

Minutes for Regular Meeting of Whitney Township Board  
held on January 9, 2024

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

Present: Anderson, Gehris, Becker, Zimmermann, McAlindon

Absent: None

Minutes:

Moved by McAlindon, Seconded by Zimmermann, CARRIED to approve the December 12, 2023 minutes, as printed.

Treasurer's Report:

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

December 2023

General Fund

Income	\$51380.47	Disbursements	\$42156.89
Balance on Hand	\$121950.99		

Water Department

Income	\$22596.86	Disbursements	\$16821.22
Balance on Hand	\$123.877.77		

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

Zoning Report:

There are two blight issues that will be headed to court.

The issue with the sand at 262 N Huron Rd, according to the Township Attorney they would have to put up cameras on their property and catch the neighbor on those cameras to have any recourse.

Assessor's Report:

The Board of Review met in December, and they are signed up for the required training that they need to take every 2 years.

Fire Authority Report:

The Board authorized the purchasing of two new laptop computers for the department and the Treasurer.

The ladder truck has one last partial payment left before it is paid off. The money that is left over from the partial payment will be applied to the new truck if the company says it is okay to prepay on the truck. The Board decided to continue putting aside the same amount of money for loan payments and just applying to the new truck if the company approves prepayments.

Sims-Whitney Utilities Authority Report:  
There is nothing new going on.

Sims Whitney Transfer Station/Cemetery Report:

There will be no well done at the Transfer Station, instead we are going to put in a tank and pump system.

There is finally a plan in place to put the columbaria's in at the cemetery. We received funds from a previous 2% grant to start the columbaria project, we just needed someone to pick up the ball and run with it.

Public Comment:

Meihls Mechanical has sold that was just for informational purposes because we occasionally use them for things at the hall.

B. Huber asked about extending the water main on Bessinger Road to go past the Transfer Station.

Old Business:

Roads- Van Horn Road- trees will be removed once the ground freezes up a little bit, so they do not damage the work that was done on the road.

Delano Road- S. Gingerich, B. Huber, C. Broadworth came to oppose the ditching project. They feel that the Township shouldn't be spending money on the project when there are so many other areas that would benefit more residents than the Delano Rd. project.

\*The Dime Drain does not flow fast enough to handle all the water from the proposed ditching project.

\*There are a couple of drains that have disappeared over time.

\*If we ditch the farmers would have to replace their culverts and tubes with their money to try to keep the water moving.

\*The property along Delano Road that is wet will never dry up because there is some source of water causing it to be wet that no one can see. The property has been a swamp for years and ditching will not change that.

\*L. Davis needs to walk the ditch and drain to try and find the real issue, according to Becker.

\*There have been people dumping leaves and trash on Delano Rd when the transfer station is closed.

\*The Township should not be doing the ditching project because it could lead to fines, lawsuits, and lots of other problems.

Moved by Gehris, Seconded by Zimmermann, CARRIED with one non vote and one abstention to not do any ditching on Delano Road. If Collier's can get permits from EGLE, then maybe the Township may consider doing something with the ditching.

Trees at Parker Property- The arborist said that the tree was killed by the water that came from the water main break. We agreed to pay the cost of the arborist and according to the minutes we agreed to pay half of the tree removal. The owner said we later agreed to pay for the whole cost of the tree removal. He does not agree with having to pay for half of the tree removal when it was the Townships water that killed the tree.

Moved by Gehris, Seconded by Zimmermann, CARRIED with one non vote to cut down the tree and pay for the arborist and that there will be no further responsibility for the Township to pay for any other issues that may arise.

New Business:

Email- Anderson asked Becker why an email was sent to the MTA Community Connections forum about her not living in her house for over a year, was it an attempt to humiliate her in front of every Township Official in the State. Becker claims that he was just trying to get an answer to a question, but he did not pose a question in the email, which was given to all the Board Members. Anderson tried to show Becker an email that came from the MTA Answer Center Staff saying Anderson temporarily living outside her home was legal because it was only temporary, but Becker refused to listen and stated that he didn't trust Anderson or anyone on the Board.

There was an audience member that stated that Becker is not doing his job, which he replied to by saying he is doing his statutory duties only. That made another audience member ask him how he voted on the two issues the Board discussed. Becker stated that he didn't vote, and the audience member said then you are not doing your job and it led to a discussion about voting and other topics.

Pay the Bills:

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

Adjournment:

Moved by McAlindon, Seconded by Anderson, CARRIED to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm.

Kimberly Anderson  
Whitney Township Clerk