

**Winterfield Township Board Meeting
January 14, 2020
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Hammar. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Heather Martin, Lori Martin, Clare County Clerk; David Hoefling, County Commissioner; and Bronwyn Hawks Asplund, Candidate for Clare County Commissioner.

Review of Agenda: Motion by Laughlin, second by Prielipp, to accept the agenda as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Review Minutes November 12, 2019: Motion by Prielipp, second by Peterson, to approve the November 12 Meeting Minutes as written. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Peterson presented the Treasurer's report for January 14, 2020.

Laughlin moved to accept the report, seconded by Hammar. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Ms. Bronwyn Hawks Asplund introduced herself and said she will be running for County Commissioner for our district in 2020. She was raised in Clare County and moved to New Hampshire where she served on the County Commission in Merrimack County for 14 years. She is concerned with the current deficit in Clare County.

County Clerk's Report, Lori Martin: Martin discussed the upcoming March Presidential Primary. Winterfield will have six ballot styles due to the Mid-Michigan College proposal of a .62 increase for the few voters we have in Harrison School District. The entire County will vote on the County Transit .2 mill increase.

The Register of Deeds software will go live on Thursday. This will allow access to the records on line. Martin intends to visit senior centers with a laptop to help people who can't get in to look up deed information.

There have been many improvements to the County website – a way to do home mortgages over the Internet, the ability to renew a concealed pistol license, a link to "Tapestry." She suggested that we provide a link to the County website on our website.

Martin is proud of the improvements that have been made to the restitution program which has increased to \$122,000 in collections in 2019. At the end of the year, the County budget had a deficit of \$508,000. The Clerk's Office is working with Commissioners to rectify that problem. Veteran's IDs are available for \$10. Hammar asked for a new County Directory and was told the Administrator's office is in charge of that.

County Commissioner's Report, David Hoefling:

A second public hearing was held on the Road Commission issue. There was a good turnout, but no resolution. Most people want a five-member board. The judges from Circuit Court requested a raise for non-union employees, but the Commission was not able to do so because of the current fiscal condition. A cadet officer position was created to help with staffing issues in the Sheriff's Department.

The Commission decided to have two meetings a month, the first Wednesday of the month will be a workshop and the second meeting will concentrate on the budget. Jerry Becker, Homeland Security, will remain a full-time employee after discussion to decrease his hours to part-time. A FEMA grant will help pay for the \$7 million Tobacco River project.

Hammar is concerned about the Road Commission situation and the MMR ambulance service.

Zoning Officer's Report, Mike Clark: Absent, no report.

Treasurer's Report, Linda Peterson: No report.

Planning Board Report, Shelly Laughlin: The Master Plan and Zoning discussion will take place under Old Business on the agenda.

Clerk's Report, Bonnie Blackledge: Blackledge distributed the Par Plan News, P&Z brochure to Laughlin, shared information on the upcoming Veteran's Freedom 5K Run/Walk, and asked the Board's opinion on payment options for election equipment service. The consensus was to pay it as originally scheduled rather than spreading payments over a five-year period. Hammar signed a credit card voucher of \$504.50 for MTA Board of Review classes for the members. Blackledge will check to see when the Planning Commission was last sworn in, as the terms run four years.

Trustees' Report, Shelly Laughlin and Fred Prielipp: Laughlin asked about the brine being spread on dry pavement.

Supervisor's Report:

Old Business: A1) Keehn Road: Prielipp and Hammar met with the new Road Commission Manager, Dewayne Rogers, and Engineering Technician, Allan Leonard regarding Keehn Road. They are recommending Option 3, Aggregate Surface, and agreed to contribute to the gravel project. They would grade for eye projection at 55 MPH. If the gravel is left for the first few years, faults would show up and paving could be done at a later date. Prielipp said there are five lines from Consumers across the .6 mile stretch of the project, and there is also an oil line on the south side of the road. This project will be included on the March agenda for a vote when there is a better idea of cost.

A2) Update of Master Plan/Zoning Ordinance Project: Supervisor Hammar reviewed the proposed contract and sent it to the attorney for review. The attorney said that once we pay the bill, the information becomes the property of Winterfield Township. Hammar will meet with the consultant from Wade Trim and will discuss the following items:

- 1) Short term rental properties
- 2) Tiny homes
- 3) Wind Energy
- 4) Solar Energy
- 5) Fire Department hook up to irrigation
- 6) Marijuana/Upgrade wire services for growing purposes
- 7) Shipping Containers
- 8) Firefighters right to know
- 9) Foster Homes
- 10) Gravel pits

Blackledge moved to allow Supervisor Hammar to sign the Wade Trim contract after the discussion of these ten items. Linda seconded. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.

A3) Flagpole: The EverReadyClub requested Board help with their project in memory of Lucille Prielipp. Hammar has contacted Harmony Nolan from Consumers for some assistance. She suggested we contact them again in the spring when they are working on the budget.

New Business:

B1) Appoint Board of Review Members for 2020 – 2021 Term: Hammar recently asked Bonnie Fox to serve as the Board of Review Alternate and she agreed. **Hammar moved to appoint Carl Traynor, Scott Peterson, Dan Blackledge and Bonnie Fox to the Board of Review for the two-year term beginning January 2020 and ending December 2021. Peterson seconded. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

B2) Change March Board Meeting Date from 3/10/20 to 3/17/20: Due to the March 10 Presidential Primary, the regularly scheduled Board meeting needs to be moved. It was suggested to change it to March 17 at 7 pm. **Hammar moved to change the regular Board Meeting date from 3/10 to 3/17/20. Blackledge seconded. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

B3) Resolution 2020-1, Poverty Guidelines: Blackledge received a request from the Assessor to update the poverty guidelines for 2020. **Hammar moved to approve Resolution 2020-1, Establishing Poverty Guidelines for Exemption from Property Tax Contributions. Peterson seconded. Ayes:5, Nays:0. Motion carried.**

B4) FEMA Flood Plain: This will be addressed at the March meeting. Blackledge will scan the brochure and print it out for the meeting. It is recommended to participate so that Winterfield would get assistance if the area was declared a disaster sight.

Other News from the Supervisor:

- The mileage rate starting January 1, 2020 is \$.575 per mile.
- Winterfield Township Roadwork 2019-2022 was discussed. Hammar suggested that next year we need to revise the road plan.
- The petitions to run for office will be available at the March meeting.

14) Budget Report: Blackledge included a budget report to date for the General Fund, Transfer Station Fund and Roads and reviewed them briefly with the Board. Due to the increase in assessed value, the amount of the Fire Assessment went up. This put us over the budgeted amount in that category. **Blackledge moved to add \$2684.00 to the Fire Contract line item in the Fire category. Peterson seconded. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0. Motion carried.** The contingency will be adjusted by \$2684.

15) Review Township Expenditures:
Hammar moved to approve the General Fund checks 5056 through 5097, and the Transfer Station checks 2034 through 2043 (2042-void) as shown on the reports. Second by Prielipp. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Motion by Hammar, seconded by Prielipp, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Blackledge, Winterfield Township Clerk