

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held July 12, 2016**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call of Board Members

Board Members present: Benak, Goss, Hubbell, Lawson, Popp

Board Members absent: None

Others present: County Commissioner Carol Crawford, Nick Bernelis of Mobile Medical Response, and 4 others

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

No adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments

County Board of Commissioners Report

Carol Crawford gave the following report:

- Last Wednesday, the BOC voted to put a veterans' millage on the ballot in November. It is for 0.12 mils. It will raise about \$583,000. The county will not have to take money out of the general fund to spend on veterans' services. It also makes veterans' services un-cutttable.
- There was a DEQ loan for \$700,000 to help clean up 124 West Front Street, the big hole next to J&S Hamburg. It would be paid back with tax incremental financing, no money from the county. That motion did not pass. Some of the commissioners wanted more information.
- Several weeks ago, the BOC voted to set aside a little over \$5 million, possibly to give to MERS, the retirement service company. On 7/21, we are going to their board meeting in East Lansing with a proposal for several things we will do in exchange for MERS taking our amortization payments out from 11 to 16 years. It would be \$5.5 million a year instead of anywhere from \$4-9 million. It would be easier to budget, it will take the heat off, and we will be about 80% funded by Year 13. We may or may not give them that big chunk; it depends if they agree to some of the other things that we are willing to do. Several of us are going on 7/21. They have given us 20 minutes to present this to them.

There was brief discussion about the veterans' millage. The millage will fund the county's veterans' affairs department. The county is mandated by the state to provide these services.

County Road Commissioner Report – No one is present from the Road Commission.

Mobile Medical Response Report

Nick Bernelis gave the following report:

- For June, there were 16 total calls. Three calls was the most in any day. He described the nature of the calls.
- Response times were very good. Out of the 16 calls, MMR was on cue 94% of the time. There was one between 16 and 17 minutes. Looking at it, he believes the crew forgot to call on.
- Since January 1, we have had a total of 83 calls. We are running 93% (meeting contractual response time) halfway through the year.

There was brief discussion concerning a previous call that was plus 45 minutes. Reasons for such a lengthy response time were explained.

Popp noted that Jason Torrey, director of Grand Traverse County 911, was at our last meeting. It was interesting to learn that the times are all hand entered. If a dispatcher misses a communication, the time can be off significantly.

Planning Commission Report

Lloyd Lawson gave the following report:

- There was no meeting this month. It was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. Next meeting is in August.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report

Cheryl Goss gave the following report:

- The PRAC met last night. They are talking about where to look for grants. Goss passed along the MLB information and that the township had applied for a 2% tribal grant for the park stairway, dock, and playground equipment.
- Some time was spent on discussing how much money the PRAC has in their budget.
- Goss provided the PRAC with examples of bags for pet waste cleanup and asked them to look into putting up a couple posts at Hi Pray for the bags.
- Goss still needs to follow up on whether the Recreation Plan has been approved by the DNR.
- Chuck Decker provided information about prefab buildings for the pit toilets. He will look into prices.
- Goss is to follow up on preliminary information which Park Ranger Dan Belanger obtained from Arrow Homes concerning prefab buildings.

Popp stated he could reach out to Coldsprings Township for some information about their concrete prefab washrooms.

Consent Calendar

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for June 2016 (none)
2. Clerk's Report for June-July 2016
3. Zoning Administrator's Report for July 2016 (not available)
4. Grand Traverse Rural Fire Chief's Activity Report (not available)
5. Mobile Medical Response June 2016 Activity Reports
6. Treasurer's Bank Accounts and Cash Balance Reports April 2016 and May 2016
7. Approved 10/22/2015 Zoning Board of Appeals Regular Meeting Minutes
8. Approved 03/10/2016 Zoning Board of Appeals Special Meeting Minutes
9. Corrected 05/11/2016 Historical Society Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for June 2016 (not available)
2. Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department DRAFT Minutes of 06/15/2016 (not available)
3. Letter 06/30/2016 from Commission on Aging re: Services and Millage Renewal
4. Letter 07/01/2016 from Charter Communications re: New Channel Addition
5. Notice 07/01/2016 from Public Service Commission re: Resumption of Video Franchise Operations

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 06/14/2016 and 06/28/2016 regular meeting minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank voucher #s 40747 through 40830
2. Approval of First Community Bank Miami Beach voucher # 1178
3. Approval of First Community Bank WMDLS voucher # (none)

Budget Amendments (none)

Revenue & Expenditure Report (none)

Motion by Hubbell, second by Goss, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.**

Unfinished Business

Review Ordinance 22 Pension Plan

This agenda item was not discussed.

Review Whitewater Township Planning & Zoning Fees

Popp stated he has a meeting next Thursday with Zoning Administrator Vey regarding this agenda item.

Review Emergency Services Building Renovations

Popp supplied a memo concerning the railroad property and the health department.

Popp reported that he filled out the land use permit application. Also, during preliminary discussion with the sanitarian, the person questioned where the post office septic system and well are located. It is possible that their system may be on township property. Popp made contact with the owners of the post office. They do not have any additional information about where their utilities or infrastructure may be. They are hiring Gmoser to go out and locate it, mark it, stake it. It may turn out that it is underneath the concrete pad.

Popp stated Option B for drain field location is going to stop us from creating parking if we use that area. Popp really wants to investigate Option A to a point where we can or cannot use it. He would like to verify where the post office equipment is at.

Popp provided an update on the MDOT rail property. MDOT wants the township to provide a legal description for what we want to buy, i.e., a survey, and then hire an appraiser to set a value. Popp has gotten approval to get the appraisal first and would like board approval to spend between \$400 and \$500 on an appraiser to set the value and see if we are even interested in pursuing it further.

Discussion followed.

Consensus was reached that Popp will continue with the appraisal process for the desired MDOT rail property.

Rural Fire Update – Grant Township Notice of Intent to Withdraw 12/31/2016

Official notification was received from Grant Township of their intent to leave Rural Fire. Grant contributes about \$50,000 a year to the department.

Brief discussion followed.

New Business

Grand Traverse County Road Commission – WMDLS Bond Money

Popp states he was recently contacted by Dean Bott and Jim Cook of Grand Traverse County Road Commission. They asked, if there was some additional money, how the board would want the additional money spent. From Benak's input, we knew we were going to have some leftover money from the special assessment district and we talked about refunding that money. That is the expectation Popp gave to the Road Commission in the early phone calls.

The road commission consulted John Axe, a bond consultant, on what they can and cannot do with the bond money. Between what the Road Commission and Whitewater Township has, it is in excess of \$700,000. There is one last bond and interest payment due in the amount of \$295,000.

Popp stated the Road Commission would like to use their leftover money to pay the last bond payment, not bill the township for anything, and then take the leftover approximately \$28,000 and put it into road surface maintenance.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Consensus was reached that the statute is clear; the money must be refunded.

There was brief discussion of an audit of the WMDLS funds.

Benak will talk to MTA about it.

Whitewater Township Park – Additional Park Rangers

Goss provided a memo recommending two additional park rangers.

Motion by Popp, second by Lawson, to approve Chuck and Raejean Loper as additional park rangers. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes. Motion carried.**

Whitewater Township Park – Road Repairs

There was brief discussion concerning lack of other bidders.

Motion by Hubbell, second by Lawson, to approve the proposal from Steuer Excavating. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, no; Benak, yes; Goss, yes. Motion carried.**

Review/Approve BNCA/Lossie Road Nature Trail Hazardous Tree Inventory Bids

There was lengthy discussion of the proposals received, the bid requirements, and the deadline.

Motion by Lawson, second by Benak, to accept the Parshall Tree Service bid for arborist services. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes. Motion carried.**

Tabled Items

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

This agenda item will remain tabled.

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

This agenda item will remain tabled.

Board Comments/Discussion

Benak reported that the 2% grant application was submitted and said it is usually 30 days for a decision.

Announcements

Next meeting is July 26th.

Public Comment

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, stated with the air conditioner running back here, you need to move mics closer to you or speak louder. Also, in regard to roads, his concern is he thought the county and the state were supposed to be maintaining the roads, and if the township or people on

the road want to bring it up to a certain level, they paid the extra, but it was the county and the state's responsibility to maintain them. That was from back in 1954.

Popp responded to Shaffer's comment.

Mary Lou Baggs, 7995 Baggs Road, asked if, on the subject of the park rangers, if we have ever thought of a camp host system. A lot of the people she has met traveling would love to come up here and get out of the Texas or Mississippi heat. They get free camping. Many of them help with parking the RVs, minor fix-it jobs, cleaning bathrooms.

Baggs then asked how often property splits can take place.

Popp responded to Baggs' question.

Adjournment

Motion by Lawson, second by Hubbell, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk