

Winterfield Township Meeting

January 10, 2017

7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by township supervisor, Mark Hammar at the Winterfield Township Hall, 8987 Cook Avenue, Marion, MI. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda. Those present were Mark Hammar: supervisor, Linda Peterson: treasurer, Fred Prielipp: trustee, Shelley Laughlin: trustee, and Bonnie Fox: clerk. Also present were Dan and Bonnie Blackledge, Mike Clark, Ed Miller, and Carl Traynor.

The minutes of the November 9, 2016 meeting were read and approved. Linda gave the treasurer's report and a motion was made to approve it. Bonnie gave the clerk's report and a motion was made to approve it.

Carl Traynor gave a report on the use of the transfer station. He cited 4550 people have used the station in the past year, 2240 yards of refuse was collected and 638 manpower hours were recorded. He stated he liked Waste Management of Michigan, but they were expensive. Mark said they have averaged a 3% rate hike per year. The township's contract with WM expires on June 1, 2017. If the township would like to terminate their contract with them, they need to notify WM within 90-180 beforehand. Mark has sent a letter to that effect. Carl explained the recycling has been paid by Clare County and it appears to be beneficial to everyone. A discussion was held about the transfer station being closed on Christmas. Also, the question of holiday pay was brought up. These subjects were tabled until the July township board meeting.

County Commissioner, Karen Lipovski was unable to attend the meeting.

Linda explained that the tax collecting was going well. A small glitch had occurred when notice of winter taxes were sent, with the statement that summer taxes had not been paid. She has been fielding calls concerning this error, but they have lessened recently.

A new clerk has been elected. Bonnie Fox has taken over from Kathryn Decker, as of November 21, 2016. Fred Prielipp is the new trustee, as he was elected to take the place of Harry Martin. The Board thanked both Kathryn and Harry for their years of service to the township.

Shelly Laughlin reported the Planning Commission has presented Andrew Laughlin's name, as he is computer savvy and very knowledgeable, to take Fred Prielipp's position. A discussion was held and it was agreed to wait one session to see if anyone else is interested in the position, before appointing someone.

Fred Prielipp and Shelly Laughlin both expressed an interest in the training necessary to help run elections. They will be notified when the training is available.

The placing of a sign stating "Stop Ahead" on Haskell Lake Road, was suggested, due to the traffic accident that occurred recently on the corner of Haskell Lake Road and Cook Avenue. Mark will look into this.

Shelly reported on her progress in identifying and categorizing the cemetery plots. It is a huge job, as the records were in numerous places, some very difficult to read. She is making progress using an EXCEL program.

The Board of Review will attend training in Cadillac February 17, 2017 in anticipation of the BOR meetings to be held in March.

The cemetery sexton's job was discussed. Mark has done some research as to who is available in the area. There is a need to hire someone who is knowledgeable. Three names were put forth and he will continue his research.

A blight letter was sent out by Mark to those in the township who are in violation of our blight resolution.

Mark has also looked into the cost of propane for the township hall and the board commissioned him to find the least expensive supplier.

Bonnie Blackledge was introduced by Mark as his pick for the new deputy supervisor. She has had many years of experience as a clerk in Cannon Township and so is familiar with the workings of a township board. She and her husband have owned property in our area for many years and they have recently moved here permanently. A motion was made and seconded to have Bonnie Blackledge as Mark's deputy supervisor. The motion passed.

Mark explained he has had numerous inquiries concerning the timber surrounding the internet tower. A discussion was held as to whether or not to sell the timber at this time. The board asked him to find out more concerning the details and the price offered.

Winterfield Township's zoning administrator and ordinance officer, Dorwin Clark is unable to perform his duties, due to illness. Mark has made numerous inquiries to get someone else for the job. He proposed we replace Dorwin with Mike Clark, Dorwin's son, as he is interested in the position.

A motion was made and passed to have Mike as the new zoning administrator and ordinance officer.

Mark explained the Michigan Township Association of Clare County meets the third Monday of the even months of the year in the basement of the county courthouse. Linda and Bonnie will plan to attend the next meeting.

The Board of Review will hold an organizational meeting on March 7, 2017 at 11:30 am at the town hall. They will hold a Board of Review First Meeting on March 13, 2017 from 3:00-9:00 pm and a Board of Review Second Meeting on March 15, 2017 from 9:00 am -3:00 pm at Winterfield Township Hall, 8987 Cook Avenue, Marion, MI.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Fox, clerk