

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held February 27, 2014**

Call to Order

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

Roll Call of Board Members

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

Board members absent: None

Others present: 1

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

None

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

Goss noted that she was called earlier today by a Mrs. Weckstein, who inquired whether her son could attend tonight's meeting to gain public meeting attendance hours for a civics class.

George Madison, student at Traverse City Central, introduced himself.

Popp invited Madison to sit at the board table.

Goss stated Madison was welcome to follow along utilizing the documents available for the public.

Budgeted Transfer – General Fund to Road Fund

This agenda item was addressed and finalized on 02/18/2014.

Budgeted Transfer – General Fund to Ambulance Fund

This agenda item was addressed and finalized on 02/18/2014.

BrickHouse Interactive Contract for Online Reservation System

Since the meeting of 02/18/2014, Goss has met with Jim Sundberg of BrickHouse Interactive and verified that linking of the credit card system into the online reservation widget is included in the cost of the proposed contract. Even though the contract does not specifically state that it is included, Sundberg verified that there is no additional cost. Popp stated the work to be performed under the contract is to interface an online reservation system for Whitewater Township Park with the township website. There is a fee of about \$600 per year from the company who makes the widget. **Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to approve the**

BrickHouse Interactive Contract for the online reservation system. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes.

Budget Work Session

In order to finish review of the proposed General Fund budget, the Elections, Clerk, and Treasurer departments were extensively discussed line by line. Time was also spent discussing whether deputies should be paid a salary or on an hourly basis.

Discussion then turned to Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department's recent request that Whitewater Township turn over to Rural the titles to the Expedition and the UTV, both of which were purchased by the township, as well as discussion of Rural directly paying the township's firefighters.

Turning back to budget discussion, the proposed Road Fund budget was reviewed next. Popp stated we should plan on the cost of road brining to double in 2014 if the County Road Commission does it. He provided information on other avenues to pursue for brining. Lengthy discussion followed.

Regarding the new fund to be created per last year's budget adoption, namely, the Road Repair/Replacement Fund, Popp has recommended that \$15,000 be transferred to this fund in the 2014/2015 budget.

Attention then turned to the proposed Park Fund budget. General park operations were discussed. Salary range for a park manager was discussed. Specific expenditure line items were discussed. Regarding replacement of the bluff stairs, Popp noted that an architect has offered his architectural services and stamp free to the township to come up with drawings which can be used for bidding. Popp has also proposed that some of the 2013 budget surplus be spent for several capital expenditure and maintenance items, and he wants all Board members to understand that, for the 2014/2015 budget year, the park will be spending more money than it takes in.

Moving to the Recreation Fund, revenue and expenditure line items were reviewed, with Popp noting that a lot of maintenance needs to be done; however, \$24,000 already needs to be cut from the General Fund and the ambulance situation has not been addressed yet. Petobego fencing will be done this summer, the only capital expenditure in the new budget.

Popp noted this completes review of the proposed budgets. He will provide a revised budget document. Popp asked Board members to look at their emails for documents he has sent regarding fire and ambulance.

Board Comments/Discussion

Benak announced that tomorrow is the last day to collect taxes at the township.

Discussion turned to setting another budget work session for the purpose of getting to a balanced budget, as well as the fact that the 03/11/2014 regular meeting will be mainly restricted to discussion of the ambulance situation. Consensus reached to set 03/04/2014 at 7:00 p.m. and

03/12/2014 at 7:00 p.m. as budget work sessions and to schedule the Budget Public Hearing for 03/20/2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Goss noted that, contrary to what Popp indicated in his 02/26/2014 memo to the Board, the 03/11/2014 regular meeting does not conflict with the Board of Review session on that day.

Hubbell inquired what is happening with the Miami Beach situation. Discussion followed.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk