

Winterfield Township Meeting

September 12, 2017

7:00 pm

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

The minutes of the July 11, 2017 meeting were read with a motion made and supported to approve them. Linda Peterson gave the treasurer's report and a motion was made to approve it. Bonnie Fox gave the clerk's report and a motion was made to approve it.

Karen Lipovsky, County Commissioner from District 6 gave a report of the County Commissioners' meeting. The budget will be set next week, and it looks good. More money has been put in probate court for child care. The cost of cremation permits was raised, an emergency bomb threat practice was held, and a grant for the animal shelter to spay and neuter was accepted.

Bonnie Blackledge, deputy supervisor, gave a report on the meeting she attended to form a district library in Marion. If a district library can be formed, there will be an opportunity for more services available to the patrons of the library. It is in the planning stages now, and Bonnie will continue to attend meetings, as they occur.

Mike Clark, zoning administrator, gave a report on his work. There seems to be a discrepancy as to what a man who lives downstate wants to do with a piece of land he owns in Winterfield Township; he told Mike Clark one thing, and Carl Traynor another. Mike Clark will pursue this with the landowner and check with Mark Fitzpatrick, to make sure the landowner adheres to the building codes.

Bonnie Fox gave a detailed report of the last two months expenditures. The use of Quick Books has not been fully set up, so she has made an appointment to have that done. Checks will now be issued near the first and third week of the month, rather than any time. Waste Management has again sent another bill for services rendered after the termination of the contract, and Bonnie has again sent a letter of explanation to them, asking them to check their records and remove Winterfield Township from their mailing list.

Linda Peterson gave a detailed report of the treasurer's activities for the last two months. When the rubbish cards were made out, she noticed some discrepancies; some people were assessed duplicates while others were not assessed at all. Linda Peterson, Mark Hammar, Carl Traynor and Sharon Zakrajsek met to discuss the pieces of property that have changed hands, and updated the tax records to reflect these changes. Linda went to a Land Bank meeting; in 2016 there were 502 parcels and in 2017 there were 507 parcels. Some properties have come off the tax rolls and a discussion was held on how to make use of them, to get them back on. The former Wheat property has been sold, so it's back on the tax roll. Linda stated she has been busy collecting taxes.

Shelly Laughlin, chairman of the Winterfield Township Zoning Board reported the brining was better this time at the beginning of September, than at the end of June. She related information about a deer farm on 80 acres and the owner's intention of raising them, as well

as a landowner who has 1,200 chickens he is raising. The zoning board spent time looking up animal zoning to make sure these two individuals adhere to the animal zoning that is in place in the township.

Mark Hammar reminded everyone of the marijuana vote which was passed in 2016, will go into effect on December 15, 2017. He explained that townships must have a resolution to opt in to have a facility operating in the township. Winterfield Township does not have a resolution.

The work of the Clare County Road Commission was discussed. Cook Avenue has been blacktopped at a cost of \$20,382.84. The work on Pine Road is completed and a big improvement has been noticed. There was talk of what needs to be done next year to promote safety, vision and better roads. It was suggested Garfield Road needs attention and continued work on Cook Road is a possibility, due to the high volume of traffic. A culvert on Arnold Lake Road was also suggested.

Mark Hammar reported on his research of a swing set and bench to be placed at the township hall in honor of all those who have served Winterfield Township in the past. He heard back from two companies, and a vote was taken to purchase both the swing set and bench from American Parks. Orlan England will set the cement and do everything else necessary, prior to the delivery of the swing set and bench.

It was noted the Winterfield Township website has seen an increase of use this year; it has more than doubled, which is wonderful!

Mark Hammar brought up the importance of the keeping of cemetery records. He has discussed this with sexton, Ray Faulman. Burial transmittals are a state requirement and need to be kept in a file.

The question of deputies attending meetings and whether they get paid an hourly rate, mileage, etc. was brought up. It was stated that in the past if the meeting is educational and the township has paid for the deputy to attend, the deputy does not get paid, but would be paid for mileage. If the township has not paid for the meeting, the deputy would get paid for the meeting and mileage. If the meeting is for Board of Review or Election training, and the person is required to attend, that person would get paid for the meeting.

The bills were presented and a motion to pay them was made, supported and passed. Shelly Laughlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Linda Peterson. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Fox