

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held May 27, 2014**

Call to Order

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: 10

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

No changes.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

Ken Hinton, Fife Lake Township, Republican candidate for state representative in the 104th District, introduced himself and his wife to the Board. He related his work and community experience and asked for support on August 5th.

Correspondence

None

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations

None

Unfinished Business

Review Documents for 06/12/2014 Town Hall Meeting re: Ambulance/Fire

Popp stated that he attempted to supply the documents in the electronic package as he sees them going out to the public in our mailing and stated we should be on track for getting a mailing out sometime this week. He asked for the Board's thoughts.

Benak stated it does not give us the picture; why are we sending them this information? There needs to be something that goes with it. Also, we are not giving them any information about the Tribe other than the drawings, and we should reduce the amortization schedule.

Discussion followed concerning providing an introductory letter, providing information about the gap in ambulance revenue, summarization of issues the Board is facing, request for the public

to be present on June 12th to provide input, providing options and explanations, and the ambulance budget formats.

Consensus was reached to use a 1-page format for ambulance and fire budgets.

Consensus was reached to compose an introductory letter explaining why we are sending information out and inviting them to show up.

Popp inquired whether a blank piece of paper for questions should be included in the envelope.

Goss suggested index cards be made available at the meeting.

Discussion followed as to whether comment cards should be provided, advertising the meeting in local print media, length of meeting, pre-meeting phone calls, confirmation of building availability, and whether to provide coffee/cookies/water.

Popp stated the tables and chairs will be set up. He has asked for three tables for the Board and another table for guests.

Discussion followed concerning whether the tribal representative, Fire Captain, Ambulance Coordinator, and the builder of Option B should sit with the Board or at their own table, use of name plates, extending an invitation to Chief Weber, use of the school's sound system, and use of easels.

Summary of discussion is that an introductory letter will be sent out with a draft plan letting them know why we are asking the questions, some information to help them understand the ambulance funding gap, and 1-page budgets. Index cards will be handed out at the meeting. Pencils will be provided.

Further discussion occurred with respect to the number of pages to be mailed out, use of envelopes or fold and tab, discussion of separation of the fire and ambulance issues, which one to discuss first and how long to spend on each topic, town hall meeting or public hearing style, and printing in-house or sending out.

Review Surrounding Municipalities' August 2014 Millage Proposal Language

Popp would like the Board to read through the ballot language for millage proposals.

General discussion followed.

New Business

Review and Comment on Draft Whitewater Township Master Plan 2014

Board discussion took place concerning how Board members' comments should be provided to the Planning Commission, forwarding of individual critiques or consolidation of them, scheduling a joint meeting with the PC and when that could be scheduled, and possible use of the Board's second June meeting as a joint meeting with the PC.

Lawson will send an e-mail to the Planning Commission members inquiring about their availability on June 24th.

Popp inquired if anyone wanted to bring out anything about the Master Plan ahead of that time.

Goss stated she printed the Draft Master Plan, reviewed it and marked changes on the document. She said she does not have that much as far as the content and thinks they have done a good job.

Discussion followed concerning the fact the document has been sent out for reformatting and addition of pictures, the forwarding of individual Board notes to the PC for their review, PC anticipation that the Board would come up with a consensus, the hope of getting the document to a public hearing before the end of summer, a joint meeting, PC knowledge of whether there are areas that need to be completely redone, and other general discussion of parts of the draft plan.

Summary of the discussion is that Board members will get their comments to Popp, who will then get them to the Planning Commission.

Hubbell stated his comments are already with Mickey Dean; they have talked.

Lawson does not have comments. As the Board representative to the PC, he has been involved with the whole thing.

Review Petobego Natural Area Management Plan re: Fencing/Gate Proposal

Popp stated this document is recommended to be reviewed every 3 to 5 years. There are no page numbers on the document. Cutting of the hay is called out, one time per year between July 15 and August 31.

Discussion followed concerning whether water testing is being done, the fact that all the appendices are missing, where they can be found, the importance of the appendices, leaving a gate for the hay equipment, requirement of an ADA compliant trail which must have access, and the possibility of leaving 2 gates (one for ADA trail, one for haying equipment).

Popp noted that the Department of Justice made a ruling in March 2011 and adopted rules and regulations regarding municipalities and access to public trails and the use of what they define as “other power-driven mobility device,” which is “any mobility device powered by batteries, fuel, or other engines - whether or not designed primarily for use by individuals with mobility disabilities” Popp provided 2 handouts for Board members dealing with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Benak suggested people who want to use the trails could come to the township hall and get a key to the gate.

Popp stated one of the things that we can limit access for is whether or not the use of power driven mobility devices creates a substantial risk or serious harm to the immediate environment.

Popp's proposal is that we leave a gate in the fence at the future ADA trail location so that we are ready if the trail ever does get built.

Brief discussion took place regarding full log versus split cedar fence.

Goss inquired whether Benak will take the 2-gate requirement back to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

Further discussion occurred concerning funds already budgeted and need for review of the preliminary site plan, which is Appendix C.

Consensus was reached that as long as the design of the fence and gates agrees with the preliminary site plan and there is a gate to accommodate the future ADA trail and the project is not over budget, it is good to go.

Regarding a key, Popp prefers not to lock it, and stated that there is a provision that if at some point in time it is determined that damage is being done, all public access can be closed.

Benak inquired if she was supposed to take something back to the PRAC.

Popp will compare Brandon's drawing with the preliminary site plan. As long as the trail jives with the parking lot and there are 2 gates, he is good with it.

Tabled Items

None

Board Comments/Discussion

Goss stated she is bringing Deputy Clerk Terese Hooper in to work another half day a week and will bring a budget amendment at some point in time. This is mainly due to work associated with the upcoming election and processing daily settlement reports for the online reservation system. Hooper will be paid out of the park budget for settlement reports and out of the election budget for issuing ballots, etc.

Goss noted that application was made today for the ranger station point of sale credit card system.

Benak suggested a policy be developed for taking credit cards.

Goss will look for a sample policy.

Popp reported that Samels Road was added to the brine contract. The contract has been signed, sealed and delivered. He has been told it will be a month before the first application. He is still pursuing the other option with A1 and A1 Keaton.

Benak informed the Board that she will be out of the township starting June 1st and should be back by the 6th.

Announcements

1. The next Township Board meeting is June 10.
2. The ambulance/fire town hall meeting will be June 12 at Mill Creek Elementary beginning at 6:00 p.m.
3. A joint meeting of the Township Board and Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled for June 24th (the Board's second meeting date of the month).

Public Comment

Kim Mangus, 1214 Cerro Drive, Traverse City, was glad that it occurred to the Board that putting a padlock on an ADA compliant gate might not be a good idea. Regarding the 10 mills for fire and ambulance, the average citizen detests it. In terms of coming up with a successful resolution, don't expect the residents to give you a check for another 2-4 mills if you don't give up the blank check for 10 first.

Goss commented that the trail is not only for ADA.

Adjournment

Motion by Lawson, seconded by Hubbell, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk