

Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held October 25, 2016

Call to Order

Popp called the meeting to order at 7:04 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: Grand Traverse County Road Commission Manager Jim Cook, resident Tim Shaffer

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Popp would like to move New Business #1, Grand Traverse County Road Commission, to Reports/Presentations.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, said the meeting this afternoon went very well. A lot of things were learned. The moderator kept things on track and moving smoothly.

Correspondence

None

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations

Grand Traverse County Road Commission Manager Jim Cook talked about the road millage renewal request on the November 8th ballot and answered questions from board members.

Unfinished Business**Review Ordinance 22 Pension Plan**

This agenda item will be moved to Tabled Items.

Review Whitewater Township Planning & Zoning Fees

The zoning administrator will be asked to provide input about the residential sign permit question, when possible. This agenda item will remain under Unfinished Business.

Review Emergency Services Building Renovations

Prints of the engineered drawings have been obtained. The ZA will be asked to move up issuance of the land use permit. Popp will fill out the application for Construction Code. The

check for the application fee will be prepared. At the 11/10 meeting, the bid process will be discussed.

Rural Fire 10/19/2016 Meeting Update

Chairman Trudell's resignation was accepted. Vice Chair Linda Forwerck stepped into the chair's position. Doug Mansfield is now vice chair. There were no status changes from Green Lake and Grant townships. There has been little to no discussion of the chief's contract, which expires 12/31/2016. Popp has requested some futuring time on the agenda. Popp provided preliminary budget numbers regarding 24/7 station staffing for fire and ambulance. The consultant's report is due out November 1.

Discussion followed.

A community roundtable discussion was held today at Whitewater Township Hall. Strengths, weaknesses, and dreams of the Rural Fire system were discussed.

Audience member Tim Shaffer provided input concerning the benefits of cross training.

The majority of the board expressed agreement with investigating other district or regional approaches to providing fire service.

Update on Junk Complaint

This agenda item was not discussed due to the recent resignation of the zoning administrator.

Zoning Administrator Job Disposition

The resignation of Josh Vey was discussed.

Motion by Lawson, second by Benak, to accept Josh Vey's letter of resignation. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.**

Brief discussion followed concerning possible policy changes.

Consensus was reached that Popp's e-mail reply to Vey's resignation meets the spirit of the policy calling for a letter of appreciation for his service.

New Business

Grand Traverse County Road Commission – Millage Presentation

See Reports/Presentations above.

Disposal of Park Truck

The issue of disposal of the park truck was briefly discussed.

Motion by Benak, second by Lawson, to authorize the parks and recreation administrator to list the 1997 GMC Sierra on Craigslist for \$1500 and to accept the best offer. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes. Motion carried.**

Battle Creek Natural Area/Lossie Road Nature Trail – Letter of Completion/Possible Reopening of Parks

Popp stated it looks like the work has been completed and we have a Letter of Completion from Corey Parshall. Popp stated he has not walked the parks yet but would entertain a motion to open the parks back up.

Motion by Lawson, second by Hubbell, to reopen the Battle Creek Natural Area, Lossie Road Nature Trail, and Petobego Natural Area to the public. There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.**

Approval of Expenditure for Replacement Water Heater

Motion by Lawson, second by Popp, to hire D&W Mechanical to acquire and install a new Lochinvar 100-gallon 199,000 BTU water heater at Whitewater Township Park, and that all associated costs be taken out of the Park Fund Capital Expenditure account. Popp relayed his experience with a Lochinvar water heater. **Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes. Motion carried.**

Tabled Items

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

This agenda item was not discussed.

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

This agenda item was not discussed.

Board Comments/Discussion

Lawson stated he has a comment about the Planning Commission and Brad (Link) and the time he has been spending with Popp. Brad has said that he and Popp have to digest the information from the lawyers before being sent to the PC. Lawson stated he is completely opposed to that; it should come directly to the PC members and not be interpreted by Popp or Link. The second thing is no one has gotten any of that information. They have already made their decision and made the motion as far as what they recommend, but the information should come out and go to the board members as well.

Discussion followed.

Goss reiterated her objection to Link going straight to the attorney; the zoning administrator has previously been given that authority but not the planning commission chairperson.

Popp replied that Link asked permission to do it.

There was brief discussion concerning the order of action to move along the land use permit for 8380 Old M-72.

Announcements

Next township board meeting is Thursday, November 10, 2016.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion by Lawson, second by Benak, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk