

Regular Board Meeting of Winterfield Township

July 9, 2017

7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by supervisor, Mark Hammar, at the Winterfield Township Hall at 8987 Cook Avenue, Marion, MI. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was perused and accepted by a motion. Roll call was taken, with all members present. Also present were Carl Traynor, Mike Clark, Bonnie Blackledge, Ed Miller, Jr., Karen Lipovsky, and Andrew Laughlin. The minutes of the last board meeting, dated May 9, 2017 were read. A motion to approve them was made, supported, and passed. A motion to pay the bills was made, supported and passed.

Linda Peterson gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted. She also gave the remainder of the Transfer Station cards to Carl Traynor, to be distributed. A discussion ensued about persons owning more than one piece of property, receiving more than one card. Also, if renters get a card to use the transfer station. Linda explained the Clare County Cleaver printed the cards and she was pleased with the quality of the work and the cost of printing them.

Andrew Laughlin asked about the township's internet provider, ISP and why they were chosen. Mark explained that six companies were contacted and only ISP was willing. Andrew expressed his dissatisfaction with ISP and suggested CASAIR would be a better choice. Mark explained that the township could possibly change providers, but no one has come forward to complain until now and no company has offered to hang their equipment on our tower. A discussion followed about new information coming out all the time and Andrew offered to go with Mark to the next meeting of RESD Broadband, Clare County, which are held every other month.

Karen Lipovsky gave her report from the county commissioner's meeting. Animal control officers are allowed to carry a gun, after receiving training from the sheriff's office. The sheriff's office has been given permission to hire part time employees, if they have the money. The cost of insurance provided to the county will probably go up.

Mark Hammar has been looking for training for our Zoning officer, Mike Clark to attend. He mentioned Michigan State has a program. Linda Peterson asked if the county and Mark Fitzpatrick, would have anything and Mark will look into it.

New election equipment will be ready to be distributed this fall. The township is responsible for the cost of a modem, if we would like to use that instead of a landline. We would then be able to eliminate the need for a phone at the townhall. The cost would be a one-time charge of \$250. Also, we would be responsible for paying the extended maintenance fee for two pieces of our voting equipment in the years six through ten. The ICP Tabulator with ballot box would have an annual fee of \$375.00 and the ICX Accessible ballot marking device would have an annual fee of \$240.00. A motion was made, supported and passed to buy the modem and pay for the maintenance required.

A discussion concerning payment to the John Hancock Company was held. A check will be sent by August 1, 2017.

Shelly Laughlin gave a report on the meeting of the Planning Commission on June 13, 2017. She said the commission is going through the Master Plan 2002-2022 Book, page by page and they have not found anything necessary to change. It was suggested the minutes of the commission meeting be posted on the website.

Mark Hammar gave the supervisor's report. He suggested purchasing benches, rather than swings, due to the liability factor. When he questioned the insurance company, they recommended hiring a certified contractor, buying commercial equipment, etc. A plaque would read "In Memory of those who have served Winterfield Township." The idea was tabled for now. The new cemetery sign Dave Duddles is making is almost completed. Mark Hammar suggested putting the cemetery plot map on the back of the sign, with Winterfield Township Cemetery on the front. The rest of the board thought it was a great idea! The working agreement between Winterfield Township and American Waste has been approved by our lawyers. A motion to accept the agreement was made, supported and passed.

Bonnie Blackledge has offered to continue to work on the cemetery records, as Shelly Laughlin has said she has taken them as far as she wants to. Mark Hammar suggested putting them in Microsoft Word instead of Excel so they can be emailed, put in a PDF form, etc. A motion to accept Bonnie Blackledge's offer was made and seconded. It was passed unanimously.

The road work taking place in the township was discussed. The Road Commission was thinking of using a cement pipe, but changed their minds; they will use a six-foot metal tube and squash it. In late August six inches of gravel will be put on Pine Road, the ditches will be established, trees will be removed, the road will be straightened after the bridge, and some parts of the road will be built up. Mark Hammar has received some complaints about the brining of the roads not taking place in a timely manner. He explained there are a number of reasons for this. It had rained over six inches and the roads could not be graded. Also, the company, Beckman's, has lost one of their men, our contact with the company and Mark Hammar was not informed, even after texting the man repeatedly. The county is scheduled to grade this week and Beckman's is scheduled to brine beginning Monday, July 17th.

Continuing to update the website was discussed with Nick Loomis, by Mark Hammar and Bonnie Blackledge. Bonnie Blackledge, deputy supervisor, has offered to work with Nick to do this.

A letter has been received concerning the township's Blight Ordinance from Linda Helfmann, requesting something be done about her neighbor's trailers. A discussion was held about our ordinance and Mark Hammar will send out thank you letters to those residents who have made an effort to clean up their property. He will also talk with Linda Helfmann about her concerns.

A motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Fox
Winterfield Township Clerk