

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held January 26, 2016**

Call to Order

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan.

Roll Call of Board Members

Board members present: Benak, Goss, Lawson, Popp

Board members absent: Hubbell

Others present: Fire Captain Tim Arbenowske, Tim Shaffer, David Tilley

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

There were no adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

Tim Arbenowske, 6408 Elk View Drive, captain of the fire station at 8380 Old M-72, stated he does not see how the station drawing that is proposed to fit in MMR is going to benefit the community. It is only going to benefit the MMR contract. He stated he only sees three bays; we have four. He said he probably will not be around when the board gets to his questions because he has to go to work. He stated he had to dig out the Expedition the other day because there is nowhere to park. MMR people park in front of the doors. If you start adding on, there is nowhere to park, even in the back, even in the summertime. In the emergency service business, seconds count, not minutes. He also stated that 10-12 years ago, previous boards spent \$12,000 and the architect, Jack Knol, said there is no room to build. You cannot build in the back because MDOT will not sell that land. He stated those records have to be around here somewhere.

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, said he is going to go along with the same thing Tim mentioned. The past records have shown that the township board over the last 10 years has spent over \$175,000 on a fire station, redoing it, and how much are we going to be putting into the new plan.

Correspondence

None

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations

None

Unfinished Business**Review Ordinance 22 Pension Plan**

This agenda item was not discussed.

Review Whitewater Township Planning & Zoning Fees

This agenda item was not discussed.

Review Ambulance Living Quarters Information

Popp stated he would like to have this be an open question/answer session with those present.

The questions submitted by Arbenowske via e-mail were responded to and discussed.

Q1 – “It looks like there are only three bays in the front section?”

Popp stated the apparatus bay was not a direction from the board to the person who is making these pictures. We wanted to focus on the administration area. The apparatus floor really was just a representative line of the overall size of it. Once we decided that we liked something on the administrative side, then those ideas would be tightened up and we would bring the apparatus floor into it, and this is shown on the newest drawing.

Q2 – “The back addition (Bay) it will be difficult to drive in and out of this bay by the cemetery especially in the winter?”

Popp replied that we are not sure the back bay is actually going to happen. We would like to have some stakes put in the ground and find out the turning radius of equipment that might go back there. That will require input from the fire department. There are a couple options to door locations that might help with making that corner.

Audience member David Tilley stated he is on the fire department and has 20+ years of construction experience. If you put the doors on the south side of the building, the grade would have to come up so high to get vehicles in and out of those doors, three foot minimum, which is a lot of dirt because you would have to expand the parking lot all the way out.

Q3 – “The bathrooms only have one stall (the men’s has no urinal). If someone is using the stall, others can't pee?”

Popp stated the need to redirect the use of space is paramount. In the event of extreme need, the second bathroom could be used.

Arbenowske stated females do not like guys going in their bathroom. They should both be unisex bathrooms.

Q4 – “There is no plan on what vehicles are to be inside (all equipment needs to be indoors). The squirrels are nesting in the engine compartments of the Squad and old Ambulance?”

Popp stated he hopes, if there is an issue with the animals, that we can get some help to rid them. He asked if the vehicles are being started on a regular basis.

Arbenowske stated as often as they can. He stated there is no sound deadening underneath the hood of the Expedition due to squirrels. He has seen them jump out underneath 3A2 also.

Brief discussion followed concerning where the Expedition has previously been stored.

Q5 – “If they have plans for parking, adding to the back of the station eliminates any additional parking?”

Popp stated the new plan gives us an idea of where we see the parking happening. The trees are going to be eliminated from that site. Popp sees employee parking going off to the south side of the building, leaving the two spaces up front for fire department personnel.

Q6 – “There isn't any room for parking now (snow plowing and 2 MMR employees take up spaces)?”

Popp noted this is the same issue as Q5.

Q7 – “There is no room for future expansion (this appears to be nothing but a Band-Aid)?”

Popp stated this is a short-term solution that will be useful even after the emergency services crew is finished with the building. We would ultimately prefer to have a multijurisdictional building service Whitewater, the Grand Traverse Band, and Acme. That building has been talked about and discussed for as long as the need for additional space at the fire station has been identified. As was brought up, we have spent more than \$100,000 on a building and we have nothing to show for it. Popp stated we still want to move that way (toward a new fire station) and would like it to be multijurisdictional.

Arbenowske stated he attended a board meeting a year ago in December. The board had talked about a storage facility for off-season equipment. Hubbell and Benak were supposed to get information. At the next board meeting, Popp shot it down. Arbenowske stated he decided we are not going anywhere; we are not going to get anything done with this board; we have not gotten anything done with past boards. That frustrates anybody that is involved with this. We are all volunteers. We do not have to do this. The cooperation that we see is real slim. Arbenowske stated he will not even get into shenanigans. He stated he tries to be as professional as he can; he has a temper; he does things the way they should be done. At the same time, there is very little cooperation.

Discussion followed concerning a building that was built in Kingsley and the concept of a separate address or one address.

Audience member Tim Shaffer stated there was a perk test and a bunch of tests on another chunk of property the township owns that they were looking at possibly putting a station on. He stated he remembers them saying there was a need for doing some leveling, some grading, but it was a

big enough piece of property that it could be a multiple service facility. He stated he also can see that there was a probability of putting gas and water to it quite easily.

Q8 - "What is the cost (would it be cheaper to start new)."

Popp states he has done a lot of ground work for the property on the corner of Cram and Elk Lake. Conservative estimates just for site work is \$300,000. Site work in this case would include driveway approach, elevation changes, and the underground oil separator system that was designed into the building to trap anything from the floor drains. The property looks relatively flat, but if you walk it, you will note that it does drop off relatively quick, and there is 4 or 5 feet of fill over a 2-acre piece. Popp stated just moving the dirt was over \$125,000 on that site. That is kind of beyond where we want to be with this project as far as a dollar amount.

Popp stated, to answer Question 8, we do not have a price on this yet. We are in the very beginning stages. On Hubbell and Benak's separate address, we were looking in the neighborhood of \$100,000. Popp stated that is where he hopes we can get this in at, right around \$100,000.

Discussion followed on the cost of the septic and a drain.

Q9 - "Is the storage area upstairs gone?"

Popp stated no, what is up there stays the same, unless we go with the 01/25/2016 drawing of the south and east elevation where you can see a potential hip roof option. He stated that would add to the second floor mezzanine storage area but thinks that is going to drive the cost beyond our target of \$100,000.

Q10 - "The Fire desk and EMS Desk should be separate offices (I can't work at the station now because the new meeting room will be the Ambulance day room like it is now)?"

Popp replied that we are going to have to share the area. This is not a final solution. We are looking to get something better than what we have.

Arbenowske stated that Chief Weber told him he can go out and get some dividers. He stated he is not there 24/7. He stated when he walks in the office and people are in there sleeping, it is not a work area for him.

Further points made by Arbenowske include:

- He will get dividers so they can do fire reports and their paperwork.
- He does not blame the people there; it is their living space.
- They are going to make a little spot in the back corner behind the tanker (for Fire).
- In response to Goss's statement that for 15 months (before MMR) two people were in the building 24/7, Arbenowske replied "some of them were our former members."
- MMR rents a bay for the ambulance. You can't even walk by the ambulance. They lean stuff all over the place. They take stuff out of the office. He has found tools everywhere. He has talked to them, but he does not know all of them. When Whitewater Township

Ambulance members were there, they seemed to listen a little bit better. They respected his area. MMR's people are not respecting his space as much.

- He stated if he was able to cordon off a space for a desk and have privacy for any members to do paperwork and they (MMR) do not go in there, that is not a problem.

Popp stated there are ideas here that could rectify that.

Arbenowske noted that he has to leave.

Benak requested to skip to question 13.

Q13 – “If they were interested in what we need maybe they could come to the station on a Monday night and talk to us as a group?”

Popp replied yes, we would have to notice it because we need to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. All of Rural Fire's people are welcome to contact us anytime. It does not have to be in a meeting situation. One has been here already giving him ideas.

There was discussion of what would be required to have a board meeting at the fire station.

Arbenowske stated it might not be a bad idea to show everybody what we have to deal with. We are there every Monday night.

Popp stated he will email Chief Weber and find out the open Mondays.

(At 7:40 p.m., Arbenowske exited the building.)

Benak commented on Arbenowske's question 14, stating she is sorry that it is his opinion that it is only for MMR. When we went to 24/7 ambulance service, there was a need for someplace for them to sleep. It was before MMR came on board. The rocker recliners and the cots were meant to be very temporary situations. If you look at the plan, there are things here for the fire department, upgrading the kitchen, a workout room, upgrading the bathrooms, extra storage.

Lawson noted it is a stopgap.

Popp stated his response to 14 is, yes, most of this renovation is for the ambulance. The kitchen and bathrooms are shared. But the ambulance is running 4 times the number of calls and they are there 24/7. Popp stated he does not feel that anything that we are spending money on or might be spending money on in this building is going to go to waste, even after the multijurisdictional building gets built and they move on.

Goss suggested the name of the agenda item be changed to Renovation Plans for 8380 Old M-72. It is not just about ambulance living quarters.

Benak said that Arbenowske brought up the disrespecting of their space and the MMR crew leaving stuff about. She stated that is something that needs to be brought to our attention so we can address it with MMR to take care of it.

Some further discussion ensued.

Update on Junk Complaint

Popp stated it was a consensus of the board that we keep the junk complaint active on the second agenda of the month. Popp has not received an update yet from Vey.

Continue Discussion of Videotaping Township Meetings

Board members discussed the possible purchase of videotape equipment and various features of a camera.

There was agreement that we inquire about borrowing a camera, ask other townships what they would do different in their first camera, and keep this item on the board's agenda.

Review Whitewater Township Draft Recreation Plan 2016-2020

The Draft Recreation Plan was discussed. It was agreed that the following changes should be made (underlined words signify the changes):

- Page 3, 1st paragraph, 3rd line down, change text to read “. . . the unspoiled rural characteristics of township parks, including their forests, wetlands, water bodies, panoramic views, ridge lines”
- Page 7, under Impact Summary, change text to read “protecting and preserving the rural character of our parks and their natural resources is an integral part of the recreational planning process.”
- Page 14, first paragraph, 1st line, change text to read “northwest corner of T28N, R9W, sections 8 and 17, in Whitewater Township.” (Appendix 13 does not need to be changed to add town and range.)
- Page 17, paragraph entitled Barrier-Free Compliance, remove the words “renovation projects” within the parentheses.
- Page 18, second paragraph entitled Capital Improvement Schedule, remove the first two sentences. Change remaining text to read, “Based on public input and the management plans, the following improvement schedule was generated in order of priority as of September 2013, including estimated cost. Some work is in process or has been completed.”
- Appendix #5, Major Watersheds, names two watersheds. Yet, on Page 6, it says the township has five watersheds. Question for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee: What are the five watersheds, and why are they not all shown on Appendix 5? Make Appendix #5 and Page 6 consistent with each other.

Consensus was reached that the PRAC should make the above changes to the plan, but since they are minor changes, the revised document will not be re-posted to the website. Public comment will be reviewed by the PRAC and the board in order to come up with the final document. A public hearing will be held before the board.

Update on Rural Fire

Popp stated the last meeting was a long meeting but not many members were there. Green Lake and Union Township were absent. Green Lake wants Rural to pursue Act 57 as a criteria for staying a viable Rural member. Weber's contract is up in March. They are supposed to entertain job descriptions in February. Weber was supposed to recertify with ISO (Insurance Services Organization) in October. Currently, Whitewater is rated 7-10. Weber could not update ISO until he knew whether Green Lake and Long Lake were leaving.

Brief discussion followed.

New Business

Resolution #16-02 – Restatement of Whitewater Township 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan Documents

Goss stated she noted some inconsistencies between Ordinance 22 and the Adoption Agreement plan.

Discussion followed.

Goss will contact Amber Howe and ask her for an updated document.

There was consensus that even though the Adoption Agreement will have a couple modifications, the resolution can be acted upon.

Motion by Goss, seconded by Lawson, to adopt Resolution #16-02 – Restatement of Whitewater Township 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan Documents, as revised. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, absent; Lawson, yes; Popp, no. Motion carried.**

Whitewater Township Park – Set 2016 Camping Dates and Rates

Goss noted that the board increased camping rates in 2015 by \$1 per night and stated she is not recommending any increase for 2016. The proposed dates for opening, closing, and free camping weekend were reviewed.

Motion by Popp, seconded by Lawson, to establish May 6, 2016, as the opening date for the camping season at Whitewater Township Park; additionally, September 30 shall be the closing date; and to designate the weekend of May 6th through May 8th as free camping weekend, with a check-in time of 3 pm on May 6th and checkout at 12 noon on May 8th. There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed, Hubbell absent. Motion carried.**

Motion by Popp, seconded by Goss, to establish the following rates at Whitewater Township Park for the 2016 camping season: Peak season camping \$28 per night, off peak season camping \$23 per night, seasonal camping (67 nights beginning the Thursday before July 4th weekend and ending with checkout on Labor Day) shall be \$1,541, and to create a nonrefundable reservation fee of \$8 per reservation. Popp noted these are the same rates as

last year. There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed, Hubbell absent. Motion carried.**

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.

Rural Fire Station Lease (tabled 08/11/2015)

This agenda item will remain tabled.

Board Comments/Discussion

None

Announcements

Next board meeting will be February 9 at 7:00 p.m. Budget work sessions are scheduled for February 15 and 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion by Goss, seconded by Lawson, to adjourn. There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed, Hubbell absent. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk