

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held August 16, 2016**

Call to Order

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 6:00 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: Kyle Riegle, Andrew Jeurink

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

No adjustments were made.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

Discuss Bids/Award Contract for Hazardous Tree Removal and Mitigation for Battle Creek Natural Area/Lossie Road Nature Trail

Seven bids were received. One of the bidders, Kyle Riegle of Avery Excavating, is present.

The Avery Excavating bid was discussed. Popp noted it talked about low impact equipment, returning the trail surface to its natural state, clean look, grass being planted, and concerns about piling the logs (climbing hazard). Seems concerned about spreading the logs out so they can decompose more rapidly.

Goss noted the Avery bid met the insurance and non-Iran-linked business requirements.

The Brooks Tree Service bid was discussed next.

Goss noted the Brooks Tree Service bid did not meet the insurance or non-Iran-linked business requirements.

The Canfield Climbing Clippers bid was discussed next. Popp stated he did not investigate Brooks or Canfield because they were the two highest bidders.

Goss noted the Canfield bid did not meet the insurance or non-Iran-linked business requirements.

The Parshall Tree Service bid was discussed next. Popp stated Corey Parshall did the mapping. This is the lowest bid at \$52,500.

Goss noted the Parshall bid met the insurance and non-Iran-linked business requirements.

The Read Tree Service bid was discussed next. Popp stated he went to their website. It looks like they are a nice small company. They have ties with an arborist.

Goss noted the Read bid met the insurance requirement but not the non-Iran-linked business requirement.

The Stuckman Tree Service bid was discussed next. Popp noted two of their representatives were present during the bid opening, seemed very capable. They thought they would have the project done in about a week and a half. He called back and offered to purchase some of the wood as well.

Brief discussion and further details followed.

Goss noted the Stuckman bid met the insurance and non-Iran-linked business requirements.

The last bid is from Treeworks out of Coopersville. Popp noted their website was quite impressive, appears to be a family-owned company. Their price is \$58,750.

Goss noted the Treeworks bid met the insurance limits requirement but did not name Whitewater Township as an additional insured. They did not meet the non-Iran-linked business requirement.

It was noted that Avery, Parshall, and Stuckman met the bid requirements.

Kyle Riegle provided further details of his proposal as follows:

- Regarding his time frame for the project, he would like to get out there within a week. He would say two weeks (to complete the job). Worst case is four weeks at the most if there were rain days.
- He feels the trail should be left better than what it was, prepped with grass seed and straw, fix everything up so that the township is completely done with it.
- He stated he could coordinate selling the logs. He is not in favor of leaving piles of logs or wood chips. He described that the machine he has is a mulcher and a chipper on the end of an excavator, and it mulches and chips everything right where it is at. It leaves a dense bed of chips which stabilize the soil, promote new growth, and the wood chips decompose at a fast and healthy rate.

Further discussion with Riegle followed, after which the board conferred regarding the cost of the project being covered by a grant, local bidders, Riegle's low impact approach, and the fact that the total cost of the project (if Riegle is chosen) will exceed the Section 19 grant award by several thousand dollars. However, some of this overage may be recouped through sale of the wood.

Motion by Popp, second by Benak, to award the contract for hazardous tree removal and mitigation for Battle Creek Natural Area and Lossie Road Nature Trail to Avery Excavating in the total sum of \$68,959.60. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, absent; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.

Goss stated the 25% advance payment check can be made out tomorrow.

There was brief discussion regarding Parshall managing the project, mulching in some areas, creating a corduroy path in the mucky areas. Popp stated people are interested in selling the trees.

Board Comments/Discussion

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion by Lawson, second by Goss, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk