

**Whitewater Township Board  
Minutes of Regular Meeting held February 23, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:08 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: 5

**Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda**

Goss asked that authorization to sign the DNR checklist be added to the agenda. A memo with a proposed motion was prepared.

Added as New Business #5.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**Public Comment**

Vaughn Harshfield, 4404 N. Broomhead Road, stated he means no malice, but he is looking for information. Harshfield then read from a 1-page letter to the Whitewater Township Board authored by him. He presented each board member with a copy of the letter. (See attachment.)

With the arrival of Dan Rudy from Direct Designs, Popp inquired if there is consensus to move the review of emergency services building renovation in front of Correspondence and the Public Hearing.

Hubbell stated yes.

Goss stated she is opposed because the public hearing will not take long and two people from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee are here specifically for that hearing. Review of the building renovations will take much longer.

Benak stated she is good with having the public hearing first.

**Correspondence**

None

**Public Hearing: Whitewater Township Draft Recreation Plan 2016-2020**

Popp opened the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. on the Whitewater Township Draft Recreation Plan 2016-2020 and invited those wishing to speak to sign the public hearing sign-in sheet.

Popp announced that legal notice of this public hearing was published in the Traverse City Record-Eagle on Sunday, February 14, 2016.

Written comments were received and were read aloud as follows:

- Rick Brown (AICP, CBSP, East Bay Township), comment received 01/27/2016: Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft of Whitewater Township's 2016-2020 Recreation Plan. The only item noticed was the North Country National Scenic Trail does not appear to be included in the recreational inventory, though it is depicted on the map in Appendix #9.
- Vaughn Harshfield (township resident), comment received 02/04/2016: My congratulations to all PRAC members for producing a usable Whitewater Township Recreation Plan. The Plan format is logical and effective to inform our citizens of the abundant recreational opportunities we enjoy in our Township. Your recommended improvements and/or maintenance projects were easy to understand and the estimated costs enable the Board to prioritize your visions for the future. The maps bring your Plan together and they are easy to print. I realize that you all are volunteers, but you must keep your efforts going. Keep the Plan up to date, identify new projects, and maintain our current assets. Thank you all for your service to our Township.
- Steve Young (Vice President Intermediate Lake Association), comment received 01/25/2016: I am interested in the work Whitewater Township is doing on Parks & Rec. Additionally, I hope you have included Deana Jerdee from Paddle Antrim in your updates. I know she'd be grateful for any info, and they would be a great partner in developing a P&R Plan, especially as concerns access to Antrim County and Township lakes and streams.
- Glory Wiltjer (township resident), comment received 01/25/2016: Thanks Della. Will check it out tomorrow. Glad we get an input.
- Tina Norris Fields, comment received 01/28/2016: Thank you for the notice. As the secretary of the planning commission for Clearwater Township, I truly appreciate it. I will include this notice in the packet for our meeting next week. Thanks again.

Popp inquired if anyone is present who would like to speak about the park and recreation plan.

There were no responses.

Popp stated the public hearing is closed at 7:23 p.m.

#### **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 Emergency Services Building Renovations**

Popp stated that Dan Rudy is present with some questions or comments he had about the board's last discussion, i.e., with all the mechanicals (except the drain piping) above the ceiling, he questioned the expense of a crawl space under the new bedrooms; where should the steps down begin to the unexcavated portion of the renovation; and is the workout room going to be built now or is it future construction.

Popp also stated he has made contact with MDOT, Ron Adams. Popp knows the form required to purchase the ROW. Adams felt they would be more inclined to sell the ROW than offer an easement under it for septic purposes.

Consensus was reached as follows:

- Regarding the crawl space, leave the existing elevation in the southwest corner the same as the existing building. Then dig a footing, come up with a block or poured concrete wall 24 to 36 inches (whatever is needed), shovel dirt inside the square, pat it down and pour a floor. The tin will then come down over the outside of the cement wall. A porch could be added.
- Regarding steps location or a ramp in the corridor outside the workout room, Rudy will consult his engineer. This decision will not stop Rudy from moving forward on the foundation plans.
- The workout room walls will be framed in, including insulation and interior finishes (drywall, paint), except that the north wall of the workout room will be taken out.

Rudy stated he can have the finished plans done quickly, but the engineer will take some time to fit it into his schedule. A month would probably be safe.

### **Update on Junk Complaint**

Zoning Administrator Josh Vey provided an e-mail update. There was consensus that this issue will be revisited at the second meeting in April.

### **Videotaping of Whitewater Township Meetings**

Popp provided a memo regarding video services that he researched. Most of the videotape sessions use multiple point of view cameras. Most of the townships use a videographer who gets paid. Some townships have streaming capability.

Consensus was reached to start simple.

Audience member Vaughn Harshfield asked if any consideration has been given to security.

There was consensus that security is a separate issue to be dealt with at a later date.

Goss noted that two more microphones and a new amplifier also need to be purchased.

**Motion by Goss, seconded by Lawson, to purchase the camera that Industrial Covert Unlimited has suggested at the \$400 price, which includes installation.**

Discussion followed regarding whether other proposals were received.

Goss noted the offer of the \$500 donation from Steve Mangus to purchase videotape equipment still stands.

Mangus confirmed the offer still stands.

Popp questioned whether the donation should be accepted.

It was noted that other donations to the township have been accepted.

**Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.**

### **Review Whitewater Township Draft Recreation Plan 2016-2020**

Popp noted this is the last opportunity for the board to discuss the plan.

Goss explained the following final changes to the plan requested by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee:

- Page 6, substitution of revised language in paragraph 3 identifying all watersheds in the township.
- Appendix #5, substitute the new Whitewater Township Watershed Map from County GIS.
- Page 9, addition of one sentence explaining the role of volunteers as paragraph 2.
- Page 17, addition of No. 14 to the Recreation Inventory, North Country National Scenic Trail, with accompanying descriptive language.
- Table of Contents, add No. 14, North Country National Scenic Trail, under Recreation Opportunities in Whitewater Township

Brief discussion followed concerning requirements of submitting the plan to the DNR.

### **Rural Fire Update**

Popp stated he received some information today, but it is not too important.

### **New Business**

#### **Review/Approval of DNR Post-Completion Self-Certification Reports for Grant-Assisted Sites**

The PCSCR reports were discussed for Petobego Natural Area, Battle Creek Natural Area, and Whitewater Township Park.

Regarding the report for Whitewater Township Park, consensus was reached to answer “yes” to the question “has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation” and to list that a cell tower has been erected on the site.

A further listing of maintenance done at Whitewater Township Park will be included on the Whitewater Township Park Daily Checklist.

**Appoint Clerk Goss as Authorized Signatory for 2016 DNR Self-Certification Reports for Grant-Assisted Sites**

**Motion by Lawson, seconded by Hubbell, to authorize Clerk Goss to sign the DNR Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan Certification Checklist (sic) on behalf of Whitewater Township.** There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.**

**Correction of Whitewater Township Park Campground Opening Date**

Goss stated that she made a mistake in suggesting the opening date of Whitewater Township Park. She formerly suggested the first weekend in May, which is 3 weeks before Memorial Day weekend and is also Mother's Day weekend. The park usually opens 2 weeks before Memorial Day. Goss requested that the opening date be corrected to May 13 and that May 13-14 be designated as Free Camping Weekend.

**Motion by Popp, seconded by Lawson, to change the 2016 opening date of Whitewater Township Park campground from May 6, 2016, to May 13, 2016, and to move the date of the Free Camping Weekend from May 6-8, 2016 to May 13-15, 2016.** There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.**

**Resolution #16-03 Adoption of Whitewater Township Draft Recreation Plan 2016-2020**

**Motion by Popp, seconded by Lawson, to adopt the foregoing resolution 16-03.** There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes. Motion carried.**

**Authorization to Sign DNR Certification Checklist (added)**

**Motion by Popp, seconded by Hubbell, to authorize Clerk Goss as signatory on the DNR Checklist that will accompany the Whitewater Township Recreation Plan 2016-2020.** There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. 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 meeting is tomorrow night (02/24/2016) at 6:00 p.m.

Next Township Board regular meeting is on 03/15/2016 at 7:00 p.m.

The Budget Public Hearing is on 03/17/2016.

**Public Comment**

Tom Cosgrove, 10300 Miami Beach Road, thanked the board for the vote on the park plan. They worked very hard on it for quite a while. What is important now is what is next. Hopefully, the park board and the township board can work together. The park board would like thoughts, ideas, and direction from the township board. The PRAC will definitely come to the board with thoughts and idea. He stated you (township board) have a board that is ready to work for you.

Steve Mangus, 1214 Cerro, noted he was on a building committee for the fire department some years ago. In looking at the blueprint for the first time, he asked if the new area for the drain field has been approved and checked out. He also appreciates the board's willingness to put the camera in. He stated his offer of the \$500 is good.

To answer Mangus's question about the septic field, Popp stated it is not for sure yet; it is part of what we are checking on with MDOT to get some additional space. He stated we do know we need up to 2400 square feet of drain bed, probably 1500.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Hubbell, seconded by Lawson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss  
Whitewater Township Clerk

4404 N Broomhead Rd  
Williamsburg, MI 49690-9636

Phone: 231-267-5095

February 23, 2016

To: The Whitewater Township Board:

Ron Popp, Supervisor

Cheryl Goss, Clerk

Della Benak, Treasurer

Paul Hubbell, Trustee

Lloyd Lawson, Trustee

From: Vaughn W Harshfield

Subject: 2016 Election

Having watched all of the Democratic and Republican Debates, I have made two important observations. First, many politicians don't answer the question they were asked. And second, there is too much political rhetoric on what a great job each candidate is doing. Things should be perfect, but politicians make great promises and they have short memories.

Here are four questions based on political promises made in 2012.

1. "Positions will be posted, applications will be taken, and interviews will be conducted." "Require open competitive bidding for all goods/services contracted by the Township. No exceptions. Period!" Why is the WW Township Park General Manager job assigned to Board Members?
2. "If elected, I will vote to repeal/abolish the 1974 Fire Special Assessment District (FSAD) and replace it with a traditional millage to fund all Whitewater Township emergency services." "Voters should make all millage decisions." When will the FSAD be abolished and millage decisions given to the citizens of Whitewater Township?
3. "If elected, I will vote to bring all board salaries and benefits in line with similar size townships in our area." When is this item being placed on the Board's agenda?
4. "Voters should not be forced to stand outside in inclement weather waiting to cast their ballot." Will Mill Creek School be used as a voting precinct for the 2016 elections?

"Government must listen and act in accordance with the voter's wishes."

I am a voter and it is my wish to have these four items addressed during your current terms.

Sincerely yours,

  
Vaughn W Harshfield