

**Whitewater Township Board  
Minutes of Regular Meeting held August 9, 2016**

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Popp called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, Mobile Medical Response Director of Northern Operations Nick Bernelis, and three others

**Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda**

Goss requested that allowance of sale of burial space be added. Added as New Business #5.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**Public Comment**

Vaughn Harshfield, 4404 N. Broomhead Road, commented that there was an incident in our neighborhood in which an ambulance was called. Wait time was approximately 15 minutes. The two attendants could not pick up the patient. They had to call for help and it was another 15-minute wait. Had it been a heart attack, it could have been a disaster. He stated he wants to make sure the board and MMR is aware of the incident and is doing something to make sure the ambulances are staffed with people large enough and strong enough to pick up the patients and get them in the ambulance.

**Public Hearing**

None

**Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments**

**County Board of Commissioners Report**

Carol Crawford gave the following report:

- Several weeks ago, the Board of Commissioners (BOC) voted against a \$700,000 DEQ loan to clean up a piece of property downtown. They will be reconsidering that next Wednesday. More information and explanations have been given.
- The BOC voted to form a pension board to advise better as to how the pension liability can be paid off.
- Crawford attended a board meeting of MERS to see if they could even out the payments in order to budget better. MERS submitted some questions. Tom Menzel prepared the answers. Based on their questions, it looks like there is a fairly good chance for steady payments.

Brief discussion followed concerning:

- A recent letter from Marsha Smith to Tom Menzel regarding the county contributing money for the dams.
- One of the county's court administrators is leaving. Others may be leaving also due to their dislike of the direction that Tom Menzel has taken things.
- One board member is leaving at the end of the year. A couple of them still have elections in November.

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

### **Mobile Medical Response Report**

Nick Bernelis gave the following report:

- There were 21 responses in July. Peak times are around 1700 and 1800 during the week.
- He described the nature of the calls.
- Response times were good. There were a couple longer calls, which were in Rapid City and Elk Rapids. They were due to distance, mutual aid with Elk Rapids.
- Total calls so far this year is 104 since January 1.

Addressing public comment, Bernelis stated that MMR personnel are all required to lift X amount of pounds and pass a physical agility test. They try to prevent injuries to the crew and to the patients. Sometimes it is better to call the fire department for help.

Discussion followed.

Bernelis provided his business card to Harshfield and stated he will look into it.

### **Planning Commission Report**

Lloyd Lawson gave the following report:

- The PC meeting was last Wednesday. Two members were absent.
- They discussed private roads and driveways and the public acts, talked about pros and cons.
- Link is making a list of questions to send to the attorney.
- They are waiting for the rest of the board to show up before any decisions are made.

### **Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report**

Cheryl Goss gave the following report:

- The committee met last night. Brandon Hubbell chaired the meeting.
- They made a recommendation that the township purchase two pet waste eliminator stations for Hi Pray Park.
- Goss still has not heard anything about Recreation Plan approval. There are some grant opportunities available on the DNR website. The committee would like a copy of the 2% grant application.
- Decker has obtained a lot of information about playground equipment, along with prices. Playground systems are very expensive. The committee is looking at getting some components, i.e., swings, slide, monkey bars.

- Goss explained the budget timeline and process to the committee and urged them to get their facts and figures together so that perhaps money can be found in the next budget for playground equipment.
- Regarding the pit toilets, Decker obtained some information concerning a prefab building. Goss has obtained an estimate from Green Flush and is meeting with an Arrow Homes representative at the park this week for another estimate. Decker will also look into the cost of a block building.
- The stairway is done at the township park. Solar lights have been installed on it by the rangers.

Discussion followed.

Consensus was reached to purchase three pet waste eliminator stations with disposal cans for Hi Pray Park (one for the Little League field, one for the tennis court area, and one for the ball diamond area).

### **Consent Calendar**

#### Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for July 2016
2. Clerk's Report for July-August 2016
3. Zoning Administrator's Report for July 2016 (not available)
4. Mobile Medical Response July 2016 Activity Reports
5. Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department - Agenda, Minutes, Chief's Report
6. Approved 05/09/2016 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
7. Approved 06/01/2016 Planning Commission Minutes
8. Approved 06/08/2016 Historical Society Minutes
9. Approved 06/13/2016 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes

#### Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for June 2016 and 2nd Quarter 2016
2. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Order Modifying and Approving Operation Compliance Monitoring Plan Pursuant to Article 403

#### Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 07/12/2016 regular meeting minutes

#### Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers # 40831 through 40919
2. Approval of First Community Bank Miami Beach vouchers # (none)
3. Approval of First Community Bank WMDLS vouchers # (none)

#### Budget Amendments

#### Revenue & Expenditure Report

**Motion by Hubbell, second by Benak, 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 item is awaiting scheduling.

**Review Whitewater Township Planning & Zoning Fees**

Popp provided a memo and related documents.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding the proposed fee changes, including input from audience member Andrew Jeurink.

The categories of Land Use Permit Commercial and Land Use Permit Miscellaneous will be put on the Planning Commission agenda for their review.

There was tentative agreement on the following:

- All residential land use permits will go to \$90.
- The home occupation permit fee will be removed from the schedule.
- The residential sign permit fee will be removed from the schedule.
- The residential re-inspection fee will go to \$55.
- Agricultural land use permit fees will remain unchanged at zero.
- The ZBA application fee will go to \$300.
- The ZBA special meeting fee will go to \$600.
- The Planning Commission will review the Land Use Permit Commercial and Land Use Permit Miscellaneous fee schedules.

Popp will make the changes and bring the document back to the board.

Benak did suggest that the \$10 temporary residential camping permit fee be eliminated.

Popp noted that Benak's suggestion could be given to the Planning Commission.

**Review Emergency Services Building Renovations**

Popp reported that workmen were out on Friday and Saturday trying to locate the septic system for the post office. They located the tank but could not locate any drain field. We will now proceed with perc tests of township property behind the post office.

Building plans are supposed to be here within two weeks. MDOT rail property is sluggishly moving forward.

Brief discussion followed, including on the topic of whether the engineer will have time to supervise the project. Hubbell suggested that Dan Rudy ask the engineer about it and get an answer by the next meeting.

**Rural Fire Update**

There was brief discussion, mainly regarding termination of firefighters by Chief Weber and lack of the Whitewater Township captain, or someone appointed by him, to attend township board meetings.

**New Business****Surplus Equipment on Ambulance 3A2**

Popp provided a memo on this topic and referred to section 4.6(d) of the Financial Administration policy, Disposal of Fixed Assets. Popp stated he has contacted four or five different fire and/or ambulance departments to see if they are interested in any of it. The inventory list shows what the product costs new today and what the average cost is used. The used prices came from either the manufacturer (refurbished) or eBay.

1997 and 1998 Ford 2WD van-style trucks are being offered at \$12,000 to \$15,000. The township's 4x4 was a post-manufacturer add-on.

Popp noted that at least two of the departments are interested in the whole thing to use as a rescue vehicle.

Consensus was reached to allow time for local departments to make offers on the equipment and/or vehicle and that offers within 15-20% are acceptable.

Regarding the LUCAS chest compression system, the township owns two identical systems, one of which was purchased with a 2% tribal grant and is currently in use by MMR. The second system will be sold.

**Grand Traverse County Planning and Development – Annual Awards Banquet Nominations**

Nomination forms are in the packet and available at the clerk's office.

Benak would like to nominate the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee for completion of the Recreation Plan.

Brief discussion followed. This matter will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting.

**Set Special Meeting Date to Discuss/Award Contract for Hazardous Tree Removal and Mitigation for Battle Creek Natural Area/Lossie Road Nature Trail**

Bids will be opened on the morning of August 16th. Successful bidder must be notified by August 19th.

Consensus was reached to schedule a special board meeting on Tuesday, August 16, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the bids and award the contract.

**Allowance of Sale of Cemetery Lot (added)**

Goss explained the situation, i.e., a township resident who would like to purchase an additional burial space next to one he already owns. There are two spaces in this lot which appear to be

abandoned. Goss inquired whether the board would be willing to allow the sale of one of the abandoned spaces.

Discussion followed regarding publishing notice in the newspaper and contacting other cemeteries to see what the legal issues are.

No action was taken.

**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**

None

**Announcements**

Next meeting is August 16th at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Lawson, second by Hubbell, to adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss  
Whitewater Township Clerk