

**Whitewater Township Board  
Minutes of Special Meeting held August 6, 2014**

**Call to Order**

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan.

(At 6:02 p.m., Trustee Hubbell arrived.)

**Roll Call of Board Members**

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

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: 3

**Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda**

No changes.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**Public Comment**

Vaughn Harshfield, 4404 N. Broomhead Road, stated he has talked to two of his neighbors about the millage coming on and both stated they are not voting for any millage increase. When he explained to them the urgency and the reason behind the millage increase, he got their vote. Harshfield's message is that we have to get the word out or this millage is going to go down, and it must be done in a positive way so the voters understand if it does not pass we may not have ambulance service.

**Consideration/Approval of Ambulance Millage Ballot Wording**

Goss stated that she and Benak met last Friday for about three hours and hammered out the language on Page 1, Proposed Wording of Ambulance Millage. Goss then prepared a resolution with the wording and sent it to Attorney Fahey for his comments. Fahey replied with revised ballot wording to comport with the 100-word limitation, as well as a revised resolution. Goss stated she then submitted a further question to Fahey concerning whether "up to" language could be inserted in front of the "1.5 mills" language. Fahey agreed "up to" could be inserted and indicated where it should be placed.

Goss stated that she and Benak spent a lot of time looking at the proposed budget documents provided by Popp (Options A, B, and C), as well as reviewing expenses for rent, lights, heat, lawn mowing, snowplowing, etc. The ambulance service does not pay any portion of the building expenses in their current location, but these will likely need to be allocated to their budget in the future with either a tribal- or township-owned building. Goss stated that she and Benak ruled out Option A as too costly. For Options B and C, another \$17,600 was added to account for building expenses. Assuming a levy of 1.5 mills, both Option B and C had shortfalls of approximately \$15,000.

Option B provides for 1 duty crew person at the station for 24 hours and 1 person on pager duty for 24 hours. Option C provides for 1 person on duty crew and 1 person on pager duty from 7 AM to 7 PM. From 7 PM to 7 AM, two people would be on pager duty; no one would be at the station.

Popp stated his proposed budget recommends 1.2 mills on Option C and 1.5 mills on Option B.

Popp stated a plan similar to Option B has been implemented, but no one has signed up for nighttime pager duty.

Discussion followed regarding the workability of Option B, the need to move forward, a possible meeting with the ambulance personnel, the lack of qualified people in the township, whether the millage language should say up to 2.1 mills, and possible consequences of failure of the millage.

Discussion turned to adding the 1/2/3 enumeration from the original wording proposed by Benak and Goss to Fahey's version of the millage language and whether 1.5 or 2.1 mills should be requested. The 1/2/3 language was discussed and revised, resulting in a 1/2 enumeration under the "this millage, if approved, would" wording.

Audience member Lois MacLean, 5919 Linderleaf, inquired who is answering the ambulance calls right now.

Popp stated during the day there is a schedule and it is filled out. At nighttime, no one is filling the schedule out.

Goss stated she will get the proposed language to the County Clerk tomorrow (August 7) and have her look at it to see if there is anything wrong with it.

Popp recommended that, in case there is something wrong with the Board's revised language, we go ahead and approve Fahey's re-work, with the words "up to that amount," as our secondary so we do not have to meet again.

**Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to adopt the ambulance millage proposal language, as revised (adding "this millage, if approved, would," and listing Nos. 1 and 2), with the 1.5 mill rate. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes.**

**Motion by Goss, seconded by Popp, to adopt Fahey's version of the ambulance millage proposal language, in case of error with the township version. Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes.**

Moving on to the resolution, Goss suggested the Board use the resolution drafted by Fahey because it is more complete.

**Motion by Lawson, seconded by Popp, to adopt Resolution #14-12, Resolution to Adopt Ambulance Millage Proposal Language, as proposed by Counsel, substituting the**

**Township version of the proposal language, or if in error, Counsel's version of the proposal language. Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes.**

**Proposed Public Records Inspection Policy**

Popp noted that this resolution comes to us from our Assessor. All assessing authorities are under an audit statewide. The third party is requiring a resolution that they can come in and review public records if you do not have customary business hours, defined as Monday through Friday 9:00 to 5:00. Also, the recommended resolution allows for verbal requests. Goss modified the resolution to require written requests. Popp states it is kind of a moot point because we have customary business hours.

Discussion followed.

Popp stated since no one is willing to make a motion, it will be considered a dead issue.

**Additional Agenda Items** (none)

**Announcements**

Next Township Board meeting is August 12.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss  
Whitewater Township Clerk