

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held September 9, 2014**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:00 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

Goss would like to add a September 8th letter from Disability Network regarding Petobego which was received today. Added as #7 under Correspondence.

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 is not present.

Fire Captain Report

Captain Arbenowske stated he does not have anything.

Ambulance Coordinator Report

Ambulance Coordinator Martin gave the following report:

- Had a Med Control meeting this morning. Facilitators go over their reports to make sure they are accurate. There are EMT classes starting in October and December. MFR classes will start in April or May of 2015. Munson was recertified this week as a Level II Trauma Center.
- EMS Expo is the first week in October in Marquette. EMTs, paramedics, and MFRs go to get credits. EMS coordinators go to bring back new ideas to the team.
- Next Monday they will have medical training for CEs with Wendy Dawson from Allied in Antrim County. Training will be on pediatrics and medical assessment.
- They have been invited to Elk Rapids in October to earn credits in extrication and trauma.

- Martin had reported a second complaint at the last Med Control meeting. Since then, Tammy Forbush, inspector, did a spot check on 3A and on the paperwork. Rig and paperwork checks turned out well.
- A schedule was provided to Board members.

Goss inquired about the missed call on August 28th when two people were on call.

Martin stated there was no one on call that day from 7a to 7p. They were on call from 7p to 7a and did respond to calls during the daytime shift.

Discussion followed.

Popp stated he spoke to Daryl Case and asked for information about the second complaint and what he sent to the state. Case forwarded his paperwork from back in February. Popp stated Case was unaware of our ballot language and where things were with having people at the station.

Goss inquired if there was going to be documentation of the second event.

Popp stated likely not. Case did his own investigation. The complaint came from NorthFlight, likely from the Acme station. Roye Meis from NorthFlight asked Case to look at call statistics from Central Dispatch for the last three months, which showed that up to 25% of the calls have been missed. That data ended approximately July 1st, which was previous to the new plans that are in place.

Planning Commission Report

Lawson reported that the Planning Commission met last Wednesday. They decided where the new maps would be inserted. All the typographicals have been corrected. The document is on its way to final edit. They are looking to have it available to the Township Board for their first October meeting. They want to distribute it to the surrounding townships and bodies of government. After that, there is a 69-day wait.

Popp asked for the process sheet to be included with the Draft Master Plan when it comes to the Board.

Popp inquired when the PC would like to start working on Ordinance 32.

Brief discussion followed.

Popp will put it on the next agenda. The Board will give the PC direction on what they want done.

Consent Calendar

Benak inquired if there was anything attached to the park brochure returned by the Steeds.

Goss replied that the only thing in the envelope was a park brochure with sticky notes on it.

Regarding the comment about noise after a certain time, Benak inquired whether there was anyone watching the park after a certain time.

Goss replied that there is a number to call if there is an issue any time after 10 or 11 o'clock.

Brief discussion followed regarding host campers.

Popp reported that the Elk Rapids News of two weeks ago said Whitewater Township would pave Baggs Road in 2015. Popp corrected this statement.

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for August 2014
2. Clerk's Report for August 2014
3. Zoning Administrator's Report for August 2014 (not available)
4. Fire Captain's August 2014 Activity Report (not available)
5. Ambulance Coordinator's August 2014 Activity Report
6. Approved 07/09/2014 Historical Society Minutes
7. Approved 07/14/2014 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics (not available)
2. Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department Minutes (not available)
3. Letter from Edward Ascione re: Baggs Road
4. Email from Rural Fire Chief Theo Weber re: Moore Road Lease
5. "Letter" from Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Steed Sr. re: Whitewater Township Park
6. Letter from Whitewater Township to Clearwater Township re: Baggs Road
7. **Letter 09/08/2014 from Disability Network re: Petobego (added)**

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 08/06/2014 special meeting minutes and 08/12/2014 and 08/26/2014 regular meeting minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers # 38555 through 38687
2. Approval of Alden State Bank Miami Beach voucher # 1153

Budget Amendments (none)

Revenue & Expenditure Report (none)

Motion by Benak, seconded by Lawson, 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**

Popp stated this may come to us next month.

Discuss Rollout Measures for Proposed Ambulance Millage

Popp inquired if there were further ideas on the rollout of the proposed ambulance millage and inquired if several informational meetings should be held at the township hall.

Benak stated her treasurer's handbook contains information concerning what the township can and cannot do and say with respect to millage proposals.

Discussion followed.

Popp requested audience input on this matter.

Captain Arbenowske stated that, looking at it as a resident, not as a member, we are the only township in the county straddling the volunteer line; everybody else has coverage. What are we doing compared to them? What do we need to do to catch up? Are we going backward or do we want to go forward?

Lawson suggested a chart of facts to show how far behind we are compared to everybody else.

Popp stated Whitewater Township's allocated tax is 0.6021 mills. He stated this is the lowest of all townships he has found in a 5-county area.

Discussion followed regarding Whitewater's ambulance budget coming out of the General Fund, other townships having an ambulance millage, and the Headlee Amendment.

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, stated with the absentee ballots coming out the middle of this month, there needs to be some clarification for people who are going to be filling out those ballots.

Popp stated information can be mailed out.

Benak proposed that the e-mail list can be used. Also, the spaghetti dinner is this Saturday. Fact sheets could be distributed there.

Popp stated all of the information he has put together over the past 12 months has already gone out. Is it becoming a bore?

Benak suggested a flier be made.

Lawson recommended a story format with the history of the ambulance service, what is on the ballot, and where do we want to go from there.

Goss stated this topic was previously brainstormed and an outline was going to be put together by Popp. Perhaps the ambulance information for the town hall meeting could be revised for the spaghetti dinner. Goss is not worried about recycling information.

Discussion followed concerning the format of the information, bullet points, upcoming meetings, release of the ballot language, information for the spaghetti dinner, not overwhelming voters with too much information.

Kim Halstead, 7923 Cook Road, asked whether there is a Plan B, what happens if the millage goes down. Does that mean we don't get ambulance service at all?

Popp stated if a different funding source is not found, the ambulance service will stay as it is today, a volunteer service, and we understand the statistics that our current volunteers are able to maintain.

Benak noted that we can say the facts, and the facts are: We cannot afford to take another eighty to ninety thousand out of the General Fund to hire people from outside the township for duty crew. This was a one-time shot; fiscally we cannot do it again. If we go back to the volunteer system, which we know we cannot cover because they work out of the township, that means calls are going to go uncovered, which means more complaints to Med Control, sent to the state, and they will pull our license. So there will be no ambulance service out here. We will be selling our ambulances.

Hubbell thinks you will see an ambulance sitting in the new fire barn when the Tribe builds it.

Popp stated we will expedite things and have something ready for the spaghetti dinner.

New Business

Ambulance and Fire Department – Move Out of Moore Road Facility

Popp stated he received an e-mail today at 12:35 from Chief Weber. Goss received the same e-mail on September 4th (Correspondence #4). Chief Weber is indicating that we could see a reduction in service because some equipment may need to be moved out because we are losing the Moore Road facility. Popp stated, until that e-mail, other comments from Chief Weber indicate that the existing station will suffice for what we need.

Referring to Weber's comment regarding how the building was used "traditionally," Benak stated the minute the township bought the second ambulance, the ambulances took up two bays. That is "traditionally." Benak stated the Intergovernmental Agreement says the "Rural Division shall enter into a lease with the township to assist the township in recouping costs associated with the maintenance of the fire building and fixtures." It does not say that the Rural Division takes over the entire building for fire. Benak stated she has asked to see the lease and no lease has been produced.

Popp stated, according to Jim Young, there is no lease. Also, the Rural Fire Board understands that the \$8,000 paid to us is not a lease payment; it is merely to offset some of the operational costs of the structure.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding the September ambulance personnel schedule, the seasonal use of the second ambulance, the lack of ability to sell the 1997 ambulance for use as an ambulance, cold versus heated storage for the unused ambulance, licensing requirements, putting up a storage facility on township property, leasing versus owning, availability of temporary storage, the move of the second ambulance from Old M-72 to the Lucsy building in February/March, the 5858 Moore Road facility, and Chief Weber's e-mail, including the comment that he is negotiating a lease with the Tribe currently and it is 95% complete.

Benak asked where are we with our attorney working with them.

Popp stated he forwarded the last e-mail he had with the risk manager, who said he still does not have Tribal Council approval of who is going to negotiate on their behalf.

Popp stated for the 2010 ambulance the license could be dropped and then relicensed, but not the 1997. Cold storage may be available.

Discussion followed regarding two ambulances in the fire station, one person responding to ambulance calls with the rescue unit, the possibility of taking licensure off 3A, whether the Brunackey building is an option, and the possibility of a heated building where Hubbell's nephew lives.

Shaffer stated the Board is missing part of the whole scenario; why was the second ambulance purchased, and there is still fire equipment that has to be stored somewhere. We need to work on both halves of the issue. This is a last-minute effort because everybody knew it at least three months ago.

Arbenowske stated, with the exception of the ambulance, Rural will make do.

Shaffer stated he can understand the frustration these guys have. Also, the second ambulance can be manned by one EMT and one first responder. We have personnel who are waiting to take the training to get certified.

Arbenowske stated the school will not happen in the fall; it will happen in the spring. That is beyond our control; there is no one to teach it.

Popp stated we stand ready to support those people, but we have to start by getting to the call and keeping our license.

Discussion continued concerning space for two ambulances, proposed locations for a storage building, leasing versus owning, obtaining cost estimates, and size of structure.

Hubbell and Lawson will report back with details of possible temporary storage locations, i.e., how much space, how much cost, how long it will be available, and heat cost.

Popp inquired of Arbenowske whether he thought it would be good to have one ambulance at the fire station, for the fire side.

Arbenowske stated he does not feel comfortable commenting on that.

Consensus was reached that Hubbell and Lawson will check their sources and report back tomorrow on how much space, how much cost, and length of availability for the proposed temporary ambulance storage.

Lawson asked if any seasonal equipment would be included.

Arbenowske stated the only thing we are responsible for is the Expedition.

Benak asked if there should be a motion for building a storage facility and where.

Goss stated it is her suggestion that hard and fast costs be obtained and brought to the meeting on the 23rd.

Discussion followed regarding whether the adopted budget can be exceeded, getting a loan to build a building, taking money not spent in 2012 and 2013 and figure out what is left in the budget, and unspent rent money.

Popp summarized that Hubbell and Lawson will get temporary rental information and he will break out some numbers on building materials.

Goss asked whether there was anything belonging to the Auxiliary at the Lucsy building.

Popp inquired who owns the old engine.

Arbenowske stated the Auxiliary supposedly owns it and they are working on that; it will be in its own spot.

Discussion followed concerning the date the Lucsy building must be vacated. There was general agreement that it is October 14th.

Answer to Question Raised during 07/22/2014 Township Board Meeting

Popp stated that Benak had previously commented that her understanding was that the township had to get rid of the fire special assessment district before another funding source was found. Popp stated that perhaps the township had a different attorney at that time, but Fahey's opinion on this subject is in the Board packet. Popp noted that Fahey does make special note that a special assessment district does not continue forever; it can be repealed by the voters.

Popp noted that the township could actually have more than one tax levy to support the fire department at any one time, and charge fees, and then we could relinquish the special assessment district once the other one was in place.

Goss also pointed out that Fahey agrees that ballot language can be crafted that will terminate the special assessment district if the millage passes. If the millage does not pass, the special assessment district would remain in place and there would be no loss of funding for fire.

Capital Expenditure – Purchase of Replacement PC for Deputy Clerk Seat

Goss stated that the Deputy Clerk's PC needs to be replaced as it is running Windows XP and running very slowly. The Qualified Voter File should not be running on an XP system. A quote was obtained from John Friedly for the cost of a new PC as well as the labor cost to install Microsoft Office, the Qualified Voter File, the FundBalance programs, etc. Goss stated she is asking for the Board's approval to purchase the PC and get it installed.

Hubbell stated he thought this had been done at the last meeting.

Goss replied that it was discussed but not voted on.

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to go ahead and purchase a replacement PC for the Deputy Clerk. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes.**

Tabled Items

None

Board Comments/Discussion

Benak stated she would like to add an item to Tabled Items which has been forgotten about it.

Popp asked that Benak send him an e-mail.

Lawson stated that the PC said the large maps could be given to Mill Creek if the Board does not want them.

Hubbell stated he would like to know why it has not been on any of the agendas at all and where we are at with the tribal thing.

Popp replied that it has been on the agenda. We have a resolution at the tribal table that we will work with them. We have already decided to appoint our attorney as our spokesperson. They have not named a spokesperson.

Popp stated he missed the last meeting due to an out-of-town funeral and Benak was busy with a wedding. Popp stated he asked Chief Weber to catch him up, but he has not.

Hubbell stated: When you say spokesperson, isn't that what Chuck Stewart is?

Popp replied no, Chuck is out of it at the legal end of it; he is their risk manager. Popp stated Chuck is still his contact, and Popp's last e-mail with Chuck was probably two weeks ago. Chuck was having difficulty finding enough room for the mechanicals in the basement and asked Popp to comment on whether four ambulance bays would get us into the next 20 years. Popp

stated that was the last comment he had, and each Board member should have gotten a forward on that.

Goss and Benak stated they have not received anything.

Hubbell stated he feels like we are stagnant on it.

Popp stated we are waiting for them to name Sean Cahill as their counsel.

Brief discussion followed concerning who drafted the intergovernmental agreement, the number of ambulance bays, operational costs, future need for ambulances, fire personnel working at the tribal facility, and Whitewater Township's lack of authority to run the fire department.

Benak stated she would like to see the intergovernmental agreement negotiations as a permanent item on the agenda until it comes to fruition.

Goss stated she has no problem with it being a tabled item.

Hubbell feels it is an important enough topic that the community deserves to be abreast of everything that is going on.

Benak reminded everyone that the spaghetti dinner is this Saturday from 4 to 8.

Announcements

Popp stated September 23rd is the next Board meeting.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion by Lawson, seconded by Hubbell, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk