

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting of Whitney Township
Held on April 9, 2019

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

Present: Semenick, Becker, McAlindon, Gehris, Anderson

Absent: None

Minutes:

March 12, 2019 Meeting

Moved by McAlindon, Seconded by Semenick, CARRIED to approve the March 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes, as printed.

March 30, 2019 Truth in Taxation Meeting

Moved by Semenick, Seconded by McAlindon, CARRIED to approve the Truth in Taxation Minutes from March 30, 2019, as printed.

March 30, 2019 Special Meeting/Budget Hearing Meeting

Moved by Semenick, Seconded by McAlindon, CARRIED to approve the Special Meeting/Budget Hearing Minutes with the correction to the March 2020 meeting date.

Treasurer's Report:

John went over fund sheets for General Fund and Water Department

March 2019

General Fund

Income	\$89906.96	Disbursements	\$70477.38
Balance on Hand	\$201650.46		

Water Department

Income	\$20353.95	Disbursements	\$32711.40
Balance on Hand	\$44594.48		

Moved by Anderson, Seconded by Semenick, CARRIED to receive the Treasurer's Report subject to audit.

Zoning Report:

Michael Fil gave his report on zoning issues (see attached sheet with handwritten report).

Assessor's Report:

Board of Review was moderately busy.

Jessica will be busy with starting on 2020 assessing records and will have a more in-depth report for the Board next month.

The Board needs to make sure that she is getting her 20% done every year. We also need to make sure that she has everything that she needs to make sure that she passes her AMAR Review to the new standards.

Fire Authority Report:

*Don posed Fran's question to the Fire Board about lowering the millage rate and was told no that they needed that money to start replacing equipment and possibly getting a new truck.

*Fran suggested that Don and some of the other Board Member do like he used to do; go to the fire barns and inspect the equipment to make sure that it was being maintained properly throughout the year.

*There is still a rumor circulating that the fire department is looking to put up another building closer to the Point, so that all residents can get a better rate on their insurance. The problem with that idea is that they are not going to be able to build a new building on the cheap like they think they can, it is going to have to meet State standards for a public safety building.

Sims-Whitney Utility Authority Report:

There was a second DEQ letter sent out today with the required corrections that the DEQ required us to do.

Scott applied with Sims Township cooperation for a 2% grant to help defray the cost of water meter replacement for both Townships.

Sims Whitney Cemetery/Transfer Station Report:

*Scott and Fran are going to be meeting with Sam Proulx and Mike DeLeo from Sims Township to discuss the issues with the Cemetery on the 23rd of April.

*No budgets have been passed by the Joint Board for the Cemetery or Transfer Station

*North Coast has already been in the Cemetery doing a clean up with a vote of the Joint Board to approve the contract.

*We still are not getting correct financial information from Sims Township on either the Cemetery or Transfer Station.

Public Comment:

A resident asked if an audit was done on the Cemetery and Transfer Station. The resident was told that there is an audit done, but it is lumped in with the audit for Sims Township and not done separately like it should be.

Old Business:

Roads- Hammell Beach Road needs some gravel in the area by the bridge when you come off Tonkey Road.

Van Horn Road needs grave on the section north of Whitman Road.

Kim will call the Road Commission to try and get some quotes for the work.

The March Road Commission meeting went well and all the quotes have been approved by the Road Commission Board.

Short-Term Rental Ordinance- This would be a land use ordinance and not a police power ordinance.

*Having this ordinance in place gives us a little more to stand on with regards to land use.

*This Short-Term Rental Issue is going to come up in the legislature again, so anything we do will be superseded by the State law.

*People who buy just to rent and never use for personal use, so it would be like a commercial property.

*The issue of renting in an R-1 area could be handled through the Zoning Ordinance, because it states that there is to be no commercial activity in an R-1 district.

*The police won't do anything about complaints of the neighbors unless there is an ordinance in place that states that these issues are against Township Ordinances.

*If we pass this ordinance and try to enforce it, we could possibly lose our liability insurance coverage.

*Mike could enforce the Zoning Ordinance for short-term rentals through civil infraction rather than pass the Short-Term Rental Ordinance.

*The ordinance needs to be written with consistency in the language and follow through on the intent. We should not start out not allowing something and then further into the document give some leeway or be less stringent in following the rules in the language. In other words don't be wishy-washy.

*We can't pass an ordinance that is contradictory to the Zoning Ordinance, itself.

*People must apply for a special use permit to rent their houses.

*This needs to go back to the Planning Commission to work it into the zoning Ordinance.

*The ordinance needs to be adopted and then sent back to the Planning Commission to then amend the Zoning Ordinance to fit this use into the zoning.

Moved by McAlindon, Seconded by Semenick, CARRIED with one dissenting vote to adopt the rental agreement and send it back to the Planning Commission to amend to the Zoning Ordinance.

MTA Local Chapter Meeting and Conference- The menu for the Local Chapter Meeting needs to be finalized. The menu is as follows:

Scott- Pulled Pork & Macaroni and Cheese

Don- Buns & Potato Chips

John- Cole Slaw

Fran- 2 liters of pop & bottles of water

Kim- Desserts & condiments

We are setting up chairs only.

New Business:

Marijuana Ordinance- the Township must decide whether to "opt in" or "opt out" for recreational marijuana. Whitney Township is going to "opt out", the attached ordinance is what the Township is going to adopt to "opt out" with.

Moved by Semenick, Seconded by McAlindon, CARRIED to pass the MTA version of the recreational marijuana ordinance.

Recreational marijuana will possibly lead to hemp production issues and that will be regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Fran heard at one of the classes at Conference that they are probably going to allow a lot of stuff, because of Right to Farm Act.

Non-Partisan Voting Resolution- The MTA has sent out an email to all Township Boards in the State asking for their position on the issue of running non-partisan on the ballot. They sent a resolution for each Township Board to decide where they stand on the issue, Whitney Township is against running as non-partisan on the ballot with the resolution attached with the results of the roll call vote listed. The resolution number is 2019-05.

Streetlights- Consumers Energy has sent us a quote on what it would cost to remove the 4 streetlights that we had discussed at a previous meeting. The price to remove the lights is \$2910.00 for the 2 lights by Turner Road and \$5045.00 for the 2 lights by Vera Lane.

Moved by Becker, Seconded by Semenick, CARRIED to not remove the 4 streetlights and for them to be repaired or the Township will withhold payment for those lights until they are fixed.

5G in the Right-of-Way- Fran was in a class at the Conference where this topic was discussed and thought they Township should consider where it stands on the issue. So far there has been no inquiry about 5G in the area that we know of, but we should keep our ears open about it.

Demo Permits- the Arenac County Building Department wants to handle demo permits for the Township, because it is supposed to fall under their department to handle these things due to State law. In the past the Township Board had decided that they wanted to keep control of this issue, but the Building Department is asking us to reconsider the Township's past decisions. A land use permit will need to be issued before a demolition permit can be granted.

Moved by Anderson, Seconded by Gehris, CARRIED to give the Arenac County Building Department the control of demolition permits for Whitney Township.

Pay the Bills:

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

Adjournment:

Moved by Anderson, Seconded by Becker, CARRIED to adjourn the meeting at 8:52pm.

Kimberly Anderson
Whitney Township Clerk

