

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held March 4, 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: None

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Popp commented that, under Board Comments/Discussion, we may have an opportunity to ask questions of one another with respect to ambulance.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

Budget Work Session

Popp directed the Board's attention to page 18 of the updated budget document and stated that the agreed upon budget figures for the General Fund at the last budget session leave a \$24,643 deficit. Goss updated figures for the Clerk and Elections departments. Discussion followed. Benak reviewed all Treasurer department line items. Discussion followed.

Benak proposed that Supervisor wages be cut in half because he has no assessing duties. She stated this can be done if the Supervisor agrees to it. Discussion followed. Supervisor Popp does not agree.

Benak also stated that the Supervisor had mentioned cutting out the cleanup day; this would cut \$7,000. Discussion followed on this topic. Line items under the Township Board department were reviewed and adjusted. Consensus reached that there will be no cleanup day in 2014, but this should be brought back in 2015. Line items under Township Hall and Grounds, Cemetery, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator/Planning, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Historical Society were reviewed and adjusted. The Contingency and Transfers to Other Funds line items were adjusted as well. Adding up the adjustments reveals that the General Fund no longer has a deficit.

Popp stated the Park Fund does have a deficit, which was previously agreed to.

Goss quoted the following from a book entitled *Building a Better Budget*, "A year-end deficit resulting from an excess of liabilities and reserves of a fund over its assets is prohibited by law,

but there is nothing improper arising from a township spending more than the amount of revenue that it takes in within a fiscal year, providing the township had a sufficient balance at the beginning of the fiscal year to fund the difference between revenues and expenditures. In fact, a township that gradually accumulated a large surplus could not reduce the surplus without spending more than the amount taken in, which is referred to as incurring an operating deficit, as opposed to a fund deficit.”

Turning to the subject of fire, Popp stated that Fife Lake Township declined to turn over title of a couple pieces of equipment to Rural Fire. Discussion followed.

Ambulance Fund revenues were briefly discussed. Popp stated further discussion of the duty crew and on call proposals (with the EMS personnel) is on the agenda for the 03/11/2014 regular meeting. Budget work session discussion concluded.

Board Comments/Discussion

Referring to the ambulance staffing proposals submitted by Arbenowske and Martin, Popp stated he is up to doing Proposal #1 but noted there must be a commitment from the EMS personnel. Lengthy discussion followed.

Benak inquired about the status of the 2% grant application for ambulance. Popp stated he has not seen a complete list, but it was not among the grants listed in the Elk Rapids News recently.

Popp also stated that, following up on what Arbenowske asked him to do, Popp has a meeting tomorrow with a designer who lives in the township who has designed 3 or 4 different fire departments which have been built. Discussion followed.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion by Benak, seconded by Hubbell, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk