

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held April 14, 2020**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:09 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 in person: Treasurer Benak, Clerk Goss, Trustee Hubbell, Trustee Lawson, Popp

Board Members present via the Zoom app: Benak, Goss, Hubbell, Lawson, Popp

Board Members absent: None

Others present in person: None

Others present via the Zoom app: Vaughn Harshfield, John Nolan, Tom Slopsema, Fire Chief Brandon Flynn, Nancy Moothart, Felicia Blight, Jerry, Janet Bachi, Gary and Debbie Clark, Dave Hauser, unnamed user, John Mater.

Popp gave instructions for the meeting.

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Popp submitted Isaac Moothart's application for a no objection letter to installing the slalom water ski course again this year.

After discussion, there was consensus this item will be put on the next regular meeting agenda.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment (21:10)

Each person in attendance was asked if they have any public comment. All responded no with the exception of the following:

Debbie Clark stated they are listening because they are hoping the board will be talking about the light on 72 at Skegemog Point Road.

Dave Hauser referred to the light at 72 and Skegemog Point Road.

John Mater asked if there are now two openings on the planning commission.

Popp replied there is only one, to his knowledge.

Public Hearing (26:35)

None

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments (26:38)**County Board of Commissioners Report**

Gordie LaPointe is not present.

Fire Department Report (26:45)

Brandon Flynn gave the following report:

- They had a light month with a couple brush fires, one being an illegal burn.
- As of 3/24, when Executive Order 2020-21 came out, they were keeping up with their monthly schedule. After that, everything fell apart. All the meetings were cancelled. He has been checking in with everybody via phone and e-mails. COVID-19 has been changing by the minute, making it hard to keep up with all the changes, but his guys are holding up pretty good.

Flynn also gave an update on the progress of the pumper tanker. They are a little bit behind schedule but still working on it. A lot of the accessories have been delayed. The body should be coming back from the paint shop in the next week. He has posted some pictures on Facebook and will try to update the township webpage with some information.

Planning Commission Report (30:05)

Lloyd Lawson said the planning commission did not meet this month due to lack of a quorum.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report (30:45)

Cheryl Goss reported that the committee met last night via conference call. Five of six members were present. Minutes of the March meeting were approved. They discussed the status of their various projects, playground equipment, trail signage and kiosks, and the dugout project.

Consent Calendar (32:05)

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for March 2020
2. Clerk/Parks & Recreation Administrator's Report for March/April 2020
3. Zoning Administrator's April 2020 Staff Report
4. Mobile Medical Response March 2020 Activity Reports
5. Fire Department March 2020 Report
6. Historical Society March 2020 Report
7. Treasurer's March 2020 Cash Balance and Bank Accounts Reports
8. Approved 02/10/2020 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
9. Approved 02/12/2020 Historical Society Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for March 2020 and 1st Quarter Totals 2020
2. Fahey Schultz March 2020 E-Letter re: Public Meetings/Hearings During COVID-19 Pandemic
3. Mika Meyers Local Government Law Bulletin March 2020 re: Short Term Rentals and Right to Farm Act

4. Email 03/12/2020 Eric Render re: Not Seeking Reappointment to Planning Commission

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 03/17/2020 regular meeting minutes and 03/24/2020 special meeting minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers # 45083 through 45189
2. Approval of First Community Bank Miami Beach voucher # 1266
3. Approval of First Community Bank WMDLS voucher # (none)

Budget Amendments (none)

Revenue & Expenditure Report (none)

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

Unfinished Business (32:40)

Update re: Miami Beach Sewer System Transfer/Sale

John Nolan and Tom Slopsema are present electronically.

Nolan advised that shortly after the 3/17 township meeting, the governor's order came down and the Grand Traverse County office was closed to the public and the April BPW meeting was cancelled, which has delayed the review for termination of the township's sewer services agreement and the transition to Miami Beach. He has had conversations with Divozzo, who has assured them that service of the system through the transition period will go on uninterrupted. They are waiting to see where this may go. The earliest it would be picked back up is May.

There were no questions from the board.

New Business (35:55)

Proposed Electronic Meeting Rules

Motion by Popp to adopt the Whitewater Township Electronic and Telephonic Meeting Rules as presented; second by Goss.

Discussion points included:

- Standardized language in the proposed meeting notices regarding the public's ability to contact township board members prior to a meeting to provide questions or input on any business to be addressed at the meeting, and what the rules are going to be.
- The fact that Executive Order 2020-15 expires soon; it is not required that the rules be in place. However, they will provide consistency and uniformity for various bodies holding meetings.
- The requirement that "all written comments received during the meeting time shall be read into the record" is for ADA purposes.

(1:07:54) Popp stated Randy Mielnik joined the meeting.

- There was board consensus that the meeting keeps moving when others join after the start of the meeting.
- Lawson noted this type of meeting is not going to completely go away and we probably will be making permanent process and procedures on how to do this. He suggested to table it until the next meeting.
- It was suggested that someone else should run the technical part of the meeting, i.e., an operator.

Goss reread the motion: **Motion by Popp to adopt Whitewater Township Electronic and Telephonic Meeting Rules as presented; second by Goss.**

Roll call vote: Goss, no; Hubbell, no; Lawson, no; Popp, no; Benak, no. Motion failed.

Proposed Electronic Meeting Notice Format (1:16:09)

Motion by Hubbell to table this item; second by Lawson. Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes. Motion carried.

Netlink Business Solutions - New Copier Lease (1:17:09)

Motion by Lawson to authorize the clerk to execute all documents related to leasing the Sharp MX-2651 Digital Color Copier MFP; second by Hubbell.

There was discussion of the number of copies and scanning options on the current copier that are not working.

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

Extension of Lawn Maintenance Contract (1:25:07)

Motion by Popp to authorize the clerk to enter into a township attorney-approved 1-year Independent Contractor Agreement with Lawn-N-Order for 2020 mowing and cleanup services at the 2019 rates; second by Benak. Roll call vote: Popp, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes. Motion carried.

Proposed New Street Light at M-72/Skegemog Point Road (1:26:06)

Motion by Benak to authorize the supervisor to execute all necessary documents with Cherryland Electric Cooperative for the installation of a new 70-watt LED luminary with pole, increasing the township's financial responsibility at the rate of \$11.83 per month; second by Popp. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.

2020 Park Rangers (1:27:40)

Motion by Lawson to approve Dan Belanger, Peggy Quast, Robert Daniels, Trenton Kooistra, and Trevor Castillo as park rangers for the 2020 season at the hourly rates

recommended by the clerk; second by Hubbell. Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, no; Benak, yes. Motion carried.

Fire Department Request to Purchase Enclosed Trailer (1:28:53)

Motion by Goss to permit Fire Chief Flynn to purchase one US Cargo trailer from Signature Motor Sales, Team One Trailers in Traverse City for \$7,220 using Grand Traverse Band 2% grant award funds; second by Benak. Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes. Motion carried.

Proposed Park Closures (1:29:44)

Motion by Popp to adopt a recreational area venue closure policy following the recommendations of the State of Michigan and DNR facilities; second by Benak.

Goss noted the DNR closed their parks because a lot of the state park campgrounds are open year-round. Whitewater Township Park is currently closed and not due to open until May 8th. She opposes adopting DNR policies for the township's parks, and has been contacted by a local nurse participating with the RVs for MDs program who has inquired about staying in the park.

Benak suggested it is too soon to know what the state will be recommending a month from now, and believes the people of Whitewater would want the park open since the newest executive order promotes outdoor activities for families while practicing safe distancing. The township's boat launch and parks are the types of activities that are recommended. The executive order says part of the essential employees for a township, city, state or county is to keep parks sanitized. The intent is for you to keep your parks open safely.

Popp argued the parks are open to local people who we have a duty to protect their health, safety and welfare. Inviting people from different parts of the state into a single building for bathrooms and showers is out of line. As far as RVs for MDs, he stated there are a host of motel rooms that are set aside at very little cost for folks that are in that situation and may be exposed, including our own first responders. His recommendation is to follow the state.

Goss observed that if the stay at home order gets extended, people will not be able to come to the campground, and proposed a tentative meeting date on May 5th to discuss whether the campground should open on May 8th.

Popp replied this is designed to not have to do that. If the state campgrounds are closed, we are closed. The parks remain open. Popp said it is for the protection of the people who live in this township.

Benak stated she does not think we are protecting them any more if we left it open. The campground is already closed until May 8th, and suggested we need to wait to see what is going to happen and move forward from there.

Hubbell said we should wait to see what happens and does not think we need to close the campground yet. If she extends it, then we close it. Right now, it is closed anyway.

Roll call vote: Lawson, no; Popp, yes; Benak, no; Goss, no; Hubbell, no. Motion failed.

Preapproval of Brine Agreement (1:41:40)

Popp is asking for preapproval of a contract based on last year's price.

Discussion followed, with Goss verifying last year's price was \$5,542 per brine.

Motion by Popp to authorize the supervisor to execute the Road Improvement (Brine) Agreement between Grand Traverse County Road Commission and Whitewater Township for up to three (3) applications with a total dollar amount of \$18,000 for the 2020 season; second by Lawson. Roll call vote: Popp, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes. Motion carried.

Tabled Items (1:48:29)

None

Board Comments/Discussion (1:48:32)

Popp announced that Chief Flynn is working with several other county entities to find a place for our emergency service people if they are exposed, if they think they are exposed, and there are plenty of motel rooms and short-term rental houses available. Some will have a small fee, which we will deal with if the time comes.

Flynn provided further details on available housing for any public safety official who needs to quarantine away from other personnel or their family, and asked for an acknowledgement that there could be an extra expense to the township if we have to quarantine and provide food for someone who was exposed while on an emergency call. He further detailed precautions the department is taking to prevent exposure.

Benak announced that the newsletter is almost complete and asked everyone to keep in mind that Cleanup Day is June 13th. She thinks it is too soon to cancel that also, and detailed measures that can be taken to comply with social distancing. She noted the newsletter directs citizens to keep in touch with the website for any cancellations and that we would utilize the e-mail database to inform them of any closures.

Announcements (1:53:23)

The next regular meeting is May 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment (1:53:35)

Each person in attendance was asked if they have any public comment; all declined.

Popp read into the record the chat comments as follows:

- 7:02 p.m. Nancy Moothart wrote: The video is working; I can hear people.
- 7:08 p.m. Tom Slopsema wrote: Testing.
- 7:09 p.m. Clarks were raising their hand.
- 7:18 p.m. Nancy Moothart wrote: How long ago were the objections? Second question was: It was only not up last year but was up before that. Thank you.

- 8:25 p.m. Jerry Clark wrote: Thank you for passing the Skegemog Point light and addressing the safety of the project.

Jerry's e-mail address was clarified.

- Popp re-read Jerry's comment as follows: Thank you for voting on the new light at M-72 Skegemog Point and addressing the safety of the project.

Adjournment (1:58:29)

Motion by Lawson to adjourn; second by Hubbell. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk