

**Winterfield Township Regular Board Meeting
May 11, 2021
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Supervisor Hammar at Winterfield Township Hall.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Clark, Zoning Administrator; Morris Creason, resident

Review of Agenda: Motion by Laughlin, second by Hammar, to accept the agenda as proposed. Ayes-5, Nays-0, Absent-0. Motion carried.

Review Minutes March 9, 2021: Motion by Hammar, second by Prielipp, to approve the March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes as written. Ayes-5, Nays-0, Absent-0. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Peterson distributed the May 11, 2021 report. She said she recently received the settlement check from Clare County. The outstanding personal property taxes have been received. She will have the 2020 tax report at the June budget meeting. Hammar asked the amount received for the lumber project. The checks from Bisballe Forest Products this year totaled \$9609.01. There was also discussion regarding another bank that the Township could use if necessary due to the sale of TCF bank to Huntington. **Motion by Laughlin, second by Prielipp to approve the Treasurer's Report for May 11, 2021. Ayes-5, Nays-0, Absent-0. Motion carried.**

Public Comment: Hammar mentioned that Link Hubbard wanted to address the Board regarding some issues, but was unable to attend the meeting.

County Commissioner's Report: Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh did not attend.

Zoning Officer's Report: Mike Clark mentioned he was dealing with a permit for 8229 Keehn near Clam River Road.

Treasurer's Report: Peterson reviewed some conversations she had with Equalization, the County Treasurer and the Assessor.

Planning Commission Report: Laughlin said they are planning to have a meeting in June.

Clerk's Report: Blackledge reviewed the final costs for the MML Insurance for Workers' Compensation. It was \$773, \$147 less than projected. She also distributed other insurance information.

Trustees Report: None.

Supervisor's Report:

- a. **Blight Issues** – The Board discussed how to handle blight issues. That was a concern of many of the property owners who completed the Master Plan survey. Enforcement can be costly, especially if attorneys are involved. It was decided to have Hammar create a letter that can be enclosed with the tax bills and put on the website. Places that accept metal and other ideas of how to help with blight will be explored.
- b. **Fire Board** – The total cost of a Side by Side for the Fire Department is \$30,764. They will be able to cover the cost without needing a loan.
- c. **Wood Cutting Project/Cemetery** – The timber has been cut. In order to enlarge the cemetery, the stumps must be removed and the land flattened out. It will need to be surveyed, staked, and fenced. There was discussion about burials on the south side of the cemetery in what is considered a “potters’ field.” The Board questioned whether the money from the lumbering project should be used to make the improvements. The area being considered is about a half acre.
- d. **Transfer Station** – Hammar suggested we cut the brush back about ten feet on the outside of the fence to prevent further damage by fallen trees. He will contact the State for permission as the land belongs to the State of Michigan.
- e. **American Waste** – They began billing more than was agreed in the contract. Hammar talked to someone who explained that a yearly increase is customary.

New Business

Clare County Equalization Contract - Peterson spoke with the Equalization Director and reviewed the three options. She is recommending Option #3 for \$1215. Not all costs are known at this time because it depends on how many other units of Government participate. **Hammar moved to approve the Clare County Equalization Contract, Option # 3. Blackledge seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0, Absent-0. Motion carried.**

American Rescue Plan Act – The Board agreed to look over the information regarding these funds and talk about it at the first budget meeting.

Set Dates for Budget Meetings – The Board set the first budget meeting for Friday, June 11th at 1:00 pm. The second, which includes the public hearing, was set for Thursday, June 17th at 1:00 pm.

Budget Report: Blackledge included a budget report to date for the General Fund, Transfer Station Fund and Roads. **Blackledge moved to adjust the Fire category from \$26,000 to \$29,800. Peterson seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0, Absent-0. Motion carried.** This will allow the second payment of the yearly assessment and the payment for the Side by Side to stay within the budget.

Review Township Expenditures: Peterson moved to approve the General Fund checks 5376 through 5404, and the Transfer Station checks 2106 through 2113 as shown on the reports. Second by Laughlin. Ayes-5, Nays-0, Absent-0. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Laughlin moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Hammar seconded. Ayes-5, Nays-0, Absent-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Blackledge, Winterfield Township Clerk