

**Whitewater Township Board  
Minutes of Regular Meeting held May 26, 2015**

**Call to Order**

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: Tim Shaffer

**Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda**

Goss stated she would like to bring a couple items to the Board's attention concerning the park, under Board Comments.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Benak inquired whether, if there is a vote on road repairs, Popp would need to declare a conflict of interest because he lives off Cook Road.

Popp stated it could be considered a conflict of interest, but the proposals are just for discussion at this point.

**Public Comment**

None

**Correspondence**

None

**Public Hearing**

None

**Reports/Presentations**

None

**Unfinished Business****Review PRAC Master Plan/Recreation Plan**

Popp noted we are awaiting an updated draft.

Goss stated that just today an update was received and suggested it be put on the June 9 agenda.

**Review Ordinance 22 Pension Plan**

Popp stated we are awaiting an attorney response.

**Review Whitewater Township Planning & Zoning Fees**

Popp stated there is no new information on agricultural exemption from fees.

### **New Business**

#### **Paul Olson – Municipal Underwriters of Michigan**

Goss stated she is surprised Olson is not here as he called about six weeks ago asking to be on this agenda.

#### **Bids to Repair Lights and Move Osprey Nest at Hi Pray Park**

Popp stated the Board previously gave approval to spend money on repairs at Hi Pray Park and the lights were part of that. The quote came in higher than anticipated at \$1800.

Regarding the osprey nest, Benak stated if they have settled in and have eggs in the nest, we cannot touch it.

Brief discussion followed.

Popp stated that SKF Electrical is going to disable the top row of lights and turn out the lights on the bottom row that are directly below the nest, so that the ballfield lights can be used.

Benak noted that the osprey is a federally protected bird.

Popp stated maybe we should wait until fall, or put the pole up and see if the bird moves the nest. Popp prefers to wait until fall to move the nest.

Discussion followed.

Consensus was reached to have all the electrical repairs done and set the pole for a new platform.

#### **Review Road Repair Work Estimates from Grand Traverse County Road Commission**

Popp stated he believes we are getting the run-around from the Grand Traverse County Road Commission again. He submitted a list of roads to them in October.

Benak noted there is a new bill in the House that would allow townships to get their own bids for road work.

Popp stated the Road Commission set aside \$300,000 for large partnership projects in 2015. The road list he submitted was to be included or somehow voted upon by the Road Commission for inclusion in the 2015 construction season. The Road Commission has committed \$250,000 to Acme Township and \$50,000 to Garfield Township. Whitewater Township was not selected.

Discussion followed regarding the GTCRC estimates for Broomhead, Cook, Crisp, and Skegemog Point roads, as well as discussion of dead limbs and putting up guardrail.

Consensus was reached that the Road Commission's proposals are not acceptable; the Board is interested in narrower roadways, keeping the trees, and refurbishing roads rather than rebuilding.

Regarding removal of dead limbs, Popp has an estimate from SKF Electrical and will get an additional bid from Trees Inc. Tree Top Mike does not have the required \$2,000,000 of liability insurance and does not want to work in the roadway.

Hubbell suggested the cost could be bid two different ways, hourly and with marking of trees.

Popp will work on this process and noted that this is likely how the money set aside to make the roads safer will be spent this year.

### **Review Draft RFP for Ambulance Services**

The Board began its review of the draft RFP document. Lengthy discussion took place resulting in the following changes:

- The addition to Exhibit B of a request to provide profit and loss statements for the last 5 years.
- Under Deliverables, the wording of No. 5 will be changed to: Explain in detail the process you will use to measure the quality of service delivered to Whitewater Township.
- Under Deliverables, the wording regarding evidence of accreditation in No. 8 will be moved to Exhibit B.
- Under Deliverables, the wording in No. 7 will be changed to, “Response time, defined as the time from dispatch to on scene, which meets the following performance standards:.” Under 7A, “tri-annual” will be changed to “quarterly.” Reporting dates will be changed from “January, May, and September” to “April, July, October, and January.” “Fifty (50)” will be changed to “thirty (30)” in both places it appears.
- Under Proposal Outline, remove the A/B/C listing and language.

Due to the late hour, a special meeting of the Township Board will be held on Monday, June 1, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. to complete review of the draft RFP.

### **Tabled Items**

#### **Review Administrative Policy Section 5 (tabled 10/14/2014)**

This agenda item will remain tabled.

#### **Review Graded Wage Scale (tabled 04/14/2015)**

This agenda item will remain tabled.

### **Board Comments/Discussion**

Goss stated there is equipment at the park which is not being used and is taking up space. It consists of a wood splitter, two chain saws, an old blower, a large weed whip that does not run. Do we want to continue to store it, or can these items be disposed of and the proceeds be used on something else for the park?

Various options were discussed. No consensus was reached.

Goss also informed the Board that the dump mechanism does not work on the park truck any longer and Roger Stites has looked at it and indicated it is not worth fixing.

Goss next notified the Board that a lot of sand at the beach has washed away and the bank stabilization material is exposed. She will find out if a DEQ permit is needed and bring back more information.

Lawson noted that House Bill 4197, referred to earlier by Benak, will lower the population requirement for townships to be able to take on their own contracts for roads from 40,000 to 15,000. It still would not apply to Whitewater Township.

Popp stated he has an update on Rural Fire. Rural Fire pays their on-call people minimum wage to sit at home. Long Lake and Green Lake townships have gotten their own legal opinion and disagree with Rural. There was a special meeting held at 2 p.m. Popp stated he and a couple other townships could not attend. He stated Long Lake is upset.

Brief discussion followed. Popp stated Whitewater Township firefighters are not being paid minimum wage; they are considered 100% volunteer.

### **Announcements**

The next Township Board meeting is June 1, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

**Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road**, stated you probably need to talk to your lawyer to find out what you can do. The state and county have to cover certain road maintenance. Since they are not providing the service, maybe you can deduct a certain amount from payments to the Road Commission.

Regarding Crisp Road, that was a seasonal road prior to construction of Scofield Trail. Crisp Road east of Moore Road, for the first 500 to 1,000 feet, is very narrow. If it is widened, people will be upset.

Regarding ambulance accreditation, all personnel operating in the Grand Traverse region are state tested and have national certification. This testing was done by Medical Control.

Regarding minimum response time of 12 to 14 minutes, most of the time it will be no problem. For some roads and down toward Island Lake, in a snowstorm, it will take more time.

Regarding fee structure, are you talking about fees they are charging, money toward paying employees, billing system? These will all have to be figured out.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Lawson, seconded by Popp, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss  
Whitewater Township Clerk