

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held March 25, 2014**

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, Goss, Lawson, Popp

Board Members Absent: Hubbell

Others Present: 4

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

No adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, stated he thinks we have something we need to discuss before the end of the meeting.

Correspondence

None

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business**Whitewater Township Park - Set 2014 Opening/Closing Dates**

Goss provided a memo regarding this topic. There were no questions. **Motion by Lawson, seconded by Benak, to designate May 9th as the opening date and September 30th as the closing date of the Whitewater Township Park 2014 camping season.** There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted aye, none opposed. Motion carried.**

Whitewater Township Park – Designate Opening Weekend as Free Camping/Cleanup/Work Bee Weekend

Goss reported that opening weekend has usually been the free camping weekend. She reported speaking to Jim Sundberg today about booking that on the online reservation system. There is a coupon that can be used for that weekend. The township will likely be charged a transaction fee.

Benak inquired whether everybody has to do online booking or can they still call and make reservations, for instance, if they do not have access to the Internet. Goss stated if they call, someone can help them with this, but it will still be done through the website. **Motion by Popp, seconded by Lawson, to designate the Friday and Saturday night of the opening weekend of Whitewater Township Park as a free camping weekend.** There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted aye, none opposed. Motion carried.**

Whitewater Township Park – Set 2014 Camping Rates

Goss is proposing that the park camping rates remain the same for this year. **Motion by Benak, seconded by Goss, to set the Whitewater Township Park 2014 camping rates at \$22 per night for off-peak season camping and \$27 per night for peak season camping.** Popp inquired what the dates are for off season and on season. Goss replied that off season is from the time the park opens through the night of June 25th. Peak season begins on June 26th and runs through the night of August 31st. Beginning September 1st, off-peak season rates apply through the end of the season. **On voice vote, all those present voted aye, none opposed. Motion carried.**

Address “Strong Arm Tactics” Concerns Raised by Ardella Benak at 02/04/2014 Township Board Special Meeting

Popp stated concerns have been raised about his actions with the Planning Commission and potentially the ZBA. Those questions were raised on 02/04/2014. Popp provided a memo to the Board on this topic, which provides some course of action to protect the township from future claims of this nature. The memo lays out four potential things that the Board can do. Popp inquired what the Board would like to do.

Goss stated, to be complete, probably all four. She thinks those two bodies need to be given the opportunity to deliberate on whether they feel there have been any of these tactics used; if so, to review decisions and either re-vote or re-affirm.

Benak inquired whether No. 4 was an accumulation of Nos. 2 and 3.

Discussion followed.

Popp is also recommending that Attorney Fahey help us with this decision.

Benak agrees.

Discussion followed concerning what information should be sent to Fahey.

Consensus was reached that the question of whether the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals need to revisit all of their decisions during Popp’s tenure as Zoning Administrator shall be submitted to Attorney Fahey for his advice on how to proceed.

Grand Traverse Fire Department – Rural Division Intergovernmental Agreement

Popp has provided this document for review in advance of Chief Weber and Chairman Trudell’s arrival at the Board’s 04/08/2014 meeting.

Benak noted that the agreement states it shall continue indefinitely. However, Act 57, Page 3, Paragraph 1, states “period not to exceed 30 years.”

Goss stated she did not get all the way through the document.

Benak noted that the agreement is being changed to include the provision of ambulance service.

Popp agreed that there is a new, modified agreement, now including ambulance service and changing the name of the fire department.

Discussion followed regarding township ratification of any new agreement.

The Urban Cooperation Act Agreement Resolution signed by Michael Bertram, former supervisor, was discussed.

Goss pointed out Paragraph XX of the Intergovernmental Agreement, which states, “Amendments to this Agreement shall be made in writing and shall become effective after the ratification by the boards of each Township.”

Discussion followed concerning various sections of the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Equipment inventory was discussed. Benak stated the Emergency Services Committees did a complete inventory. Consensus was reached that ambulance and fire inventories need to be done.

Further discussion followed regarding inventory, including Popp noting that the Treasurer did not know that the brush rig that people from this township just got done building was no longer owned by Whitewater Township.

Language in Section VIII of the Intergovernmental Agreement entitled Equipment was discussed. Referring to the second sentence, Popp does not believe that the Expedition or the Kubota are firefighting equipment. However, equipment mounted on it may be considered such.

Benak stated previous boards did not follow the contract. She further stated the \$9700 for radios bought by Whitewater Township was deducted from the assessment.

Discussion followed regarding radios and repeaters.

Popp related some tribal meetings at which Chief Weber and Tim Trudell have been present.

Consensus was reached that everyone should continue to review the documents provided by Popp.

Popp stated he has asked Chief Weber and Chairman Trudell to provide, by 03/27/2014, all information that they would like to review at the 04/08/2014 meeting so Popp can hopefully get it out over the weekend to the Board.

Goss will reassemble the Board packet on Monday, 04/07/2014, with all documents, including the Consent Calendar.

Popp will send out the Rural information and the agenda for 04/08/2014.

Tabled Items

None

Board Comments/Discussion

Goss stated that change will be needed for park reservations made in person on April 1 and paid in cash. Benak and Goss agreed that Goss will replenish the Clerk's petty cash for this purpose.

Lawson inquired if he could attend the next tribal meeting. Popp replied yes and noted that the meetings are on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

Benak inquired when the park reservation system would be up and running.

Goss replied that the plan is for it to go live at 9:00 a.m. on April 1st. Dan Belanger will be here to answer questions. Worst case scenario would be that it will be delayed by a couple days if things do not fall into place.

Discussion followed as to further procedures to get the credit card gateway in place and general discussion as to how the online reservation system will operate.

Popp stated he has met with the Ambulance Coordinator regarding the list of potential ambulance personnel and has received some feedback on the list. One of our members, possibly representing other members, felt they were not included on her list and they were not going to be part of the ambulance service. Martin felt the Board's request was to give us a list of new people. Popp believes she was supposed to provide the entire list, along with schedules, for review at this meeting.

Discussion followed regarding what was supposed to be provided. Popp feels everybody's name should be on the list.

There was also discussion whether physicals and background checks have to be redone if some of the people work for other stations.

Popp stated he has discussed this with Martin. He offered that each member applying could bring their own medical records, their latest physical.

Further discussion followed.

Announcements

The next Township Board meeting is on 04/08/2014.

Public Comment

Tim Shaffer stated he is asking about dual standard. His son has passed all requirements for the fire department, has his gear, and has been responding as a probationary person, but he has been informed he cannot get paid yet because he has not been brought to the Board. Shaffer stated his son was announced as a new member of the fire department at the last regular Board meeting and he would like clarification on this.

Popp stated the township has no input on who Rural Fire hires or fires and we have not been provided information from Rural Fire. He stated Whitewater Township is the only township who pays their personnel every two weeks instead of annually, which is likely coming to an end at Chief Weber's request. Popp has opposed that decision at Rural Fire.

Goss stated she needs to review our policy. When Captain Arbenowske introduced Adam, it was as a member of Rural. Goss asked if fire recruits have to be brought to the Board for approval.

Shaffer stated the dual standard is that there is another young man in the same position who is being paid.

Goss stated she did not realize that until today, when Adam asked why Eric Arbenowske is getting paid. Goss states she has been waiting for what she thought was the next step, that Captain Arbenowske would introduce Adam to the Board and the Board would have an opportunity to ask questions.

Benak stated we need to pull out the policy book.

Goss stated she did start paying Eric, but she does not yet have payroll paperwork for Adam. Goss asked if he was an employee of Whitewater Township.

Popp stated no.

Goss stated that Adam and Tim Shaffer make a good point, that she did have Eric fill those forms out and, for some reason, did not think about the fact that he too, as she understands the policy, would need to be introduced to the Board.

Benak stated she does not think they have to come to the Board.

Popp stated that Shaffer brings up a very good question. Popp feels Chief Weber wants to take over payroll.

Benak inquired if this would be discussed on the 8th.

Popp stated he has no information from Chief Weber yet.

Shaffer asked whether Adam will be paid retroactively.

Popp stated he is likely eligible for his points, and Eric will be in the same situation.

Brief discussion followed regarding annual payments.

Benak stated we should treat our new members the way we treat our current members.

Goss reiterated that the hiring policy needs to be reviewed. She stated she has not been told that Adam is an employee of the township, and that is why he has not been asked to fill out the payroll paperwork.

Shaffer inquired what he can tell Adam.

Popp stated he was looking at Adam strictly from an ambulance point of view.

Shaffer stated Adam is planning on going to firefighter training.

Goss stated she has not heard from Martin with respect to Adam.

Discussion followed concerning approval of a new employee.

Popp believes he must be approved by this Board and will put it on the 04/08/2014 agenda. He would think anything due and owing would be taken care of.

Kim Halstead, 7923 Cook Road, stated if he understands the agreement, Rural is going to take over ambulance service, too. He inquired where the dues to pay Rural come out of.

Popp replied out of the Fire Special Assessment District.

Halstead asked, since you cannot pay for ambulance out of the FSAD, how it would be broken down what is for fire and what is for ambulance. Something needs to be changed in order for us to pay the dues. So that means the money we put into ambulance will go to Rural, so we do not need an ambulance fund anymore, because they are going to have to replace the ambulances as needed, correct? We have to watch what we are doing because we spend a lot of money on ambulance.

Popp stated that likely, if Rural was to take over ambulance, they would pay for everything and they would raise the assessment. Most townships doing fire and ambulance service are no less than 2.25 mills. Whitewater Township is at 1 mill. Paradise is at 2.5 mills. It is voted on. Green Lake just voted to increase theirs to 2.9, fire and ambulance.

Benak stated it would be like dealing with Metro.

Popp stated Metro is currently at 2.25 and they want to go to no less than 2.5 and would prefer 2.9.

Halstead pointed out they have to go to the public for a vote.

Popp sees in the near future that the 10 mill special assessment district is going to have to be somehow modified where the people would vote every so many years to renew their services.

General discussion followed.

Adjournment

Motion by Benak, seconded by Lawson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk