

## Winterfield Township Meeting

May 9, 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 and seconded to accept the agenda. Those present were Mark Hammar, supervisor; Bonnie Fox, clerk; Linda Peterson, treasurer; Fred Prielipp, trustee; and Shelly Laughlin, trustee. Also present were Carl Traynor, Ed Miller, Jr., Bonnie Blackledge, Andrew Laughlin and Rick Koetje.

The minutes of the March 14, 2017 meeting were read and approved. Linda Peterson gave the treasurer's report and a motion was made and seconded to approve it. Bonnie gave the clerk's report which was also approved.

The new sign for the cemetery is being finished by Dave Duddles and will be put up soon. Carl Traynor said new transfer station permits need to be made up and distributed. A discussion followed as to the best way to do this and it was agreed to use the tax notices as the most efficient way. Linda will look into doing this.

Karen Lipovsky, county commissioner #6, presented copies of the minutes of the latest meeting of the commissioners. Karen reported the committee had accepted the Equalization of the Clare County Board of Commissioners report. She stated the Board of Commissioners discussed a Chicago company requesting to build a grower and dispensary of marijuana facility in Clare County. She said ordinances can be used to keep this from happening, if so desired.

A discussion was held concerning the discrepancy between the mileage rate of Winterfield Township and the State of Michigan, now that the state changed their rate to \$.535 per mile. The first resolution of 2017 was adopted unanimously to read "The Winterfield Township Board will follow the State of Michigan Guidelines in paying mileage."

Linda Peterson said the township has received \$12,052.72 in a settlement, when the county buys back delinquent taxes. Also, Huntington Bank would like to go over some offers available from them. A CD looked promising, but it is not known whether it is available to municipal funds or not. She will inquire further.

A suggestion was made to post the township ordinances on the website so more residents are aware of them. The noise ordinance is cited often, but is difficult to enforce. A resident feels Dart Oil is fracking and ruining his well water. Mark said he is not aware of any fracking going on in the township, but this individual can have his water tested by the state, by going to the county building with a sample.

The Planning Commission is in need of a new member, as Fred Prielipp is now a trustee. The position is for a two-year term and three residents had expressed an interest in the position. Shelly Laughlin recommended Andrew Laughlin for the position and he was voted by the board to fill the vacancy. Shelly said she was still working on the township cemetery records. She will complete as much as she can and then turn them in to the board. A discussion about using ground penetration to discover more about the cemetery was held. Mark will contact Mike Tobin from Lincoln Township about a company who does the mapping of bones.

Rich Koetje, who lives in the northwest corner of Winterfield Township, presented a concern about the lack of grading of the roads in the township, especially Kirby Road to the blacktop, north; also, Keehn and Garfield Road. Mark said he would contact the County Road Commission about it. He stated the first brining of the roads in the township will take place on May 22<sup>nd</sup> by Beckman Company.

Ed Miller, Jr. agreed to work for Winterfield Township at the tire collection we are participating in from June 28 through July 1, 2017, in conjunction with other townships. This will be held at the Middle Branch Township Hall, Wednesday from 8-8, Thursday from 8-8, Friday from 8-6, and Saturday from 8-12 noon.

Mark noted that the "Stop Ahead" sign that was requested to be installed on Haskell Lake Road just before it intersected with Cook Avenue was denied; it is considered a 'clear site to the intersection' and therefore unnecessary. The "swing project" has been tabled until the next meeting.

A number of job openings needed to be filled. There were two applicants considered for the sexton's job. A discussion ensued about the job description and what duties the sexton would be required to do. It was decided that Ed Miller Jr., who has been doing the maintenance at the cemetery, will continue to do so. The sexton's job will include opening and closing the graves, keeping records, selling gravesites and coordinating with the local funeral directors. Ray Faulman has been offered the position, to provide services as the sexton for the Winterfield Township Cemetery, with a two-year contract.

The Winterfield Township Zoning Administrator and Ordinance Officer positions were filled by Mike Clark, after looking over the applicants. It was noted that the new permits need to be copied, as there is only one copy available. Linda said she will do that when Mike brings her the permit, and will send a copy to the assessor. It was also noted that blight ordinance papers need to be sent out to various residents in the township. Mark will mail them to inform those residents.

The advertisements placed in the newspaper for a new transfer station pickup provider yielded a number of bids. The Board decided to send three members to talk to American Waste concerning price and a possible contract with them.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the road work proposal for the 2017 year, which had been discussed at previous meetings.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to extend the contract for three years with Great Lakes Assessing.

It was mentioned it would be helpful to have a notary on the township board and two members said they would look into becoming one.

Bonnie Blackledge, deputy supervisor, has been reviewing the Winterfield Townships website at the supervisor's request, and had some recommendations and suggestions to improve it. They were handed out and the board was asked to look them over and contact Mark or Bonnie with their thoughts.

The ISO rating for the Marion Fire Department was improved with the new pumper truck they have acquired. It was noted Jack Winkle has a well near the road, and if the township paid for valving, it might be able to be used to fight a fire in the surrounding countryside. Mark will look into this.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the 2017 Equalization contract.

Dates were decided on for the Budget Preparation meeting, which will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, and the Budget Hearing meeting, which will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Both meetings will take place at the Winterfield Township Hall, 8987 Cook Avenue, Marion, MI.

The next regular Winterfield Township Board Meeting will be on July 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Fox