

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held June 10, 2014**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Board Members

Board Members Present: Benak, Goss, Hubbell, Lawson, Popp

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: 9

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Benak stated she has a question on the Clerk's Report and on the Supervisor's Report, and would like to pull the minutes of 05/13/2014 for two corrections. This will be under Consent Calendar.

Popp would like to add to the agenda, under Board Discussion, Michigan Rehabilitation Services and 5858 Moore Road for a potential temporary fire station.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

Kim Halstead, 7923 Cook Road, stated he got everything that was sent concerning the town hall meeting, but it is what is not in it that bothers him. He inquired: What will the Board do with the old fire station? How much is it going to cost to run these fire stations? What if the prices go up on everything? Is the Board going to raise the special assessment? Is the proposed millage just for fire, or is it for fire and ambulance? These things will have to be answered. The Board will have to have the answers or people are not going to be happy.

Popp replied that the Board could not send all of the information out with the packets. Both of the proposed buildings are existing buildings today. Budget numbers are available.

Hubbell stated it is premature to say what would be done with the old fire department building.

Brief discussion followed.

Cathy Gee, 4306 N. Broomhead Road, thanked the Supervisor for getting dust treatment earlier than July.

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments

Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Report – (No one is present from the Sheriff Department.)

County Board of Commissioners Report

Commissioner Inman gave the following report:

- The National Institute of Corrections is here in town working with the County. They are from Aurora, Colorado. They are here to do a snapshot assessment of the jail. Also, a team from Grand Traverse County will go to the NIC headquarters in August for instruction on how to address the public on this topic.
- The County is starting the 2015 budget process. The Governor has approved 100% funding for statutory revenue sharing for counties for 2015. That will be about \$1.5 million to Grand Traverse County. If there is nothing unanticipated, that should take care of the majority of the structural deficit. They are still moving forward with the bargaining units on cost sharing of healthcare premiums and higher copays.
- There will be a ballot issue on August 5th for the elimination of personal property taxes, which Inman supports, along with the state reimbursing the local units for the lost revenue.
- The County Board should have a consensus (on budget) by September 1st and have numbers from the health insurance company and firm numbers from Equalization.

In response to Benak's question, Inman stated the lost personal property tax revenue would be replaced with general fund revenue.

Brief discussion followed.

Fire Captain Report

Popp stated that Captain Arbenowske has other commitments and will not be attending this evening.

Goss stated she received Arbenowske's report and made a copy for everyone.

Ambulance Coordinator Report

Ambulance Coordinator Martin gave the following report:

- The Board has her report in front of them.
- There were 14 runs. They only missed 1 run in the month of May.
- She attended the Med Control meeting this morning. MFR and EMT classes will be starting in September. This will be a great opportunity for a couple people who want to join the department.
- As the coordinator, she has been frustrated because no CEU training has been available since October 2013. Larry Mueller no longer does it. Josh Salyer is also bogged down. Wendy Dawson with Allied has offered to come to the station to do CEU training in August. She will come in and do 12 credits for \$550.

Benak inquired if Martin had gotten information concerning who needed credits.

Martin responded that it was only Tim Arbenowske. Dawson will let Martin know if she is able to start sooner than August.

Goss inquired if Martin has a time frame for when she will be able to start going on runs.

Martin responded that she started last week, and stated the reason she has not been on very many runs for the past 2-1/2 months is because of her nursing and being at work. She stated tones have gone off when she has been sitting in class or at clinical or at work at Munson. Martin stated she is done with clinicals now and is set and ready to go. She stated prior to that she was making a lot of runs as well.

Goss stated we do need Martin's EMT skills.

Popp stated he would like to have one amendment to the Ambulance Coordinator report. He asked that, below the monthly run numbers, he would like to see year to date.

Martin agreed to add this to the report and stated they are at 89 runs. Martin also stated she will be there on Thursday night for the town hall meeting.

Planning Commission Report

Lawson reported that the Planning Commission had a very short meeting last week. He sent emails to all PC members inquiring about the proposed joint meeting with the Township Board on 06/24/2014. Overall consensus was very positive; he thinks everyone will be there on the 24th.

Consent Calendar

Benak asked Popp to clarify the language under #2 Office Duties, “. . . until Chief Weber's unfair labor standards (with Whitewater Township) investigations are complete.”

Popp explained that Whitewater Township pays its firefighters every two weeks. Rural Fire only pays once a year, in November. According to Weber, this has caused a rift between stations and a labor attorney has been hired.

Goss added that she understood Weber to state that the difference in payment method was identified by Rural's labor attorney to be an issue because similarly situated employees are not being paid in the same manner.

Brief discussion followed.

Benak stated her other question is regarding 5858 Moore Road, but this has been added to the agenda under Board Comments/Discussion.

Benak then read from the Clerk's Report, “A camper stopped in to my office today to express her displeasure with the fact that Edith Deveneau no longer works at the park. I told her I would relay this to the Board.” Benak inquired why she is not working for the township anymore.

Popp replied that Edie came to him in January and wanted to know whether or not she was being brought back as lead ranger. He stated lead ranger last year and host camper did not mesh well; Edie played both roles. Popp stated Edie needed to know, she had another job offering. Popp

stated he and the Clerk had not even discussed what would be done at the park, so Popp told Edie that she would not be brought back as lead ranger.

Benak stated the Board has many things on their plate right now and she hesitates to bring this up, but she will throw this out for discussion on another agenda. She stated hiring and firing of employees has always been brought to the Board for approval. The Township Board is the park and rec board. Changing of the wage scale was brought to the board. This Board has not appointed a park administrator and this Board has not appointed anybody from this Board to run the park. She stated that Edie has been with us for a very long time; Benak would have liked to be in on that discussion.

Popp stated it was a terrible loss, but just because she was not being brought back as a lead ranger did not mean that she would not have had an opportunity to come back as a ranger, but she needed to know then. Popp stated he did not terminate her at all.

Benak stated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee had a meeting last night. They did a field trip at Petobego. Benak did not attend.

Popp said he has a question on the ZBA minutes, stating the reason the contractor brought it back for a second decision was that he learned that he mistakenly placed the stakes. Popp stated the fact that the contractor thought the property line was in the centerline of the road is not in the minutes. Popp referred to a statement attributed to Williams, "Will be building to move the water."

Benak stated that is a reference to making sure the water does not go to the north side of the road. Certain conditions were set.

Popp stated there is another statement in the minutes where he says he knows the property does go to the centerline of the road, which is the entire intent of why he brought it back for the second hearing; he did not want anybody to think that he had, on purpose, provided incorrect information.

Discussion followed regarding motions to adjourn.

Regarding the PRAC minutes, under Old Business #2, "report concerning hayfield management, Leach will contact," Popp wants to be sure they have the correct dates. Popp would like to get together after the town hall meeting to find the contract and make sure the right dates are provided.

Popp inquired when Lossie Trail and the 12 stakes can be finished.

Benak stated she will ask the PRAC.

Regarding the Planning Commission minutes, Old Business #1, Popp stated he has a note about whether to contact LIAA regarding maps for the plan. Paul Riess has offered to draft new maps for \$60/hour.

Brief discussion followed.

Popp also stated that it appears he and the Clerk have not gotten together on a couple things regarding website and counter. Popp has a meeting with Sundberg on Monday. Popp will put this on his calendar to do.

Lawson suggested a cost proposal for maps be obtained; he will take it to the next meeting.

Popp referred in the PC minutes to the discussion regarding private roads, Old Business #6.

Brief discussion followed.

Lawson stated a letter will be coming from the PC to the Board on this topic.

Regarding Page 2273 of the Township Board 05/13/2014 minutes, Benak pointed out that “ZO” should be “ZA” (in paragraph 7). Also, on Page 2283, third paragraph, Benak said it should say “. . . it is important that the Tribe see . . . ,” instead of “that Rural see”

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to approve Consent Calendar items as presented:

Receive and File

1. Supervisor’s Report for May 2014
2. Clerk’s Report for May 2014
3. Zoning Administrator’s Report for May 2014
4. Battalion #3 Fire Captain’s April 2014 Activity Report (copy provided at meeting)
5. Ambulance Coordinator’s April 2014 Activity Report
6. Approved 09/26/2013 Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes
7. Approved 04/14/2014 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
8. Approved 05/07/2014 Planning Commission Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for May 2014

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 05/13/2014 and 05/27/2014 regular meeting minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers #38189 through 38296
2. Approval of Alden State Bank Miami Beach voucher #1150

Budget Amendments (none)

Revenue & Expenditure Report (none)

Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes.

Unfinished Business

Review Town Hall Meeting Packet for Questions/Comments

Popp inquired if the Board has any questions or comments on the packet.

Lengthy discussion followed. Input was provided by several members of the audience.

New Business

Joint Meeting with Planning Commission re: Draft Master Plan

Popp stated that, as he understands it, June 24th is a pretty good date for most of the Planning Commission members, so the entire second meeting in June will be dedicated to the PC.

Goss will prepare a special meeting notice for the joint meeting.

Review Road Brine Offer by Northern A1

Popp stated he has been trying to get a price from Northern A1 and get permission from Grand Traverse County to apply our own brine because he felt we would be last again. He got a copy of a brine analysis and prices. It is more money than the County contract, and it is still unclear if the Road Commission will cover the 25% copay. Popp feels, if the County does not perform again, we owe it to our people to spend the extra 25% and get brine on the roads when we need it.

Discussion followed.

Popp stated he will get something in writing from the Road Commission that says we can cancel at any time.

Consensus was reached to bring this agenda item back under Unfinished Business on 06/24/2014.

BrickHouse Interactive – Additional Invoice Request for Park Reservation System

Popp stated the cost of the online reservation system is over budget by \$895 due to extra time spent by the developer obtaining employee input into the system and dealing with opening day issues.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to pay the BrickHouse Interactive invoice. Benak clarified that the money would come out of Park funds. **Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes.**

Cardinal Drafting – Request for Payment for Fire Station Sketches

Popp noted that this is the company who helped to provide the second option for fire. Steve Haver is a township resident and he is asking for \$200 to \$300 for his drafting time. Popp recommends that this be paid out of the 2% grant money set aside to help the fire station get off the ground, the \$27,190. He is recommending that any wages paid to Lois MacLean for helping

with labels or postage also be paid out of the 2% money. None of this money has been used from 2010.

Goss noted that a bill has not yet been received for this work. Also, Goss would like to know what line item this expenditure will come out of.

Benak stated the Clerk will have to determine what fund that money was originally posted to. She believes it is in the Fire Capital Improvement Fund.

Goss will do some research.

Consensus was reached to pay the Cardinal Drafting bill and Lois MacLean's wages for time spent on the mailer for the town hall meeting out of the 2010 2% grant proceeds.

Popp noted there was also time spent on the mailer by ZA Dennis Habedank.

Discuss Order/Proceedings of Town Hall Meeting

Popp stated a projector will be used to project on the wall between the cafeteria and the gymnasium. Bleachers are pulled out and there are approximately 150 chairs on the floor. Popp has acquired a second projector and would like to use Lawson's computer as a backup. No large prints of the buildings were ordered. A volunteer is needed to walk around with a microphone.

Discussion followed regarding microphones, eliminating food, providing small bottles of water, index cards and short pencils.

Benak will obtain the water, the pencils, and the cards.

Discussion then took place concerning use of sign-in sheets.

Popp also brought up the subject of someone other than the Clerk taking the minutes.

Discussion followed.

Goss will attempt to find someone to take the minutes and will also make sign-in sheets.

Lawson suggested an update page for the town hall meeting with the latest news.

Benak and Hubbell agreed.

Discussion followed regarding use of the township sound system at Mill Creek.

Tabled Items

Rural Fire Request for Vehicle Titles (tabled 05/13/2014) – This agenda item will remain tabled.

Board Comments/Discussion

Lawson reported that he has been talking to Brian Hoy, who is currently re-grading and putting in dirt and new bases at New Hope's baseball field. Hoy has stated he will come over and do the township's field at no charge to the township. He is a big baseball advocate and believes every community should have a good baseball field.

Hubbell would like to commend everyone who put the town hall material together.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (added)

Popp noted they have offered through TBA to bring in three special needs kids and an adult job coach to get the kids accustomed to working. They receive a paycheck. TBA will take care of all the employment forms; they are employees of TBA. It is an 8-week program. Popp feels it is a wonderful opportunity to get help with the park, pruning trails, spreading bark chips, getting signs repainted, weeding flower beds, trimming trees. We have to supply safety glasses, gloves, and tools.

Benak stated hold harmless agreements will have to be executed.

Discussion followed.

Popp stated they will work from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He will take care of lining up projects for them, making sure they have tools, etc.

Consensus reached that Popp will continue to get this set up. Goss agreed, as long as they sign a waiver of liability for injury.

5858 Moore Road (added)

Popp stated this location is the old Geo building, right across from Lucsy's building, 16 foot interior ceiling, nice door. Captain Arbenowske and Chief Weber are not interested because all of the fire apparatus will fit in the current building, but where does this leave Ambulance? Popp stated we will need a short-term storage solution if we lose the lease (on the Lucsy building). Popp would like to schedule a walk-through.

Goss inquired what related to ambulance is stored in the Lucsy building.

Benak and Popp stated one of the ambulances is stored there.

Martin confirmed that 3A2 is located up on the hill.

Discussion followed regarding when the removal of one of the ambulances to the Lucsy building was reported to the Board.

Further discussion then ensued, including audience participation, regarding the separation of fire and ambulance equipment, the reported opinion of Chief Weber that any fire equipment left over can be stored out of the township, and housing for the ladder truck.

Popp stated Jim Schmuckal is currently offering the building for rent, but Mrs. Denman may be interested in selling it. Current rent is listed at \$2500 per month.

Hubbell stated equipment would likely be stored outside the township according to the seasons.

Further conversation took place regarding both ambulances remaining in the township ready for use, the possibility of leasing the Brunackey building, the fact that the front-half tenant at the Lucy building would like to utilize the entire building, and the fact that nothing has been provided in writing regarding non-renewal of the current building lease.

Popp can set up a walk-through at any time, likely within the next 30 days. We would lease the entire building but not use the offices. The building is 8,000 square feet with one overhead door.

Hubbell suggested it be purchased and four doors added.

Lawson, Hubbell, and Goss agreed to look at the building.

Announcements

The town hall meeting is June 12th at 6:00 p.m. The regular township board meeting on June 24th will be a joint meeting with the Planning Commission.

Public Comment

Jason Gillman, Traverse City, stated the Board has some really good back-and forth with the public. Also, he stated that on Thursday, at 9:00, there is a meeting of NWMCOG. They are trying to create a taxing authority for county park systems, with the goal of getting agreements with townships to run their parks for them. Gillman suggested this would be another layer of unaccountable and unelected people.

Popp inquired if Gillman knew anything about the DNR and the shooting ranges planned for Whitewater Township.

Gillman said no.

Brief discussion followed regarding the NWMCOG meeting. Gillman offered to get information packets.

Adjournment

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk