

**Whitewater Township Board**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting held August 27, 2013**

**Call to Order**

Clerk Goss called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan.

Due to the absence of Supervisor Popp, Goss directed the audience and board members to the Whitewater Township Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual, Paragraph 2.4(i) Conduct of Meetings, and quoted therefrom: "The township supervisor shall moderate and chair all meetings of the township board. In the absence of the supervisor, the deputy supervisor, if one is appointed, shall assume the duties of the chair. If the supervisor and deputy supervisor are both absent, the clerk shall call the meeting to order and entertain a motion to appoint a chair for the meeting."

Hubbell nominated Goss to be appointed as chair of the meeting. Nomination seconded by Benak. Goss accepted the nomination. On voice vote, Benak, Hubbell and Lawson were in favor, none opposed, Goss abstained.

**Roll Call of Board Members**

Board members present: Benak, Goss, Hubbell, Lawson.

Board members absent: Popp

Others present: 5

**Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda**

No adjustments; agenda is set.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**Public Comment**

Donald Coleman, 5600 Runyan Lake Road, Fenton, Michigan, stated he and his family have been seasonal campers at Whitewater Township Park for about 10 years. They enjoy the clean restrooms, friendly staff; the boat launch gives them access to the Chain of Lakes. They consider themselves good patrons of the park. They follow the rules and patronize local establishments. Since last fall, they have gotten the impression from a campground employee named Dan that they are becoming a detriment to the campground and are taking advantage of Whitewater Township residents and that township board members may be in agreement. Mr. Coleman further stated that he has been told by Dan on several occasions that township residents have requested to stay at the campground, but because they could not have "our campsite," they have chosen not to stay at the campground at all. In speaking with other park employees past and present, nobody has ever requested a specific site that resulted in a patron actually leaving and not staying in the campground. In 2009, the township sent a survey to all property owners. Only 8 people responded related to anything to do with the park. Mr. Coleman requested that the township consider maintaining the past practice of allowing seasonal camping at the park, that

the seasonal sites be available for the entire camping season. He also asked the township board to direct the clerk and/or park manager to allow them to continue to utilize Site 18 for the 2014 season.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Public Hearing**

None

### **Reports/Presentations**

None

### **Unfinished Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Introduction of EMS Recruit Benjamin O'Connor**

Dawn Martin introduced Benjamin O'Connor to the audience and board members. She would like Benjamin to be approved to join the Whitewater Township EMS as a medical first responder. Ben lives near Parsons and Three Mile Roads in Traverse City. Ben currently works as a security guard on the night shift at Turtle Creek Casino. He is attending NMC and pursuing prerequisites for EMS and police officer.

Martin noted that even though there is no 24/7 staff at the station, Martin has a shift signup board on which each responder notes their availability for the month. This has been helpful.

Martin feels that Ben's passion for the EMS stands for itself and he would be a dedicated member. There are also a couple other responders who live out of the area; they stay at the station and put their names on the board.

Benjamin stated he was born and raised in Traverse City. He went through the public safety program at the Career Tech Center. He then pursued the fire service in Benzie County and realized that he wanted to pursue the medical side in order to help people. He worked at the Boy Scout Camp for 5 years and was trained in first aid and CPR. He stated he is looking forward to joining the Whitewater crew, if approved. He is a law enforcement major through NMC and still has a couple years for that, so he will be in the area.

Goss stated that although Supervisor Popp is not here this evening, he prepared a short memo and asked that it be read into the minutes. The memo is addressed to Township Board Members and is dated 08/27/2013. "Colleagues: I hope you will excuse me from tonight's meeting as I am taking care of personal business that could not be rescheduled. Please read the following comments into the minutes of tonight's meeting pertaining to New Business item #1.

"Mr. Ben O'Connor, Mrs. Dawn Martin and I met August 23, 2013 to discuss Ben's future plans of attending the Police Academy at Northwestern Michigan College, and becoming a

participating member of the Whitewater Township Ambulance Service. Our meeting went well and Ben's passion for serving people was apparent throughout our visit. It is great to see local young people want to get involved.

"The Ambulance Service is a demanding task. Training, meetings, special events, and of course the calls, are all very time consuming. Like many, I share a concern that the Ambulance Service Staff is becoming too "Out of Community." The distance personnel have to travel to maintain attendance at all of these proceedings is yet another burden these selfless people endure. *Thank you to all that serve!*

"Taking this concern to heart, and with all of Dawn's usual energy, she explained "*response time is not an issue.*" Her scheduling plan, laid out on a board, compels members to "*sign up for shifts*" and functions as a communication tool between the membership, thus filling in any gaps caused by one's home address or other commitments. Always underplaying her role, Dawn again credits the extraordinary commitment set forth by the people currently on the Ambulance Service for making the plan work.

"In closing, I would like to welcome Mr. Ben O'Connor as the newest member to the Whitewater Township Ambulance Service."

Goss inquired if any board members had questions for Ben.

Benak inquired as to Ben's availability when working at the casino. Ben replied that he would be available; he works 4 nights and is allowed to leave. Ben stated he plans to continue working for the casino.

Hubbell thanked Ben for his desire to be on the ambulance service and noted it takes a special person to do that. He has always welcomed volunteers.

Lawson had no questions.

Goss asked Ben if he understood that, if his membership was approved, this membership would be subject to satisfactory completion of a physical, including drug test, lift test, etc., as well as satisfactory completion of background and driver checks, with all documentation in township files, before he would be considered a member and be eligible to be paid for runs. Ben indicated that he understood.

Benak inquired when Ben's schooling would start. Martin stated this would begin September 10, 2013.

Benak stated her only concern is that Ben does not live in the area, and she is concerned that if township citizens are paying for the schooling, she would like to see a longer commitment than 2 years.

Martin replied that they are allowed 2 grants per year, so that may be an option. She will make a phone call to Daryl Case to find out if a grant is available.

**Motion by Lawson, seconded by Hubbell, that Benjamin O'Connor be accepted as a member of the Whitewater Township Ambulance Service pending satisfactory completion of the township physical examination, background check, and driver check requirements. On voice vote, Benak, Goss, Hubbell, and Lawson were in favor, none opposed, Popp absent.**

**Budget Amendment (Recreation Fund)**

Goss provided a memo dated August 23, 2013, detailing the need for the Recreation Fund budget amendment. There were no questions from board members. **Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to approve the Recreation Fund budget amendments as recommended. Roll call vote: Lawson, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, absent.**

**Budgeted Transfer (Recreation Fund)**

In the same August 23, 2013, memo, Goss detailed the need for a budgeted transfer from the General Fund to the Recreation Fund. Per the General Ledger, the current fund deficit is approximately \$9,300, the Lossie Road expense is \$2,200, and the Petobego fencing expense is projected to be \$1,800, for a total of approximately \$13,300. The request to transfer \$17,000 will cover the \$13,300 as well as any other expenses for the year. However, this amount could be amended to transfer only \$15,000 if the board so desires. Discussion followed. **Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to approve a transfer of \$17,000 from the General Fund to the Recreation Fund as budgeted. Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Goss, yes; Benak, yes; Popp, absent.**

**Tabled Items**

None

**Board Comments/Discussion**

None

**Announcements**

The next meeting of the Township Board is September 10, 2013, at "7:30" p.m. (Time of meeting was incorrectly stated and should be 7:00 p.m.)

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Goss, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss  
Whitewater Township Clerk