

Minutes for Whitney Township Regular Meeting
Held on October 12, 2021

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

Present: Anderson, Gehris, Becker, Zimmermann, McAlindon

Absent: None

Minutes:

Moved by Zimmermann, Seconded by Gehris, CARRIED to approve the Minutes from the September 14, 2021 meeting, as printed.

Treasurer's Report:

Gehris went over fund sheets for the General Fund and Water Department.

Gehris has collected 93% of the summer taxes, so far.

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

Audit Report:

Nathan from Stephenson and Company came to present a report on the audit results. There is a copy of the report on file in the Clerk's Office.

Zoning Report:

Becker has talked to Joshua Vinson the new Zoning Administrator and his estimated return to work date is November 9, 2021.

Becker has been handling Zoning in Joshua's absence and has issued several letters for blight abandoned/junk cars, and short-term rentals as of this meeting.

Assessor's Report:

J. Landry was unable to attend the meeting.

Fire Authority Report:

Meeting is Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 6pm at Whitney Township Hall

The pumper truck has been moved back to AuGres fire barn and we have the tanker back in our fire barn.

Sims-Whitney Utilities Authority Report:

Business as usual

Sims Whitney Cemetery/Transfer Station Report:

The Board met on September 30, 2021.

Cemetery- The two Supervisor's applied for a 2% grant.

*The fence at the back of the cemetery is being replaced and a space at the bottom of the fence will be left open to allow leaves to either blow naturally or be blown through to get rid of them. The leaves would accumulate at the bottom of the fence line and were bending the fence due to the extra weight.

*The trims along the fence line will be trimmed or removed to prevent damaging the new fence. The trees in the cemetery will also be trimmed to get rid of dead branches.

Transfer Station- There will be new stickers coming out for the new tax year and will be good for 3 years. These stickers will replace the tags that are currently being used. There have been issues with the tags being replicated and/or being handed off to friends and neighbors without tags.

*The transfer station employees will be going in 30 minutes early to eliminate the issue with cars getting backed up at the gate waiting to get in. The employees will go in and prepare everything and then when it is 10am they will open the gate for the cars that are waiting.

Public Comment:

J. Hanley- asked about whether the letters were sent certified mail to the people that are violating the short-term rental ordinance and they were not. The people that own next to him are still renting their house out. Becker stated that he sent them a letter and will be taking the next step if the issue is not resolved. Eventually a citation will be issued and a fine assessed to the property owner. Fines start at \$100.00 and go as high as \$500.00, depending on how many citations have been issued for the same issue.

APM Presentation:

Blake from APM Mosquito Control Company came to give the Board a report on the season. They came in under budget again for this mosquito season. A copy of the report is available at the Clerk's Office. There was a question about the green stakes that are put out by the road, how do the resident's get them replaced if they are damaged or disappear, they just have to call the AuGres office and they will come out and replace the stake.

Old Business:

Digital Sign Update- The sign has been approved by the Board, we are trying to get a price on installing the sign and a bid was received from Buchanan Builders. Buchanan's have given two different prices; one for basic installation at \$17937.00 and one for a more elaborate design at \$29147.00. There was a drawing furnished with the bids and the design on the elaborate design calls for a concrete base, cultured stone walls, a limestone cap, and an arched roof over the sign.

Moved by McAlindon, Seconded by Zimmermann, CARRIED to ask Buchanan Builders to do the elaborate sign, but see if they would be willing to do the work for \$25,000.00 to \$26,000.00 instead of the \$29147.00 originally quoted.

Cameras for the Hall- Anderson was going to apply for a PAR Plan grant, but it required a match to get the project done. Cameras would be nice, but not necessary, so we are going to skip applying for the grant.

New Business:

Resolutions for the County- There are three resolutions that need to be passed and sent to the County, so that the Township can put the things on the tax bills. The resolutions are for Garbage Fees, Delinquent Water, and adding the cost of demolition onto a property owner's taxes.

Resolution 2021-10 Approving the Collection of Delinquent Water Bills

Moved by McAlindon, Seconded by Anderson, Roll Call Vote required, to approve adding a delinquent water bill onto the taxes of three property owners.

Roll Call Results: 5 yeas and 0 neas

Resolutions 2021-11 Approving the Collection of a Garbage/Refuse Fee

Moved by McAlindon, Seconded by Zimmermann, Roll Call Voter required, to approve adding a \$55.00 fee onto the tax bills for garbage/refuse disposal.

Roll Call Results: 5 yeas and 0 neas

Resolution 2021-12 Regarding Tax Roll Collection

Moved by McAlindon, Seconded by Zimmermann, Roll Call Vote required, to allow the costs of demolishing a structure to be added to the property owners tax bill.

Roll Call Results: 5 yeas and 0 neas.

Hook Up Fees for Connecting to the Water System- Currently Alabaster residents are paying \$2500.00 to connect to the water system. Whitney Resident's are being charged \$2100.00, which is not sufficient to cover the costs.

Moved by Gehris, Seconded by Anderson, CARRIED to increase cost for tap in fees in Whitney Township from \$2100.00 to \$2500.00

MTA Dinner Meeting- A head count is needed for the meeting, so the Local Chapter can make sure there is enough food for the number of people coming. Everyone is attending, so there will be 7 people including the Treasurer and Trustee's wives.

Election Workers- With the money that is coming from the American Rescue Plan Act we are allowed to give essential workers a bonus for working during the pandemic and Anderson would like to give the election workers each a bonus for working the August and November Elections. She left it up to the Board to decide on whether to give \$50.00/election or \$100.00/election.

Moved by Zimmermann, Seconded by Becker, CARRIED to give the election workers a \$100.00 bonus per election out of the ARPA money.

Snowplowing- We need to decide whether to advertise or just use the same person again this year.

Moved by McAlindon, Seconded by Zimmermann, CARRIED to rehire Dennis Nelkie to plow if he is available again this year.

Closed Session:

Moved by Anderson, Seconded by Becker, CARRIED to go into Closed Session

Moved by Anderson, Seconded by Becker, CARRIED to go back into Open Session.

Moved by Anderson, Seconded by Becker, CARRIED to proceed with the breach of contract lawsuit against the SWUA.

Pay the Bills:

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

Adjournment:

Moved by Anderson, Seconded by Becker, CARRIED to adjourn at 8:30pm.

Kimberly Anderson
Whitney Township Clerk

