

**Whitewater Township Board**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting held September 27, 2016**

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Popp called the meeting to order at 7:00 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: 4

**Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda**

No adjustments.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**Public Comment**

Juanita Pierce, 9747 Miami Beach Road, stated she came to follow up on whether the generator has been located, why they are being billed monthly instead of quarterly, and when a determination will be made on the Miami Beach special assessment district.

Popp replied that he has been in touch with John Divozzo of the DPW, who is checking his inventory for the generator. There are two other townships with sewer system SADs that are closing down and we will look at that process at the next meeting. Popp may invite Divozzo in to provide information.

Brief discussion followed.

Barb Eckerdt, 9798 Deal Road, stated she and her husband and son live on Deal Road. The road is now a speedway. They would like to see if they can reduce the speed and change it to no passing.

Ginger Taibl, 8161 Crisp Road, stated she is here to address the hill on Crisp Road between her and her neighbor's house. There is no shoulder and it is a safety issue.

Andrew Jeurink, 8601 Church Street, stated there is a stump in the road at the intersection of Vinton and Church. It is like a pothole with a stump in the center.

Popp stated we will address the County Road Commission to see what can be done about it.

**Correspondence**

None

**Public Hearing**

None

**Reports/Presentations**

None

**Unfinished Business****Review Ordinance 22 Pension Plan**

Popp noted this agenda item is still awaiting scheduling.

**Review Whitewater Township Planning & Zoning Fees**

Popp stated we are waiting on input of the elimination of the residential sign fee.

**Review Emergency Services Building Renovations**

This agenda item is awaiting issuance of the land use permit.

**Rural Fire Update – 09/21/2016 Meeting Update**

Popp pointed out that the pay scale has been elevated to \$18 to try to attract individuals who have both emergency medical training and fire/rescue skills.

The upcoming schedule of individual board member meetings with the strategic consultant was briefly discussed.

**Update on Junk Complaint**

Popp noted there is no report available on the downtown junk complaint.

**Zoning Administrator Job Posting**

Benak stated she had a conversation with Vey on 9/17. When asked about the land use permit for the fire station, he said he knew where it was and would get on it. They discussed Vey possibly staying on with the township, with Benak suggesting that if scheduling was an issue, maybe he could hold evening office hours. Vey stated he might be open to that, perhaps a couple nights a week. Benak stated she has not talked to him since then.

Popp stated he has placed several e-mails to Vey, without response.

Goss added that she has e-mailed Vey with the names and phone numbers of people who are trying to reach the ZA office. She has also sent two e-mails requesting that he contact her, but Vey has not replied.

Hubbell said he knows of another resident who needs assistance with an urgent matter.

Popp stated we should post it. He did reach out to Chris Weinzapfel, the zoning administrator in Milton Township. He is willing to step in on a part-time basis or even apply for the part-time job. Popp also called Acme Township, Scott (sic) Winters, who is very busy, but Supervisor Zollinger offered their help.

Hubbell stated Weinzapfel would be excellent, and explained how he knows him.

Discussion followed.

Consensus was reached that a temporary zoning administrator would be an employee (not an independent contractor).

**Motion by Lawson, second by Hubbell, to offer temporary zoning administrator duties to Chris Weinzapfel, salary to be negotiated between \$16 and \$18 per hour by Supervisor Popp, and to be able to start as soon as possible.** There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.**

Consensus was reached to create the vacancy and post the zoning administrator job.

### **New Business**

#### **Speed Limits and Cautionary Road Signs**

Popp provided a memo addressing Mrs. Eckerdt's concerns about the west end of Deal Road. The initial concern was a speed limit change, also letting people know there are children at play in that area, and potentially some double yellow lines.

Popp stated he contacted Grand Traverse County Road Commission and received information regarding speed limits. Garth Greenan from GTCRC performed a preliminary speed study on Deal Road and Baggs Road. The 85th percentile speed was 58 mph on Deal Road, which means 15% of the cars are traveling faster than 58 mph.

Popp stated we are looking for money for cautionary signs. Lowering the speed limit would be up to the Michigan State Police with input from the Grand Traverse County Road Commission.

Discussion followed.

Aluminum-backed 30 x 30 yellow with black letter signs are about \$40. Post and installation is \$110. Various sign verbiage could be chosen.

Hubbell suggested a few phone calls to the sheriff or state police may help.

Popp stated a second cautionary sign under consideration has to do with Crisp Road. Pictures were provided by Mrs. Taibl.

Safety issues on this section of road were discussed.

**Motion by Popp that we expend funds for these cautionary signs, four in total, two on Deal, two on Crisp.**

There was further discussion related to asking the Road Commission to share in the cost, total expenditure of \$600, wording of the signs, and the option of sending out a letter notifying residents that the road will be patrolled more frequently.

**Hubbell seconded the motion.**

There was agreement that the funds for the signs will come from Fund 204, the Road Repair/Replacement Fund.

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

Popp stated he will be in touch the first part of next week to discuss labeling and placement, and we will put something in the newsletter.

**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 township board meeting is October 11, 2016.

**Public Comment**

Tim Trudell, 3076 Bowerman Road, Kingsley, commented on the quality of Rural Fire's last meeting and urged everyone to keep moving in the direction of continuing with Rural Fire because no one can do it alone; it is too expensive. He asked the township board to entertain increasing what they pay in to Rural Fire to increase services. Lastly, he urged the board to read the consultant's opinion when it comes back.

Brief discussion followed.

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Lawson, second by Hubbell, to adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss  
Whitewater Township Clerk