

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held August 26, 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, Hubbell, Lawson, Popp

Board members absent: None

Others present: 6

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Goss stated that she would like to add an item to the agenda regarding her memo dated 08/25/2014 Bills for Preapproval. Item added as New Business #6.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

1. TBAISD Thank You Letter
2. 2013 Annual Financial Report – Grand Traverse County Road Commission
3. Letter from Charter Communications re: Broadcast TV Surcharge Increase

Very brief discussion occurred regarding the Annual Financial Report.

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations

None

Unfinished Business**Master Plan Review – Possible Approval for Distribution**

Popp stated the last he heard, Kim Mangus received a map and a purchase order for some materials from GIS.

Brief discussion followed.

Board Comments/Discussion Item of 7/22/2014 from Clerk to Board re: Mill Creek Elementary Class Project

Popp asked if there were any thoughts on the project.

Benak stated she did put together a list of businesses. She will forward it to Goss for transmittal to Saunders.

A map will also be provided, either one of the large colored Planning Commission maps or the map Mangus is obtaining.

New Business

WESA Request to use Fire Station for Annual Halloween Event

In response to a pre-meeting question from Popp, Goss stated the safety personnel did not request to be paid for attending the event last year. As far as insurance, Goss stated if the Board approves the event, it is covered under the township liability policy. Popp also inquired if there is a hold harmless agreement similar to the one used to rent the pavilion.

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Popp, to approve the Whitewater Community Halloween Party event, including temporary closure of Old M-72. On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

Generate a Thank You Letter to TBA and ‘Summer Work Crew’

Popp noted that the TBA summer work crew has ended. He would like to recognize them for their hard work. He inquired if there was any way for us to provide a gift to them. Goss stated not out of township funds. Lawson suggested giving each one of them a letter of reference.

Consensus was reached that Popp will draft a letter.

Blackstone Group Cell Tower Offer

Popp stated we get frequent offers to sell the lease on the cell phone towers. Last year, the Board wanted to keep them as they are. Popp noted this offer is a little different. They assume the lease for 10 years, they pay for 7-8 years of the lease up front, and when the lease renews, it reverts back to the township in whole ownership.

Discussion followed. Consensus was reached that no changes will be made to the current cell tower leases.

Review and Discuss Public Act 57

Popp stated Chief Weber put together some documents showing the pros and cons of staying the same, modifying the current intergovernmental agreement, or moving to Public Act 57. Paradise Township and Chief Weber would like to move to Act 57. Popp invited the Board to share their concerns.

Goss stated the authority to be created would have a lot of power, including the authority to levy a tax on all taxable property within the jurisdiction. While the tax has to be approved by a majority of the voters, Whitewater Township voters would be easily outvoted by larger municipalities.

Lawson is not keen on creating another body of government that is able to tax. This authority could levy up to 20 mills and it can extend for 30 years. Even if you decide to leave the group, you are still liable for any debt incurred during your stay, plus the levy until it expires.

Brief discussion ensued concerning municipalities and general law versus charter townships.

Goss had additional concerns about the authority's ability to acquire private property, adopt ordinances, assess fees, as well as the collective bargaining language, including the wording that says the Michigan Employment Relations Commission "shall" conduct a representation election. Goss, too, is concerned about the language which says, "The taxes authorized by this section may be levied at a rate not to exceed 20 mills and for a period as determined by the authority. . . ."

Popp related that the current IGA was rewritten to include ambulance, but then Public Act 57 came along.

Discussion followed.

Popp stated he asked Attorney Fahey what he thought of Act 57. Fahey's two comments were: Hotel California clause and who are they trying to hold at the table.

Further discussion followed concerning the pros and cons.

Popp inquired what the Board would like him to present to Rural Fire regarding this issue; stay with Act 33 or move toward Public Act 57?

Consensus was reached that the current agreement could be modified to allow for medical transport. The Board does not wish to pursue Public Act 57.

Elk Rapids Schools' Request for Community Projects

Popp stated Elk Rapids Schools are trying to build on the IB program. They have written asking us to be a part of their program. Eighth grade students would come into the community and do some type of service work. They are also looking for adults to become mentors.

Numerous ideas were discussed, most of which were in the parks and recreation area.

Popp will write back to Mr. Fegan to let him know we are interested. If anyone knows of someone who is interested in being a mentor, the form can be sent out electronically.

Bills for Preapproval (added)

Goss stated this item just arose yesterday when one of the auditors brought up that the Board needs to preapprove purchases of goods and services which cannot be post-audited. Goss explained the past practice in this regard. The auditor says that procedure is incorrect for anything that is not listed in the Board Audit policy. Goss stated that she asked the auditor whether invoices can be shown to the Board before they are paid but after the good or service has

been received. The auditor stated that if one or more board members would object to something, then you have a problem if you have already purchased it.

Goss stated she is proposing that a category called Bills for Preapproval be added under Consent Calendar which would list all of the requests that have come in, and that this category be added to all of the regular meeting agendas.

Goss noted that she has brought to the meeting all of the supporting material for the enumerated items 1 through 32 in the memo, as well as enumerated items 1 through 8, for the Board's review.

Discussion followed concerning checking the MCL, park supplies which are ordered frequently, blanket purchase orders, past practice in the township, current checks and balances, tying up of everyday business.

Motion by Popp to get the MCL number and put it on the agenda and conduct business as usual until that time.

Popp stated there must be a different option because we would be locked into two meetings a month.

Further discussion followed.

Hubbell seconded the motion.

Brief discussion followed.

On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Popp stated, for a future agenda item, if there is some question about a secondary check, we could discuss how the Clerk or the Treasurer would have to be consulted before a purchase is made, or maybe we amend our purchasing program so that two people have to be aware of it. Popp stated if there is some type of review needed, he can see a more efficient way around it than holding two mandatory meetings a month.

Goss would like to pull one thing off the list, namely, replacement of the Deputy Clerk PC, because it is running Windows XP, the Qualified Voter File should not be running on an XP system, and the computer has been getting slower and slower.

Popp stated we run a pseudo-server, which also runs XP. He wonders if now is the time to get into an actual server, which would have many different benefits, especially when it comes to website hosting. He would like to see what Friedly has to say about that before that purchase is made.

Discussion followed concerning the purchase of the PC for the Deputy Clerk seat. Goss will provide Popp with the quote.

Tabled Items

None

Board Comments/Discussion

Hubbell said that Popp noted we are the only township in five counties that has two meetings a month. Hubbell inquired how long their meetings last if they only have one, because we cannot seem to get five items done before 9:00.

Brief discussion followed.

As an update on something the Township Board learned at the first meeting of the month regarding ambulance, Popp stated he spoke to Daryl Case today. Case told him that at the end of July, upon pressure from both East Bay and NorthFlight, he did file our call status with the State of Michigan. He claims the data he filed shows us missing 25% of the calls. Dawn disagrees with that. Popp stated he might disagree with that. Popp wonders if the 911 database is being queried completely.

Brief discussion followed.

Goss added that another ambulance person was hired yesterday who plans to take a couple on-call shifts a month. Also, an ad has been put in three or four different publications starting last weekend for ambulance personnel.

Popp added that Case was unaware that the Board had passed millage language or that some changes have already been implemented. Popp stated he put Case on notice that he is supposed to talk to the operator of the township ambulance service, i.e., this Board, with copies to the Ambulance Coordinator.

Benak requested a copy of the job description for the Ambulance Coordinator.

Discussion followed.

Announcements

The next Township Board meeting is September 9th.

Public Comment

Kim Halstead, 7923 Cook Road, addressed Public Act 57 and stated that he thinks the townships with more people want more say-so than anybody else, so they are putting pressure on. Green Lake was going to pull out of Rural; they haven't pulled out yet. This may be appealing to them so they will get what they want and everybody else will have to pay for it. We need to keep an eye on this.

Adam Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, stated he does not know of anybody who would not believe that we need more people. He stated he was asked to come to this board meeting and bring this

topic up. There are young people who want to join, but they seem to be stalled and the answer they are given is that it is the Board. What is the hold-up?

Rod Kuncaitis, 6204 Elk Lake Road, inquired whether the vote on the Halloween party was unanimous.

Hubbell replied yes.

Kuncaitis stated it would be great if the whole Board showed up; it is turning into quite the community event. Regarding Public Act 57, he stated 30 years ago the entire county was under one fire/emergency services board, and what they are trying to do with going with Act 57 is exactly what tore that apart, and that is why there is Rural and Metro and Peninsula. He stated there are a lot of red flags in Act 57. He is not opposed to the idea of Act 33 and two emergency service offerings.

In response to Popp's question, Adam Shaffer stated that Brooke is the person who asked him to bring this from the community. She has applied and keeps getting the run-around.

Popp stated she does not have a license.

Shaffer states that is the point she is making. She wants to be trained, but she is being told she cannot do training yet because no one has approved her.

Discussion followed.

Popp stated we cannot hire somebody who does not have a license, but that does not mean we will not put somebody through training.

Shaffer stated he is in the same boat.

Discussion followed.

Popp stated we are definitely on a recruiting path and apologized for the misinformation.

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, stated he has been part of the fire department since way back and agrees that we should keep a real close eye on what they are trying. He asked what is the minimum licensing for the ambulance.

Popp replied MFR.

Tim Shaffer stated that people going through the fire training are going to get their MFR and asked if they can start responding on ambulance calls as soon as they complete that and show that they are certified.

Popp stated if they apply, yes.

Tim Shaffer then asked what the outcome is on the shooting range and if there is an update.

Popp replied that Dave Lemmien, director of the Traverse City field office, has been in Popp's office and stated he would like to have a meeting here September 30th, but he has not confirmed that date. Popp has asked for pictures of existing sites similar in design to present during the meeting and a better detailed map of the proposed location of the shooting range. Popp stated, to his knowledge, we are going to have a meeting here September 30th if Lemmien can get his information around.

Adjournment

Motion by Lawson, seconded by Hubbell, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk