

Supervisor Forbes called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
The pledge was led by Supervisor Forbes.

Roll Call:

Present: Michael Clinesmith, Bob Forbes, Sam Tester, Bill Gray,
John Stack (arrived at 4:10pm)
Absent: John Stack (from 4:00pm to 4:10pm)
Other Present: Attorney Brian Garner (arrived at 4:10pm)

Recess called at 4:01pm to wait for attorney to arrive.

Stack and Attorney Brian Garner arrived during the recess.

Meeting called to order at 4:10pm.

Forbes started listing the corrections he wanted made.

Attorney Garner suggested starting by explaining the law regarding the minutes. MCL 15.269 is the statute regarding the minutes, requiring the "date, time, place, members present, members absent, any decisions made at a meeting open to the public, and the purpose or purposes for which a closed session is held." Proposed minutes must be available for public inspection 8 days after the meeting and approved minutes 5 days and by the next meeting after correction. MCL 41.66 gives the Clerk the authority to prepare the minutes. The public body shall make corrections. If there are concerns with the minutes not being accurate, a company can be contracted and the record can be supplemented.

There was discussion about adding Clinesmith's name to the minutes as the candidate accused of voter intimidation. Coleman stated he said the name. There was discussion about if this accurate. There was more discussion about what should be in the minutes. Garner stated that the minutes should only be corrected on what is inaccurate, it should be based on the Board's recollection and the Clerk is the one that prepares the minutes.

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Tester to add Mike Clinesmith's name instead of "candidate."
Vote 2-3, MOTION FAILED.

Michael Clinesmith apologized to Coleman, stating he did not agree with his interpretation, but apologized for having the concern about ballots being returned through the mail after hearing from a person about a ballot not getting through the mail and checking with Coleman to see if he had similar problems, and for thinking they could be friends.

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Tester that the minutes should say "left the Board table" on page 17.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Garner mentioned that no one from the audience "should" be speaking from the public during a Board meeting except for the public comment period, though it doesn't always work that way in a small community.

There was discussion about Clinesmith's prayer and having prayer during a public meeting.
Garner stated people can speak what they want during public comment.

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Gray that the last paragraph in public comment read in reference to page 2 that the candidate that intimidated he and his wife was Michael Clinesmith.

Coleman apologized for not mentioning Clinesmith's name earlier. Clinesmith apologized for having the concern that his ballot was not lost in the mail and would count.

Stack suggested the amendment, "There was many gestures by Mr. Coleman who mentioned the candidate mentioned on page 2 was Michael Clinesmith."

Forbes and Gray agreed to the amendment.

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Gray that there was many gestures by Mr. Coleman who mentioned the candidate mentioned on page 2 was Michael Clinesmith.
Vote, 4-0, with Clinesmith abstaining. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting recessed at 5:36pm.
Meeting called to order at 5:41pm.

Clinesmith raised the question about addressing issues in the Township. Garner suggested talking with the attorneys and putting the issues on the agenda. Two Board members would not be a quorum and could meet with him to deal with issues on the agenda.

Partridge asked the question about minutes needing to be approved at the next meeting. Garner stated that any corrections need to happen at the next meeting, and it is 5 days for corrected minutes.

Motion by Clinesmith, seconded by Forbes to strike Onna Clinesmith's name and add "multiple people" said "Amen" on page 18.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Clinesmith, seconded by Forbes to change Zuzula's "stepson" to "son-in-law" twice on page 12.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Partridge mentioned on page 16 he didn't mention the dates for the special meeting minutes.

Garner mentioned that using a private record is not necessarily a public document, it is a gray area.

Partridge asked about FOIA requests. Garner stated he couldn't research that; it would have to be a request from the Board.

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Gray that the attorney look into if a video recording is discoverable, in particular, whether the audio/video notes of the person taking the minutes is subject to FOIA.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Tester to change all pronouns to actual names in the minutes.

Garner mentioned that the pronoun changes should not include quotes; brackets could be used to indicate who is referred to.

Recess at 6:28pm.
Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Tester to change all pronouns to actual names in the minutes.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Clinesmith to correct the spelling of Marjorie Harper.
Motion withdrawn.

Motion by Clinesmith, seconded by Stack to correct the spelling of Marjorie Harper's name on the bottom of page 6.

There was discussion about FOIAing public document, such as the Board of Review documents mentioned on page 7.

Motion by Clinesmith, seconded by Forbes to include "at the Township Hall" after door twice on the paragraph after guest on page 2, fifth line, and put "at home" after the third door on that line.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Tester to approve the minutes with the approved corrections.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Gray asked about calling the attorney. Garner stated any member of the Board can call the attorney, he is on retainer.

Public Comment:

Don Clinesmith stated he has lived on Washburn Road for 45 years. He was glad to have the meeting with Brian here which has been the easiest going meeting in months. The Board will probably have to work together for 4 years. He would like to see the softening of feelings between Mike and Bob, things would go better. Mike is legalist and likes to follow the law and is a principled person. Don Clinesmith stated he has worked together with Bob. Bob is not as disciplined as Mike would like to be; Bob is more contentious. They have to work for each other. It would be easier for Michael Clinesmith to just take the votes. He does his job well. Some people don't agree.

Orville Hartung stated he wanted to get back to the voter intimidation. At the last election training class he had, they were blunt about voter intimidation. There were two documented cases. There are federal and state laws against voter intimidation, and he asked when it will be stopped.

Michael Clinesmith reminded Orville Hartung that there were three cases and people can look at the previous Board meeting minutes to see what the other case was. Clinesmith also apologized to Coleman for expressing the concern he had in hearing that a ballot did not make it through the mail and checking with Coleman to see if he had any problems sending his ballot through the mail.

Onna Clinesmith stated she wanted her comments recorded in the minutes. She said that all absentee ballots must be accounted for during the election. The number of ballots not returned is recorded with the County Clerk. Onna Clinesmith posted on Facebook about Bob Reil and the grass mowing, and it was a correct post copied directly from the Board meeting minutes on why the price changed. She also stated that the minutes are the Township's history and should accurately record what happens in our Township. She gave some advice that if people don't want their comments in the minutes, they shouldn't say it. If the comment is said at a public meeting, it can be recorded.

Michael Clinesmith said he wanted his comments in the minutes, and Orville Hartung said he wanted his comments in the minutes as well.

Brian Garner said he doesn't want to play favorites. He agreed that minutes are history, but unfortunately there are issues. The Board can't force the Clerk on how to do the minutes. The Board can just correct the minutes, it has to go through the process.

Bob Forbes asked about people wanting their comments in the minutes.

Garner stated the Board can make a motion to attach correspondence to the minutes.

Ben Partridge had trouble with the word "legalist" in the Township. The minutes were late and does that mean, pick and choose?

Fred Welsh suggested he meant obsessive-compulsive.

Partridge stated on the 29th he could not get the minutes, they were not available.

Welsh stated that was an error.

Garner stated that the minutes should be available 8 days after the meeting.

Gray asked, "8 business days?"

Garner stated 8 actual days, and 5 days for corrected.

Welsh asked about the requirement to retain the drafts.

Garner said that drafts have to be retained. The Board also has to adopt record retention guidelines.

Partridge said he doesn't care if his comments are in the minutes. What he does not like as an example is when it says, "Partridge says 'blue.'"

Motion by Gray, supported by Tester to adjourn.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.
Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

Vassar Township Clerk

Vassar Township Supervisor