

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held August 12, 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: County Commissioner Inman, Ambulance Coordinator Martin, and 3 others

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

No changes.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

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:

- Apologies for not being here last month; it was his last chance to introduce himself at other townships.
- This Friday, a contingency of county staff are going to the National Institute of Corrections in Colorado, paid for by the NIC, for a weeklong study program on new technology in jails, how to approach overcrowding issues, are you utilizing all your alternatives, outsourcing inmates, renovations to your current jail, how to build a new facility, and the public education process.
- There is a county ballot issue in November to increase the surcharge on hard lines and cell phones from 80 cents per month up to \$1.85 per month. It is to be used for infrastructure and new equipment for 911. An explanation was given as to how the issue came to be put on the ballot.
- Inman is having surgery on the 22nd and may not be here next month.

Fire Captain Report - Captain Arbenowske was not present.

Ambulance Coordinator Report

Ambulance Coordinator Martin gave the following report:

- Up to today, we have 123 runs.
- There was a Med Control meeting this morning. An MFR class will be starting in September and an EMT class starting in October. Med Control stated that they were pleased with our field reports. Medical training for CEs is going to be next Tuesday at the station. Wendy Dawson from Bellaire is coming in to do airway management.
- An email was sent with a staffing schedule. There are a few open spots. The Supervisor and Clerk are working on getting applicants approved. The applicants are out of town, but they are willing to work on-call shifts, either 7 AM to 7 PM or 7 PM to 7 AM, to provide service for us.
- After the Med Control meeting, Daryl Case advised her that there have been a couple complaints because we had gotten on a call, but we did not have enough responders to take 3A out. She stated she knows where the complaint came from. She told him we were in the process of scheduling. He said he was good with that, but we do need to stay compliant. She stated he made mention that in the last three months we have missed just under a quarter of our calls. He said he will be sending her a letter. She will forward that to the Board. Thirty days after that letter, Martin will have to send him what we have and what we are going on. She hopes by that time we are not missing any more calls. She stated she reassured Daryl Case we have others coming on and we are working toward that goal.
- Regarding Image Trend, she is reviewing a link, which she will forward to Popp for his review.
- She stated there was a Priority 1 call which was pretty bad, and she and Alan were “out of the house” by 45 seconds.

Popp inquired whether the 25% number is correct.

Martin does not believe it is. She will look through the system and the paperwork tomorrow. She stated the complaint was that we had a provider there, but we needed an EMT to transport. A private vehicle went to the address.

Popp inquired if this will be our second letter from Med Control but the first one from the state.

Martin stated it will be the second one from Med Control; Daryl Case is sending it to us and keeping the state calmed down. But there will not be another time, because they will come down hard.

Planning Commission Report

Lawson reported that the PC got through all the recommendations that the Board turned over to them and edited all the typographicals, and the acting chair said they would try to have it ready for the Board’s second meeting of August.

Horse Shows by the Bay made a presentation to the Planning Commission for property out by Island Lake. They do have an alternative location that they are looking at. They would operate for about a month out of the year and do all their horse shows there. They brought in a layout of

all the arenas, access and egress. They will own the land across, too. The representative told the PC that they are the top grossing event in Traverse City, more than the Cherry Festival. They want to move because Flintfields is taking on additional events and they are concerned about injury to horses. Lawson stated everything they are doing falls within the use of the land.

Brief discussion followed.

Consent Calendar

Referring to the Planning Commission minutes of 06/04/2014, Popp inquired if the PC needs the Board to do something regarding the private roads issue.

Lawson stated the PC wants to know when and if the Board wants them to work on that. Do we need to formally tell them to do that?

Popp recalls that ZA Habedank made a proposal regarding whether or not Ordinance 32 should be a general ordinance or zoning ordinance.

Discussion followed.

Popp stated he will make it an agenda item for a future meeting.

Also, Lawson stated that Mangus had requested that if any decision was made on private roads, that people are informed. Lawson said he recommended that a town hall meeting might be a good way to do it.

Referring to the Shooting Area Public Meeting Minutes of 06/24/2014, Popp pointed out the litter issues and that it looks like they are going to close down Hoosier Valley if another location opens up. Also, Popp drew everyone's attention to Comment No. 14 concerning trash. Popp stated he has a meeting with Dave Lemmien tomorrow.

Benak stated attendance at public meetings and voicing concerns or writing letters would be a good idea.

Popp also pointed out Comment No. 24 concerning ongoing noise.

Benak stated there are no neighborhoods near the proposed Whitewater location.

Discussion followed.

Popp also pointed out Comment No. 28 related to keeping Hoosier Valley open for tradition and moving the problem to another neighborhood.

Goss stated they should have a public hearing in the township of their favorite location.

Discussion followed.

Referring to Bills for Approval, Popp inquired about the internet security charge for fire and ambulance of \$1440.00.

Goss explained that the \$1440.00 amount is for several credit card charges, not just for the antivirus renewal at the fire station. The invoice description field is limited.

Hubbell inquired why we have the Consent Calendar, stating it was developed to speed the meeting along, but we should not have it if we are going to pick it apart at every meeting.

Referring to a complaint by the Little League of trash at the ball fields, Goss inquired who that report was made to.

Popp stated the complaint was made to him by Melton, and he has asked the park staff to check the ball field trash cans as well.

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for July 2014
2. Clerk's Report for July 2014
3. Zoning Administrator's Report for July 2014
4. Fire Captain's July 2014 Activity Report (no report available)
5. Ambulance Coordinator's July 2014 Activity Report
6. Approved 05/12/2014 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
7. Approved 06/04/2014 Planning Commission Minutes
8. Approved 06/09/2014 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
9. Approved 06/11/2014 Historical Society Minutes
10. Approved 07/02/2014 Planning Commission Minutes
11. Approved 07/16/2014 Planning Commission Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for June 2014, 2nd Quarter Totals, and July 2014
2. Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department Minutes of 06/18/2014
3. Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department Minutes of 07/16/2014
4. 07/14/2014 Homeowner Notice of State Tax Commission Assessing Audit
5. 07/15/2014 DNR Letter with 06/24/2014 Shooting Area Public Meeting Minutes
6. GT County Road Commission Resolution re Permanent Road Funding Solution

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 07/08/2014 and 07/22/2014 regular meeting minutes and 07/08/2014 closed session minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers #38401 through 38554
2. Approval of Alden State Bank Miami Beach voucher #1152

Budget Amendments (none)

Revenue & Expenditure Report (none)

Motion by Lawson, seconded by Hubbell, to approve Consent Calendar items as presented. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes.

Unfinished Business

Master Plan Review – Possible Approval for Distribution

Consensus was reached to keep this item under Unfinished Business.

Review Rural Fire IGA and Attorney Fahey’s Confidential Opinion – Possible Closed Session

Popp inquired if there is a reason to go into closed session and stated the tabled item could be resolved tonight. Popp stated he does not think there is anything in Fahey’s opinion that the public should not know and does not see why we need to keep it confidential.

Consensus was reached to discuss the opinion in open session.

Popp stated that Fahey’s opinion is that, yes, we did sign over all of our authority. Rural Fire can sign a lease, although Fahey explained several reasons why he thinks Rural will keep the township involved.

Moving to the question of whether or not the township can own fire-related equipment and keep it titled in the township’s name, Popp referred to the last paragraph on Page 2, which indicates that if the township buys equipment that is used by both fire and rescue or the ambulance service, the township can maintain ownership of it.

Discussion followed as to what actual use is made of the Kubota and the Expedition. Instances of use of the vehicles by rescue and ambulance were detailed.

Motion by Lawson, seconded by Goss, to deny the request of Rural Fire to transfer the titles of the 2009 Expedition and 2004 Kubota, as recommended by the township attorney. On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Goss pointed out that the opinion also says, “The township will need to insure, maintain, and accept liability,” and under Article 8 it says, “The Township must also adopt policies recognizing that any fire personnel who use its rescue and ambulance equipment are doing so as agents for the township and not for Rural Fire.” Goss stated we will need to have that in writing.

Discussion followed.

Benak requested that Popp write a letter to Rural Fire letting them know of our decision.

New Business

Discuss Rollout Measures for Proposed Ambulance Millage

Popp asked for ideas on how to educate the public regarding the ambulance millage, stating he drew some inspiration from notes of the minutes of the town hall meeting.

Goss proposed that a fact sheet of what surrounding townships are paying for ambulance, fire, and police be drawn up, along with a brief description of the service they are getting, ALS, BLS, 24/7, 12/7, etc.

Discussion followed regarding questions posed at the town hall meeting, such as what are we paying now, what are you going to do with the money being used for ambulance. Possible answers include ambulance, roads, parks.

Benak suggested that Goss explain what was decided on the ballot language.

Regarding the ambulance millage ballot language, Goss explained that since the meeting on August 6, recognizing that the County Clerk would not put herself in the place of our attorney regarding the content of the ballot question, she sent an email to Fahey on August 7 asking him to review the Board's revised 1/2 enumeration. Fahey strongly advised that the language "ensuring that no calls will go unanswered" should not be used, feeling that that is a commitment the township might regret making. Benak reviewed Fahey's response as well, and the fallback language was submitted to the County Clerk.

Benak stated we have to decide exactly what is it that we can legally do to educate the public.

Lengthy discussion followed concerning what should be presented to the public and how it should be presented. Hubbell suggested having Fahey review the information. Benak would like to send the information via mail and the e-mail sign-up list. Popp thinks we should use the voter mailing list rather than the property tax mailing list.

The Board discussed how to answer some of the questions that came up at the town hall meeting, giving the public an example of what 1.5 mills would cost the average voter and how to calculate it, and statistics that should be provided.

Popp reported that the Acme Township Supervisor was not enthusiastic about a collaborative effort between townships. Acme is paying \$80,000 a year to have NorthFlight in their station 16 hours a day, but the quote for Whitewater Township was \$350,000. The difference is due to run volume.

Lawson suggested a brief history of the ambulance service be provided.

Goss proposed that the material explain how a volunteer service is no longer viable and that personnel have to be paid to be at the station or in very close proximity.

Popp recommended that the information contain some of the comments from the town hall meeting.

Popp suggested that brief public comment be taken.

Vaughn Harshfield, 4404 N. Broomhead Road, commented that it is imperative that people know what happens if this millage fails, longer response times for NorthFlight to come out, but we could lose our ambulance service.

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, stated the opening statement that should be presented is: Do you want ambulance service, and what is going to happen if it does not pass.

There was consensus that the information must be distributed in all forms in order to reach the largest number of people. Information that should be provided includes what the public pays now, what will be done with the millage money, what is being requested, statistics showing what surrounding communities pay and what they are getting, examples of the cost of 1.5 mills per \$1000 of taxable value, a sampling of comments from the town hall meeting, what will happen if the millage does not pass, and an opening statement asking the public if they want ambulance service.

Popp will get an outline together and keep the Board updated on progress.

Resolution #14-13 New Account at First Community Bank

Benak stated she is trying to comply with the auditor's statement that the township has too much uninsured money at Alden State Bank. She would like to move the tax account, Miami Beach account, and the WMDLS account from Alden State Bank and MBIA to First Community Bank, which will effectively move approximately \$561,000. She will be able to get remote capture equipment with no service fee. They also have courier service with no limit. Service charges are waived. They will replace the tax checks and deposit books for free, as well as for Miami Beach and WMDLS. About \$800,000 will be left at Alden State Bank. She stated she is looking at moving the Money Market account to Northwestern Bank after their conversion to Chemical Bank. First Community Bank has a 3-1/2 star rating. Alden State Bank has a much lower rating.

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Popp, to adopt Resolution #14-13 so the Treasurer can complete the appropriate paperwork for First Community Bank.

Popp inquired whether anyone has any relation at First Community Bank. Benak stated she does not.

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

Tabled Items

Rural Fire Request for Vehicle Titles (tabled 05/13/2014)

See Page 2341 of the minutes for disposition of this agenda item.

Board Comments/Discussion

None

Announcements

Next meeting date is August 26.

Popp will verify with Mangus that we have something from the PC.

Public Comment

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, stated that the Expedition is used from transporting more than three people to training sessions and as a backup unit for rescue. He questioned if the auxiliary could use it to transport water, etc., to a fire scene.

Adjournment

Motion by Lawson, seconded by Hubbell, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk