

**Whitewater Township Board**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting held June 28, 2011**  
**Joint Meeting with Emergency Services Advisory Committee**

**Call to Order**

Supervisor Lake called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan.

**Roll Call**

Township Board members present: Benak, Boyd, Hockin, Hubbell and Lake.

Township Board members absent: None

Emergency Services Advisory Committee members present: Butler, Conlan, Kuncaitis, Miller and Savage

Emergency Services Facilities Committee members absent: None

Others attending: Fire Chief/Ambulance Coordinator Stites, Planning/Zoning Administrator Meyers, Chuck Stewart Risk & Safety Manager/GT Band-Grand Traverse Resort and 17 others.

**Agenda**

The agenda was approved as amended adding:

New Business: Elimination of Full Time Fire Chief Position

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None.

**Public Comment**

None

**Unfinished Business**

**Tribal Emergency Services Proposal**

Chuck Stewart, Risk & Safety Manager for Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians/Grand Traverse Resort was in attendance and presented a conceptual proposal for Emergency Services. Some of the points in his presentation were as follows:

- Stated he served on the Whitewater Township Emergency Services committees.
- Ladder truck donated to Whitewater Township is not housed in Whitewater Township; this is an area of concern for the GTB.
- Natural disaster in the area would leave the east side of Grand Traverse Bay without services; affects the Resort, Casino, Acme and Whitewater Townships.
- Ambulance services needs to grow to ALS.
- Police rely on G T Co. Sheriff and State Police.
- Tribe and County are working on policing agreement.
- No emergency shelter located in Whitewater Township.
- Tribe has large parcel with one venue; will be developed later with additional housing and commercial possible.
- Trust land abuts Village of Williamsburg.
- Whitewater Township fire buildings are not adequate; needs assessment.
- Tribe needs assessment also.
- Possible joint effort.

- Possible to devise an Emergency Services Management Plan
- Tribe needs: Additional police, adequate fire facility, EMS possible ALS, Emergency Shelter.
- Tribe has desire to plan and develop with Whitewater, Clearwater, Acme.
- Wants to develop an Emergency Management Plan with Whitewater Township.
  - Written plan for Emergency Management
  - Intergovernmental agreement
- Important that taxpayers and public understand that it is their (taxpayers/public) building.
- Build on trust land; federal funding available.
- Separate from 2% allocation grants.
- Tribe & Township can both apply for Federal grants.
- Tribal Security has firefighters, EMTs, EMT Specialists.
- Personnel would be worked out in Plan and IGA.

Conlan asked about Tribal police

Stewart responded:

- Develop a Township Constable-cross deputize to serve Township and Tribe.
- Public Act 33 of 1951 would allow joint agreement. Tribe is considered private entity by State.

Other points:

- Tribal property is Village-possible environmental issue.
- Tribal property on hill is more suitable.
- Develop group to work on Plan & IGA; 7 to 9 people with representation from Tribe & Township.

Miller asked if this is “new ground”.

Stewart responded:

- Some others have, but not to this extent.

Lake asked about sub-stations in the future.

Stewart responded:

- Possible to identify and include in plan.

Hubbell asked about the length of a lease.

Stewart responded:

- Tribal code is 50 yrs.

Boyd asked about access to M72.

Stewart responded:

- Possible access to Casino
- Consider M72
- Consider Flashing lights on Highway

- Consider all of these in Emergency Services Management Plan

Lake asked if there could be more than one Constable.

Stewart responded:

- Create the plan, then re-evaluate again every five years.

Boyd asked if there would be a problem with dual service management with a non-tribal person being in charge.

Stewart responded:

- Tribe would have to be willing to give up management.

Kim Halstead, 7923 Cook Rd

- Would 24/7 coverage be covered financially by Township

Glenn Savage, 9833 Pineneedle Ln

- Volunteers will still be needed; on-call staff can cover 24/7.

Hockin

- Are you looking for a consensus tonight?

Stewart

- Has prepared a motion to take to the Tribal Council tomorrow.

Lake

- Building looks very enticing at this time.

Hubbell

- Opting out of Rural; in a time crunch. How long will process take?

Stewart

- Could get something back to Tribal Council & Township within 90-120 days.

Hockin

- This could help with interim facility plan.

Stewart

- Working on interim plan to house ladder truck here in Township.

Lake polled the Emergency Services Advisory Committee on the proposal:

Kuncaitis      Look at it.

Butler          Look at it.

Savage         Look at it.

Conlan         Some concern, but look at it.

Miller          Look at it.

Boyd

- Education in community is needed.

Stewart

- Education will be needed on both sides.

Kuncaitis

- Look at what is best for entire community.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Hubbell to work with the Grand Traverse Band to develop a written Emergency Management Services Plan and an Intergovernmental Agreement. **Motion approved.**

Representatives from the Township will be Kuncaitis, Miller, Boyd and Lake.

Joint meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Regular meeting was reconvened at 8:32 p.m.

### **Scrap Tire Collection**

Planning/Zoning Administrator Meyers presented information regarding the \$3,000 Scrap Tire grant awarded by the State of Michigan. Don Erickson of Erickson Salvage has agreed to collect the tires on behalf of the Township. His business is open 8-4:30 M-F. The hauler charges \$1.75 per tire and the State will reimburse \$1.00 for each tire. There will be a \$1.00 charge for each tire collected. The four wheel club will be picking up tires out of the State Lands and there may be tires that show up after hours without the \$1.00 charge. Tires will also be collected at clean up day on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Moved by Benak, seconded by Hockin, that the board authorizes an amount not to exceed \$2,250 for the disposal of up to 3,000 tires. **Motion approved.**

### **Fire Chief Vehicle Policy**

Meyers presented a draft copy of the policy. The board will review the policy and turn comments in to Meyers or Hockin.

### **Township Hall Parking Lot Maintenance**

After further review of the proposals received for sealing, repair and striping of the Township Hall parking lot, Blackmore Property Maintenance has withdrawn his proposal since it does not include the necessary repairs and he cannot compete since he has to sub-contract for the repairs.

The proposal from Great Lakes Striping & Sealing is \$3,192.

Moved by Benak, seconded by Hockin, to accept the proposal from Great Lakes Striping & Sealing in the amount of \$3,192 for repair, sealing and striping the Township Hall parking lot. **Motion approved.**

### **Alternate on Emergency Services Advisory Committee**

Lake recommends appointment of Charles Decker as an alternate on the Emergency Services Advisory Committee.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Hubbell to appoint Charles Decker as an alternate on the Emergency Services Advisory Committee. **Motion approved.**

### **2% Grant Application**

Fire Chief/Ambulance Coordinator Stites presented a grant application for 2% allocation funds from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The grant application is for two automated CPR machines (LUCAS) and a LifePak 15 for the new ambulance. A 25% contribution from the township would be required if the grant is approved.

Discussion of the grant application:

Boyd            Sees this grant application as a power struggle to get what is wanted, not what is needed.

Hockin        Seems like a good idea to get the 2 LUCAS machines & a LifePak 15.

Boyd            There is a liability to use equipment that we are not qualified to use.

Stites         We already have a LifePak 15 and are trained to use it.

Benak         LifePak12 and two hand held CO units were authorized by the board.

Hockin        LifePak12 was not order since the price was more once the batteries were upgraded and the service agreement added. Domagalski presented this information at a meeting that Stites was unable to attend. 25% match on this will be less than purchasing the LifePak 12.

Stites was asked where the new ambulance is. He stated it will take another 3 weeks for the radios to be installed.

Benak         Apply for 2 LUCAS only

Boyd            Cannot believe LifePak15 is needed.

Boyd            How many townships have LifePak15?

Stites         LifePak15 is all inclusive, not necessary to carry several instruments.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Hubbell to approve submission of the 2% allocation grant application as proposed by Ambulance Coordinator Stites. **Motion approved 3-2.**

Benak and Boyd do not support this request but will support submission.

### **Elimination of Full Time Fire Chief**

Boyd

- Stated as a trustee he is responsible for reviewing financial decisions of the board in regards to fire and ambulance.
- It was the recommendation of grant writer LaPointe to have a full time person for the grant.
- Grant writer has been dismissed, but full time chief has been kept on.
- Recently there was a 4-1 vote to leave Rural Fire.
- Township does not need a full time chief any longer.
- Allow Rural to administer paper work.
- Pay for paperwork and runs only.
- Do not need 24/7 salaried position.
- Need to save money at this time.
- Suggesting that the board make a decision on this now.

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Benak to eliminate the full time fire chief position.

Discussion:

Hockin stated she feels this is micro managing the newly appointed Emergency Services Advisory Committee since personnel recommendations were one of the duties assigned to the committee.

Hubbell rescinds his motion.

Benak stated it is not good to keep Stites waiting while a decision is made.

Lake stated we are right back to where we were two years ago.

Boyd stated Sedlacek should provide administration. Wants a clean slate.

Lake stated Rural Fire will bill us back for administrative services. Lake feels Stites is important to our relationship with the Tribe.

Motion by Benak, seconded by Boyd to eliminate the full time fire chief and to allow the Rural Chief to assign a part time chief.

Discussion:

Hockin once again reiterated her previous concern that this would be micro managing the newly appointed Advisory Committee.

Hubbell stated he understands where Hockin is coming from.

Public Comment:

Chuck Decker, 5589 Millbrook Drive

- Need a leader for the fire service.
- All volunteers, no leader, nobody is responsible.
- Rural has remote leadership versus someone here in the community.
- Have an effective ambulance service, trained firefighters.
- Fire & Ambulance is the wrong place to save money.

Rod Kuncaitis, 6204 Elk Lake Rd

- Neither for or against.
- Will make the work of the Emergency Services Advisory Committee very difficult.
- Let us do our job.

Glenn Savage, 9833 Pineneedle Ln.

- Chief Stites is like a yo-yo with this issue.
- Why would he help you as a volunteer?
- Look at the world through his eyes.

Pat Miller, 10199 Elk Lake Trl

- Let the Emergency Services Advisory Committee do our job.

Boyd rescinds his second to Benak motion.

Benak rescinds her motion.

Priority needs to be set for response to board.

Kuncaitis, chairperson of Emergency Services Advisory Committee stated the committee is looking at the needs of the community.

Discussion of time frame:

Kuncaitis states 45-60 days before any recommendation can be back to the board.

Hubbell apologized to the committee members for the board comments.

### **Separation of Fire and Ambulance Management**

Hockin stated keep current management until committee makes their recommendations.

Benak stated let the committee do their job.

### **Paper Recycling at Clean Up Day**

Hockin presented information received from Jim Kirby, a township resident and owner of Profile about paper recycling at the August 28<sup>th</sup> clean up day. This service would be a no cost to the Township or the residents.

Guidelines would be as follows:

- Profile on hand with secure locked containers that will be transported to their shredding facility.
- Paper documents are acceptable.
- Plastic, pictures and carbon paper will not be accepted.
- Paper clips and staples are OK.

It was the consensus of the board to provide this service at the August 28<sup>th</sup> clean up day.

### **Eagle Scout Project**

Hockin introduced Jonathan Courtade who will be working on his Eagle Scout project. He and Hockin have visited the Battle Creek Natural Area and he is proposing to mark and clean up the trail to Elk Lake. Some of the fallen trees will be used for a cord road in the wet areas. This project was a part of the BCNA management plan. The township will provide assistance with chainsaws where

necessary and also provide the trail markers. Courtade stated he has a friend that will be doing his Eagle project next year and he will encourage the friend to consider the deck and bench at the lake.

**Public Comment**

Lois MacLean, 5919 Linderleaf Ln

- Emergency services discussion was difficult, but important for the board.

**Announcements**

- Regular board meeting on 07/12/11

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Hockin, Clerk