

Minutes for Whitney Township Board Meeting  
Held on January 10, 2017

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Donald Becker at 7pm.

Present: McAlindon, Gehris, Semenick, Becker, Anderson

Absent: None

Minutes:

Moved by McAlindon, Seconded by Semenick, CARRIED to approve the December 12, 2016 minutes, as printed.

Treasurer's Report:

John went over the fund sheets for the General and Water Funds.

December 2016

General Fund

Income	\$156997.33	Disbursement	\$65784.86
Balance on Hand	\$130714.49		

Water Fund

Income	\$16614.90	Disbursement	\$15987.20
Balance on Hand	\$53855.43		

Moved by Anderson, Seconded by McAlindon, CARRIED to received Treasurer's Report subject to audit.

Zoning Report:

\*Ernie is meeting with Jessica to try and find addresses for 5 parcels that he is trying to take care of.

\*Nick Moore bought the cottages by the creek and wants to renovate them, so he has been in touch with Ernie to see what needs to be done.

\*Junk car on Turner Road east of Tonkey Road that Ernie needs to look at.

\*The car in front of Joan Voelker's house is it current and when is it going to be moved it has been there too long.

\*BJ Scott's bus was brought up and Ernie informed the Board that the plate is current, but he is still checking into the issue.

\*Don brought up a junk car that is on Whitman Road and wants Ernie to check it out to make sure it is taken care of.

Assessor's Report:

Jessica was unable to attend due to weather.

Fire Authority Report:

Olen Swartz was not present.

Don pointed out that the Fire Authority has purchased a ladder truck and it should be here in May, which means the Fire Department will be moving one of the trucks from town into the fire barn here in

Whitney Township. The Fire Board also wants to review the contract that they have with Whitney Township.

Public Comment:

APM Mosquito Presentation- Chuck, Brian and Ben from APM were here to update us on the Mosquito season and talk about the new contract.

\*There were only 60 nuisances calls this year and 19 of them were before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*APM came in \$22,000.00 under budget for the season on our contract. Because of that they have worked up a new contract for Mosquito Control for the next season for \$78,000.00 approximately.

\*If we have a normal winter and wet spring there should be a lot of activity with mosquitos, but they will just do more backpack spraying in the spring if this happens.

\*It was a dry year last year, so mosquitos were not as bad. Only about 12 inches of rain for the season.

\*There is Mosquito Conference in Port Huron on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

\*Phil Swartz is coming back for another year and Chuck will be training a new person with Phil's help this season.

\*APM does mosquito control for 23 Townships in the State.

\*There are 57 off roads in Whitney Township, which means 57 residences have longer driveways that APM goes down to spray for mosquitos.

Old Business:

Website- The new website is up and running, it is [www.whitneytownship.com](http://www.whitneytownship.com)

Fire Barn Doors- John asked if we have heard anything about pricing for replacing the fire barn doors. We have not heard anything on the big doors, but we should hear something in February or March for the entry doors.

New Business:

Audit Report- Bob and Nathan were here from Stephenson and Co. to give the audit report. They explained that the company has gone through a name change and that Lisa the previous auditor has left the company to work with the Gracik's to start another company.

\*We got the best audit opinion that you can get for our audit.

\*Bob gave the Board a handout with the information that he presented to the Board and it is attached to the minutes.

\*The Township is in good shape fiscally.

Budget Amendments- There were some line items on the budget that needed to be amended, so there is a sheet of amendments attached to the minutes with the details of the amendments.

Moved by Semenick, Seconded by McAlindon, CARRIED to approve the budget amendments for the 2016-2017 budget.

Salary Discussion- The Board usually does a 2% cost of living increase every 2 years and they are due to be done this year, but we wanted to make sure that this was going to be something the Board wanted to do this year or not.

Moved by Semenick, Seconded by McAlindon, CARRIED to approve a 2% cost of living increase to be put into resolutions for the Board to approve at the February Board Meeting.

MTA Conference in Lansing- The MTA Annual Conference has been moved to April this year and the Board needs to decide who is going to attend the training.

Moved by Becker, Seconded by Anderson, CARRIED to approve 3 Board Members to attend the full conference and 2 Board Members to attend for 1 day of the Conference.

Budgeting Class in Gaylord- There is a training session in Gaylord in February on how to build a better budget. The Board needs to decide if anyone wants to go to that training.

Moved by Semenick, Seconded by Becker, CARRIED to approve attending the class if anyone wants to go.

Board of Review Training- There is Board of Review training that is being offered by the MTA and the Board needs to decide if they are sending any of the Board of Review Members to the class.

Moved by Semenick, Seconded by McAlindon, CARRIED to approve training for the Board of Review Members.

Noxious Weed Ordinance Discussion- The Board needs to decide if they want to try and get an ordinance written for taking care of noxious weeds. It would be for properties that are not being properly maintained. Especially properties with long grass and weeds that have been either foreclosed on or the property owners have abandoned.

This kind of ordinance works well in cities and villages, but townships have a harder time enforcing the issue, because it is riddle with problems.

The Board could consider writing an ordinance with Eppert's help.

The Noxious Weed Ordinance has been tabled for the time being to do more research on the issue.

Roads that need work that are not in the Road Plan- We are looking at places that are not on the plan that need to have some work done to them. It would mean adding extra money to the Roads line item of the budget for 2017-2018.

There is a spot on Hammel Beach Road and some other areas in the Township that need work done to them, so we should decide how much extra money to budget for roads.

Moved by Semenick, Seconded by Anderson, CARRIED to approve an increase of up to \$20,000.00 for the budget for roads in the 2017-2018 budget.

Water Rate Increase- Due to the new water plant being built we are going to have to raise water rates to cover the extra expenses associated with the bond payments for the plant.

We should decide if we want to raise the rates incrementally or just do a one-time increase. There should be a letter sent to the people on the water line explaining the increase no matter what is

decided. The discussion is a \$1.00/thousand increase in water rates and a \$10.00/quarter increase for ready to serve fees.

Moved by Anderson, Seconded by Becker, CARRIED to approve a \$1.00/thousand water rate increase and \$10.00/quarter ready to serve fee increase, effectively February 1, 2017.

Public Comment:

P. Cardinal and C. Gehris- wanted to know how the noxious weed ordinance would work and if it would be applied equally to all the people in the Township.

Pay the Bills:

Moved by Anderson, Seconded by Gehris, CARRIED to pay the bills and any that come in later.

Adjournment:

Moved by Semenick, Seconded by Anderson, CARRIED to adjourn the meeting at 9:13pm.

Kimberly Anderson  
Whitney Township Clerk