

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held June 23, 2015**

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: 4

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

No adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

Correspondence**E-mail 06/15/2015 Matt Holtcamp re: Ambulance Facility**

No discussion.

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations

None

Unfinished Business**Review PRAC Recreation Plan – Goals Document dated 06/01/2015**

An updated list of goals (as of 06/01/2015) was submitted by Tom Cosgrove. Popp commented that the second and last bullet points are very similar and perhaps should be combined. Goss noted there are a couple typos, questioned what “support facilities” refers to, and noted that perhaps the order of the bullet points could be changed to flow better. Goss also questioned what “mechanisms” means in the second to last bullet point.

Popp asked whether the goals are a consensus of the commission, or is it one person’s idea.

No other comments were made regarding the Goals document.

Review Ordinance 22 Pension Plan

Popp stated he has just heard back from Helen Mills; this will probably be on the next agenda.

Review Whitewater Township Planning and Zoning Fees

Popp noted that he and Josh Vey (Zoning Administrator) have not had an opportunity to meet on this topic; there is no new information.

New Business

Consumers Energy Street Lights Upgrade

Popp stated he is looking for a motion to authorize the supervisor to sign the agreement for upgrade of Consumers Energy street lights in the township.

Goss noted the monthly bill has dropped from approximately \$116 to \$82.

Brief discussion followed.

Motion by Benak, seconded by Goss, to authorize the supervisor to sign the Consumers Energy contract. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.**

Proposed Disc Golf Course

Todd Lewis (not present) has submitted a written proposal to install a disc golf course at Whitewater Township Park.

Lawson noted he has played disc golf and was not thrilled with it. He could go either way on it; if we could see a very good benefit for it to be at the park, he would be for it.

Benak stated she sees the benefit but would like a lot more information. It might be something for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee to do some investigation on. Benak would like to know how other townships operate their disc golf courses, i.e., Fife Lake, Kalkaska, Hickory Hills, and NMC. She stated she has specific questions for Mr. Lewis, if it ever gets to that point, regarding liability insurance, alcohol, who would be assigned to deal with this organization, cost, etc.

Goss provided very brief details of the presentation given at the PRAC meeting. Goss noted the PRAC members posed a lot of good questions to Mr. Lewis, but the committee wants to find out whether the Board is interested in such a project. Goss also stated that, on heavy boating days, the boat launch parking lot would not be able to provide parking for disc golfers. A parking lot would need to be located further west of the boat launch/campground entrance.

Hubbell agreed with Benak that the PRAC should investigate it.

Popp stated that infrastructure, parking, maintenance of fairways, sandy soils would be issues. Also, the paraphernalia that could be associated with the course does not fit with the camping park. He is concerned about costs for mowing. There would be very little or no revenue stream since the public plays for free or a very low fee. Would asking PRAC to focus on this detract from other parks that need our attention first? He stated it is a great idea; we are just not ready for it.

Goss also noted that inspections of all grant-assisted parks in the township are due by September 1st. There are parks in the township that need things done.

Popp's thought is that we say thank you; come back and talk to us in a year and see if we are in a different spot, and let's let PRAC focus on the parks we already have.

Hubbell stated he agrees.

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to deny consideration of the disc golf course proposal at this time. Benak suggested we send Mr. Lewis a letter stating it is not in our plans at this time. **On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.**

Capital Expenditure Request – Printer for Treasurer Office

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Popp, to purchase the HP P3015dn printer from Amazon.

Benak stated it is a new printer.

Discussion followed regarding extended warranty and networking. Benak will check with Netlink.

Popp suggested the motion be allowed to die and authorize Benak to spend up to X amount of dollars on a printer. He would prefer Netlink set up the new printer.

Roll call vote: Goss, no; Hubbell, no; Lawson, no; Popp, no; Benak, no. Motion failed.

Motion by Popp, seconded by Goss, to authorize the Treasurer to spend up to \$700 on a networkable printer, including installation. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes. Motion carried.**

Rural Fire Discussion

Popp prepared a memo advising the Board of the Notices of Intent to Withdraw submitted by Long Lake and Green Lake Townships. He stated he spoke with Chief Weber on Monday, who said all of this is a surprise to him. Popp relayed some of the other township concerns.

Discussion followed.

Popp stated we should start attending Rural Fire meetings as a board; if not everyone can attend, then at least two members should go.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, asked if the supervisors of Fife Lake, Kingsley, Whitewater, and Paradise have talked with each other, and would that be a good preliminary point to start with. Also, if as of the first of the year there is a breakup, Shaffer believes the equipment Whitewater has would stay in the station and the title would revert to Whitewater Township.

Popp inquired when the Board thinks it is appropriate for Popp to have back channel conversation, including with Captain Arbenowske.

Discussion followed.

Kim Halstead, 7923 Cook Road, noted that when Whitewater Township wanted to pull out, Rural Fire was going to pull all our equipment. If Long Lake and Green Lake pull out, will Rural pull their equipment, and is it newer than any of the equipment in other townships still in Rural? Would that be distributed to us and the older stuff go on the auction block?

Popp noted that he viewed Green Lake's last minute submittal as a power play in an attempt to dissolve Rural Fire so they could divvy up the assets. He stated he has no information that Long Lake and Green Lake have spoken and come up with this plan, but that is the difference between when Whitewater wanted to leave and today. Whitewater was the only one leaving and they would have forfeited everything.

Discussion followed.

Goss stated she will start distributing the Rural Fire meeting notices to all Board members.

Popp inquired if it was the consensus of the Board to try and hang on to smaller tidbits of Rural.

Benak, Goss, and Hubbell agreed it is too early to make a decision.

Popp will reach out to other member townships, leaving Captain Arbenowske out of the discussion.

Benak stated she is not in favor of Long Lake and Green Lake pulling out and not having to pay for their equipment.

Popp inquired of the Board: If it comes to a vote to dissolve, should Popp vote yes or no.

Benak stated we need to look at the financials.

Goss stated none of the township supervisors should be deciding whether to vote yes or no on dissolution without clear direction from their own board, and we do not have enough information to give Popp direction on that.

Discussion followed.

Hubbell suggested Popp should abstain on a dissolution vote.

Proposal for Road Grading/Drainage Work at Campground

Goss prepared a memo detailing her efforts to obtain quotes for road work in the campground.

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to accept the proposal from Steuer Excavating dated 06/12/2015 for road repairs in the campground in the amount of \$2,200.

Popp stated he is going to vote no. He acknowledged the roads need repair but is concerned that the proposal is not long term enough. The drains need to be done first and then Afton stone laid on top.

Discussion followed.

Roll call vote: Lawson, no; Popp, no; Benak, no; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes. Motion failed.

Discussion followed concerning the price of Afton stone. Popp stated we can pick a number to add to it and give Goss the ultimate decision of whether to use the 9A or the Afton.

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to spend up to \$3,500 for campground road repairs using Afton stone instead of 9A. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote: Popp, no; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes. Motion carried.

Tabled Items

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

Not addressed.

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

Not addressed.

Board Comments/Discussion

Benak stated that Cleanup Day went really well; 177 tires were collected, plus 165 compacted yards of material. Erickson Salvage took away four trailers. This is the first time since she has been involved that there was never a lull. One lady brought 47 tires in one trip and then came back with more.

Vaughn Harshfield, 4404 N. Broomhead Road, stated a porta-potty is needed at Cleanup Day, or access to the school. He thinks WESA set a record on donations. They ran out of coffee and donuts. It was a phenomenal day for the township.

Goss mentioned that the park (campground) is doing well. Occupancy and revenue for the first three weeks of June 2015 is up by 41% over the same period in 2014, amounting to a \$2,000 increase. New park brochures with updated rates were recently printed. John Keuvelaar, a 50-year patron of the park, designed the brochure. Some new fire pit rings have been installed. Also, Brian Cobb has been hired at the park; he is very handy at fixing a wide variety of things. There are four returning rangers from last year, Dan, Peggy, Haley, and Margo.

Brief discussion followed concerning mowing, pruning, and weeding being done at township facilities. It will be mentioned in the newsletter.

Announcement

The next Township Board meeting is July 14.

Goss also noted that Frederic Township Fire Department and Mobile Medical Response attended the mandatory ambulance walk-through. They spent about 40 minutes looking through the building and the two ambulances. Proposals are due next Monday by noon.

Public Comment

Kim Halstead, 7923 Cook Road, asked how much it would cost to dig the ditch out where it is filled in. Tim Moran always wanted to dig trenches on the side so the water did not run down the road. It might be worth thinking about.

Melissa Melton, 5044 Vinton Road, apologized for arriving late and asked if there were any questions pertaining to the disc golf course.

Popp stated that the Board voted to send along their condolences, believing there are more pressing projects at existing parks, but left it open to look at it again next year.

Melton noted it would take time to develop such a facility.

Adjournment

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to adjourn. On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk