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

Todd Flint and Dave Bondie commented on the brining situation due to some changes in State law.

Budget Report: Blackledge distributed a budget report for the fiscal year 2022-2023, 7/1/22 through 3/31/2023 for the General Fund, Transfer Station Fund and Road Fund. This report format is different due to the switch to the BSA General Ledger Program. **Peterson moved to approve Resolution 2023-2, To Approve the Following Budget Amendments.** (see attached Resolution) **Hammar seconded. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Resolution adopted.**

Review Township Expenditures: Prielipp moved to approve General Fund checks 5826 through 5865, and Transfer Station checks 2192 through 2196 as shown on the reports. **Second by Peterson. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

Adjournment: Prielipp moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. **Hammar seconded. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Blackledge, Winterfield Township Clerk