

Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held October 6, 2014

Call to Order

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 5:04 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: Vaughn Harshfield

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Popp stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the ambulance millage press release and we will consider the agenda set.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

1. Rich Hargreaves Review
2. Vaughn Harshfield Review

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business**Discussion of Ambulance Millage Fact Sheet**

Regarding the correspondence, Popp stated that throughout the year he has contacted four people to act as an advisory group to him to see if the point he was trying to make would get across to the public. There was no direction from Popp; just an email asking about the content of the letter. In addition to the correspondence, there was a personal visit from Chuck Decker.

Brief discussion followed.

Popp stated that after his proposed “letter” went out, Benak and Goss wanted to have this meeting. Popp feels whatever is sent out should be by consensus of the Board.

Popp also noted that there is another meeting in the building tonight at 7:00 p.m.

It was noted that the version of the ambulance millage document in tonight's Board packet is Popp's second draft, which incorporates information from the personal meeting with Decker. Changes in verbiage are highlighted in red.

Lengthy discussion ensued amongst the Board regarding the contents of the document, including:

- Whether dollar figures should be included.
- What the title of the document should be.
- Availability and location of other ambulance services in the area.

Consensus was reached by Benak, Hubbell, Lawson, and Popp that the document title should be "Do Whitewater Township Residents Want Continued Ambulance Service?"

Goss stated she is not part of the consensus on the title.

Moving through the document, starting with paragraph 1) and continuing to renumbered paragraph 10), lengthy discussion resulted in numerous revisions.

Due to the arrival of attendees for the 7:00 p.m. Millbrook meeting, Goss suggested that the Board meeting be recessed and reconvened in the Treasurer's office, accommodating attendance by the lone member of the public who is present and leaving the door open for others.

(At about 6:32 p.m., meeting recessed.)

(At about 6:35 p.m., meeting reconvened in the Treasurer's office with all Board members present. Audience member Vaughn Harshfield left the building during the break and did not return.)

Review and discussion of renumbered paragraph 10) resumed.

(At about 6:59 p.m., Jim Galligan arrived.)

Numerous revisions were made to renumbered paragraph 10). The remainder of the document was reviewed and revised as well.

Benak suggested the actual ballot language be added to the document, as well as putting the original headings back in.

Discussion followed.

Consensus reached that the ballot language will be added to the document underneath the title.

Goss will make the changes to the document.

Discussion followed as to the details of copying and assembling the document, as well as whether to use the property owner list or registered voter list to generate mailing labels.

Popp stated he would be interested to see what Jim Sundberg can offer as far as a computerized solution to the label issue.

Consensus was reached to print mailing labels from the property owner list and copy/assemble the final document in house.

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to approve the ambulance fact sheet as reviewed and modified 10/06/2014.

Goss stated her continuing objection to the heading of the document. Goss would prefer the title to be “Whitewater Township Ambulance Millage Proposal Fact Sheet.”

On voice vote, Benak, Hubbell, Lawson, and Popp voted aye; Goss voted no. Motion carried.

Tabled Items

None

Board Comments/Discussion

Goss stated that this coming Saturday there is a Truax Lake Association meeting in the township hall. Goss noted she will be staying tonight until the conclusion of the Millbrook meeting. She asked for a volunteer to be the township official present for the 1-2 hour Truax Lake Association meeting on Saturday.

Discussion followed regarding use of the building by outside groups, a possible rotation of the duty, and payment for attendance.

Goss will call Luann Snider to see if she is available on Saturday.

Announcements

The next Township Board meeting is 10/14/2014, subject to change. Popp stated there may be another special meeting regarding the tribal matter, although there has been no response to his email to Chuck Stewart suggesting possible dates and some of those dates are now unavailable. Popp will have Chuck Stewart provide new dates.

Public Comment

Jim Galligan, Ayers Road, cautioned that we could not state the words “your support of this ambulance millage is strongly recommended.” Also, what is the requirement for somebody being here for (outside group) meetings; schools used to have the custodian there; could another township employee do it?

Brief discussion followed.

Benak will ask MacLean if she is available.

Adjournment

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to adjourn. On voice vote, all those present voted in favor; none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk