

**Winterfield Township Regular Board Meeting  
March 9, 2021  
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Hammar at Winterfield Township Hall.

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

**Members Absent:** Linda Peterson, Treasurer

**Others Present:** Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh, County Commissioner; George Freiberg, Planning Commission Applicant; and Brad Plummer, Consumers Energy.

**Review of Agenda:** The agenda was adjusted to add Workers Compensation Insurance under New Business. **Motion by Laughlin, second by Prielipp, to accept the agenda as amended. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

**Review Minutes January 12, 2021: Motion by Prielipp, second by Hammar, to approve the January 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes as written. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Financial Report:** Peterson was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to the death of her brother. Hammar noted that she had sent the Treasurer's reports. She has collected 96.8% of the winter taxes. **Motion by Hammar, second by Laughlin to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 9, 2021. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment:** None

**County Commissioner's Report:** Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh reported on the recent County meeting. Eight department heads presented their own budgets. The Gypsy Moth program was required to go out for bids on the spraying and the amount came in \$10,000 higher than last year. She also covered some financial issues the County is facing.

**Consumers Energy –** Brad Plummer presented information and a handout that explained the Muskegon River Compression Station Project in detail. Initial construction will start in May and should be complete by December. Consumers' employees will not be involved with the construction. Hammar and Prielipp asked several questions.

**Zoning Officer's Report:** Mike Clark was absent due to health issues.

**Treasurer's Report:** Peterson was absent.

**Planning Commission Report:** Hammar introduced George Freiberg, his recommendation to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission. Freiberg retired in 2015

from a position in environmental management. **Hammar moved to appoint George Freiberg to the Planning Commission for a two-year term. Prielipp seconded. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

Laughlin said the current Master Plan expires in October 2022. They are waiting for the Covid restrictions to lift so they can have public meetings. Andrew Laughlin is the new Chair and Shelly is the Secretary. Hammar said they found out at Board of Review that many people are looking to buy in the Township, especially property with riverfront. Some are interested in tiny houses.

**Clerk's Report:** Blackledge asked for approval of a credit card voucher for QuickBooks Desktop Payroll. She reported that the mileage rate for 2021 is 56 cents per mile, a decrease from last year's rate of .575. Fund change information from John Hancock were distributed to participants.

**Trustees Report:** None.

#### **Supervisor's Report:**

##### **Old Business**

**Board Appointment to Planning Commission:** Done during Planning Commission Report

##### **New Business**

**Logging Project Update:** Twenty-eight acres of the forty were cut. They figured that would yield about 400 cords of different varieties of wood. There were about 3 to 4 semi loads of red pine cut. Hammar has been keeping track of the site. They are not cutting any white oak.

**Hall Rentals:** Blackledge explained that the updated Covid-19 rules allow indoor meetings with no more than 25 people, if they practice social distancing and wear masks. **Laughlin moved to allow hall rentals as long as the rules are followed. Hammar seconded. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

**Workers' Compensation Insurance:** Blackledge asked for a quote on workers' compensation insurance from Michigan Municipal League through Meadowbrook Insurance Group. They quoted a yearly rate of \$737 compared to the Accident Fund amount of \$800 for 2020 and \$1453 for 2019. One advantage to the switch is that the plan follows Winterfield's fiscal year. She asked the Board to consider switching to MML. **Laughlin moved to accept the quote from MML insurance for 2021-22. Hammar seconded. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

Hammar said he is president of the Marion Fire Department. Winterfield is the biggest contributor of the five-member department that includes four townships and the village of Marion. The department is considering the purchase of a 2021 Kubota for \$30,764.

This would be used for rescue in areas hard to reach by other vehicles and it would also be used for fire suppression. **Laughlin moved to pay \$1,000 towards the purchase of this vehicle. Prielipp seconded. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

**Budget Report:** Blackledge included a budget report to date for the General Fund, Transfer Station Fund and Roads. All looks to be in order.

**Review Township Expenditures:** Laughlin moved to approve the General Fund checks 5339 through 5375, and the Transfer Station checks 2095 through 2105 as shown on the reports. **Second by Hammar. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** Hammar moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm. **Prielipp seconded. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Blackledge, Winterfield Township Clerk