

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held April 23, 2013**

Call to Order

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan.

Roll Call of Board Members

Board members present: Benak, Hubbell, Lawson, Popp, Walton

Board members absent: None

Others present: 6

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Set as written.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

Kim Halstead, 7923 Cook Road, commented that when the Planning Commission did the site plan review for Mr. C's, everything was ready and it went through smoothly compared to other times. He feels the 25-30 jobs coming to the community is good news and was appreciative.

Popp noted that the last PC meeting was the first one where all information provided was in electronic form.

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, stated he has not heard or seen anything in regard to a new fire building or expansion of the existing building. Noted the township is still paying \$800 a month for storage and does not have the ladder truck. He is also curious about the township's status with Rural Fire.

Popp noted that Shaffer's questions regarding Rural Fire would likely be addressed when the board takes up New Business Item #1.

Correspondence

None

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations**Planning Commission Report – Lloyd Lawson**

Lawson advised he was not present at the 04/17/2013 Planning Commission meeting due to illness.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report – Bill Mouser

Bill Mouser is not present.

Unfinished Business

Grand Traverse County Road Commission – Brine Proposal Review – Discuss Number of Applications – Motion

Grand Traverse County sent a proposal for 2013 brining in Whitewater Township. Popp requested additional information in the form of how many gallons per mile would be applied, the width of the path to be brined, as well as what road contractors might do to supplement the work of the Road Commission, such as grading, brining, and repair work. A bid proposal was received from various suppliers. Minimum usage will be 2500 gallons per mile distributed in a 20-foot wide path. Four vendors provided bids. There are 19.4 miles in Whitewater Township. Team Services has bid \$4,580 per application. GTCRC bid proposal shows \$4,850, which Popp believes is a transposed number. There is a deadline of 5/1/2013 for the contract to be signed. County pays 25% of the cost, which decreases the cost to \$3,600 per application. Walton noted this is a 20% increase over last year. Popp stated \$12,000 was allotted in the budget this year for brining. He will call GTCRC to clarify the \$4,850 versus \$4,580 figure. Further details of the proposal were discussed.

Audience member Vaughn Harshfield inquired whether there were provisions in the contract to help the handicapped. Popp stated that a 200 foot strip can be applied in any location at \$150 per application, 20 cents per gallon.

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to accept the County Road Improvement Agreement between the Grand Traverse County Road Commission and Whitewater Township, as long as numbers are verified for the brine cost, for 3 applications of brine. Roll call vote: Walton, yes; Popp, yes; Lawson, yes; Benak, yes, Hubbell, yes. Popp will schedule the brining dates.

Mr. Matt McDonough – Proposal to be on May Agenda to Promote Strombolis Lake Project

Mr. McDonough has contacted Popp again regarding this proposal concerning 160 acres of land in Whitewater Township. He has asked to be on the May 28th agenda. Popp will reissue the information that came out the first time, as well as any response from Elk Rapids Schools. He noted the county put it on their agenda and it was passed unanimously. However, the state does not recognize the county. Brief discussion followed. McDonough has requested an hour of time.

New Business

Discuss Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department

Popp advised that GTRFD is attempting to create a job description for the replacement of Bill Sedlacek, retiring chief. The job description has been completed and agreed to. However, Green Lake Township has now advised that if the incoming chief is not an Officer Level III or above, they are done with Rural Fire. Rural Fire has been run by a fire chief rather than an administrator. Popp feels the organization is top heavy with administration and salaries. Discussion followed.

A second revelation is that Grant Township has demanded that their annual payment to Rural be paid over to Buckley Fire Department (not a member of Rural). Blair Township has been making runs into Grant Township and charging cost recovery fees. Costs mount in a hurry. Grant wants Buckley's help since they are closer. Popp noted this would put an end to the mutual aid contracts, which have worked well through the years. Discussion followed. Popp said he was the only dissenting vote on a motion to grant that payment.

Popp feels if Green Lake takes out their \$300,000 contribution, Rural Fire will cease to exist. Popp has met with Captain Arbenowske about this issue.

Website Review – Jim Sundberg/JS Interactive

Walton stated that funds have been appropriated in this year's budget to do a major upgrade of the township website. To that end, she and Trustee Lawson met several weeks ago with Jim Sundberg of JS Interactive to preliminarily discuss what his company could do in the way of website creation and what the cost would be for those services. Long Lake and Peninsula Township websites had been previously suggested to the board as local examples of Sundberg's work. Sundberg was invited to this meeting to answer questions from board members on this topic.

Sundberg detailed numerous websites his company has created. His company also does video work for websites. Sundberg has worked in the multimedia field and computer programming in several large markets around the country. He and his family moved back to Williamsburg in 1994. He also has film school and photography background. Twenty-five percent of their work is search engine optimization. They optimize every website they do. Storage is in the cloud. His company does the training for new users. Sundberg answered numerous questions from board members.

Popp inquired of the audience if there were any questions.

Leon Clement, Baggs Road, stated that Baggs Road is in terrible condition. He was hoping to get some information tonight.

Popp stated, according to the maintenance agreement, Baggs Road is maintained by Kalkaska County. Popp had requested that our GT County road commissioner, Bill Mouser, set up a meeting between our road commission and Kalkaska. That meeting has taken place, but we have not gotten a report yet from Mouser. Popp will follow up with Mouser to find out where things are at.

Walton suggested Sundberg provide a copy of their contract and that the board address it at the May 14th board meeting. Benak noted that the board does not have to go out for bids since the cost is under \$5,000.

Tabled Items

None

Board Comments/Discussion

Walton reminded the board that the next 2% grant application is due June 30th.

Lawson noted he will be attending a grant writing workshop through NMC tomorrow night.

Popp stated there is a meeting coming up with the full tribal council, Dave Benda, and Larry Inman with respect to renegotiation of the 2% treaty.

Walton also noted a copy of a letter dated April 18th was received via e-mail. The letter is from Mika, Meyers, Beckett & Jones to Attorney David Bieganowski and encloses a Stipulation and Order for Dismissal in the Paradise Township, et al. versus Grand Traverse County BPW lawsuit.

Popp stated the natural gas project phase 1 is successful and thanked everyone who had a hand in that.

Lawson ordered the rugs for the township hall (to replace those rented from Cintas).

Announcements

Township Clean-Up Day is May 4, 2013, 8 am to 12 pm, at Mill Creek Elementary.

Special Election is May 7, 2013, for the Elk Rapids Schools operating millage renewal proposal.

Next Township Board meeting date is May 14, 2013.

Popp inquired of Benak if something will be put on the township website about the new Principal Residence Exemption audits. Benak stated she would like to make information available to the public. She has suggested the County put it in the paper.

Walton stated the zoning administrator job posting was placed in the Record-Eagle, on the Whitewater Township website, on the MTA website, and on Pure Michigan Talent Connect (no cost). Cost for the Record-Eagle ad is \$251. Cost for the MTA website ad is \$69. Popp will receive all applications.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Walton
Whitewater Township Clerk