

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held January 12, 2021**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:01 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

Board Members present via Zoom: Benak, Hubbell, Popp, Trustee Vollmuth

Board Members absent: None

Others present in person: Zoom Facilitator Lois MacLean and 1 other

Others present via Zoom: Fire Chief Brandon Flynn and 14 others

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Vollmuth proposed adding to the agenda the discussion of putting notices to the public in both papers.

There was brief discussion; Popp will bring it up under Board Discussion.

Pursuant to an e-mail from Wayne Schoonover, Popp proposed adding to the agenda obtaining the board's approval of Schoonover's understanding of the 12/15 meeting.

After discussion, the item was not added.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment (6:35)

Della Benak, 8190 Bunker Hill Road, addressed the accusations and assumptions in a letter sent to the township board by Mr. Gutknecht dated 12/8.

Linda Slopsema spoke to missing records, letters by public not included in packets or meeting minutes, and asked the board to correct those issues.

Heidi Vollmuth provided reasons why she should be on the planning commission.

Public Hearing (20:08)

Revised Whitewater Township Park Boat Launch Entryway Improvement Plans

The public hearing was opened at 7:21 p.m. and those in attendance were reminded to use the sign-in sheet.

The legal notice for the public hearing was published in the Traverse City Record-Eagle on 12/20/2020.

Written comments received through 01/12/2021 include:

Whitewater Township Board - Minutes of 01/12/2021

1. Comments on pages 107 through 115 of the 01/12/2021 board packet.
2. Richard Marl
3. Joe Butcko

Vollmuth read aloud the Butcko and Marl comments.

Pat Pierce, 9500 Larsen Road, said it is a great idea to have two boat cleaning stations, said he speaks personally and on behalf of Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association.

Carl Wroubel agreed two stations are better than one.

Linda Slopsema said she applauds the project for adding boat cleaning and recommends two boat wash stations as opposed to one, suggested there will be room to park 160 vehicles for boats and it is critical to add adequate capacity to clean boats inbound and outbound.

Andrew Filler asked if there were any questions for him, slated for two (boat wash stations) originally but dialed it back due to budget, has no public comment, said he is here to answer questions as to the plans or understanding anything. He drafted all the plans and is filling in for Rick Stout.

Vollmuth asked Filler if he took into account added expenses to do two boat clean stations maybe with personnel, asked if increased boat pass income has been considered for the second wash station or an employee to do the washing.

Filler said he is not aware of an employee being hired for that; will make a note and talk it over with Cheryl, Rick and David.

Dick Boyd said it seems like if we can afford it, a second wash location would make a lot of sense.

John Nolan said he thought the original plans called for 40 additional boat parking spots, 1 to 2 docks. To hear now we are considering 80 additional capacity to 160, he wonders how many times will that amount of parking really be necessary, one or two days out of the summer, or are we accommodating a fishing tournament that is one or two weekends. If the number is 160, it will be underutilized and not fully getting the investment out of the money.

Filler replied to Nolan's comment.

David Capser said the additional parking is hard to forecast right now; you may be looking at what volume of boats are traditionally coming to Whitewater Township Park, but with the given improvements and parking capacity and boat launch increased capacity, Nolan's comment about whether these spots are going to be utilized is hard to forecast. There is a design component that has to consider what future growth or future boats might bring to the area with these improvements.

Goss commented that there is not going to be anywhere near 160 boat parking spaces. The current lot has 43 boat trailer spaces, plus two handicap spaces. Additional parking on the plan adds approximately 40 to 45 spaces.

Vollmuth questioned whether additional ADA spaces would be added.

Goss responded that the park will comply with the guidelines for the number of ADA spaces.

Slopsema asked if auxiliary parking would be maintained away from the regular parking.

Goss replied yes, as far as she knows. Road widening may affect it. Number of spaces there is about 10.

Carlyle Wroubel commented that he hopes the new docks are longer.

Goss replied that the new docks will be longer.

The public hearing was closed at 7:45 p.m.

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments (44:23)

County Board of Commissioners Report

Darryl Nelson is not present.

Fire Department Report (45:48)

Brandon Flynn gave the following report:

- Pretty quiet in December. They are still meeting remotely when they can. Been doing most of their training online through Target Solutions.
- The snowmobiles are back and ready to go. Unfortunately, the VASA has been cancelled.
- Fire engine 3 needs extensive engine work and will be going in next week.
- Flynn reported he is working on AFG grants for air packs, as well as a couple other new ones.

It was noted that having the pumper tanker has eliminated the need to rent a fire engine when the primary engine goes out for work.

(Brief discussion about Vollmuth and Popp getting booted off their internet connection.)

Planning Commission Report (49:00)

In the absence of a township board representative to the planning commission, Popp noted the PC is working on a schedule for public hearings and bringing tabled items back to the agenda, i.e., 5-acre zoning and event barns, and having a third party help with rewriting the master plan.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report (50:30)

Cheryl Goss gave the following report:

- PRAC met last night. Four members and the alternate were present.

- 12/14/2020 minutes were approved.
- Resolution for 2021/2022 meeting dates was postponed to the February agenda.
- Election of officers: Melton was appointed chairperson, Hubbell vice chair, and Butler as secretary.
- Hi Pray Park dugouts, still waiting for Perfect Fence to get end rail clamps fabricated.
- BCNA and Lossie Road Nature Trail kiosks, Steve Jahr will drop off the installation quote next week.
- The committee went over the 2020 park improvement survey results. They are still updating the Recreation Plan. Several things that still need updating are maps, verbiage, etc. Time was spent renumbering the capital improvement list, taking into consideration the park improvement survey.

Consent Calendar (53:10)

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for December 2020
2. Clerk/Parks & Recreation Administrator's Report for December 2020/January 2021
3. Zoning Administrator's January 2021 Staff Report
4. Mobile Medical Response December 2020 Activity Reports
5. Fire Department December 2020 Report
6. Historical Society Report for November and December 2020
7. Approved 11/09/2020 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
8. Approved 11/11/2020 Historical Society Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for November 2020
2. E-mail 12/08/2020 @ 5:15 p.m. Tracy Spincich re: Marijuana Ordinance Vote at Tonight's Meeting
3. E-mail 12/08/2020 @ 6:09 p.m. Debbie Young re: Marijuana Ordinances
4. E-mail 12/08/2020 @ 8:09 p.m. Vern Gutknecht re: December 8, 2020 Board Meeting
5. E-mail 12/09/2020 Cindy Wotila re: Whitewater Township Hybrid Meeting Was Proper
6. E-mail 12/10/2020 Michael Mix re: Meeting
7. E-mail 12/10/2020 Jeff Goodwin re: In-Person Meeting
8. E-mail 12/11/2020 Sandra Rancourt re: From a Moscow Township Trustee
9. Letter 12/11/2020 Linda Frank re: 12/08/2020 Meeting
10. E-mail 12/15/2020 John King re: Skegemog Point Repair
11. E-mail 12/16/2020 Dan Buron re: Goodwill NMI Selected for MacKenzie Scott Gift
12. 12/16/2020 Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart re: Holiday Recycling Tips and More
13. E-mail 12/18/2020 Thomas Kachadurian re: Habitat GTR December Newsletter
14. 12/23/2020 Foster Swift re: COVID Impacts on Electronic Public Meetings
15. E-mail 01/04/2021 Della Benak re: Resignation from ZBA

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 12/08/2020 regular meeting minutes and 12/15//2020 special meeting minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers # 46146 through 46223
2. Approval of First Community Bank Miami Beach vouchers # (none)
3. Approval of First Community Bank WMDLS vouchers # (none)

Budget Amendments (none)**Revenue & Expenditure Report (none)**

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

Unfinished Business (53:57)**Revised Whitewater Township Park Boat Launch/Entryway Improvement Plans**

Motion by Benak to approve the Revised Whitewater Township Park Boat Launch/Entryway Improvement Plans; second by Popp.

Vollmuth said we really gotta make sure we are taking care of the boats; who is going to be responsible if the DNR comes, the boat owner or the township.

Goss replied that the law puts the onus on the boat owner to make sure they are getting their boats clean between lakes. There is no duty on the part of the township or the park. The park will provide a boat wash station, but boat owners can also use a car wash or wash their boat at home. The DNR might cite a boat owner but not the park.

Brief further discussion concerning boat washes touched on requirements of the law, who is responsible for enforcing it, lack of boat wash stations in Elk Rapids, self-serve station, future repairs.

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

Motion by Goss to proceed to Final Design Engineering and Permitting as outlined in Professional Services Agreement between Whitewater Township and Fleis & VandenBrink; second by Hubbell.

Popp noted we have already signed the agreement and does not understand why this is a concern.

Goss replied it is just a formality to have board approval to move to the next phase.

Vollmuth asked if something was done to nullify the agreement.

Goss replied no and directed Vollmuth to the board packet.

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

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (1:03:00)

Popp thanked Benak for providing the information and said all contexts to any executive order should be switched to MIOSHA and/or Department of Health and Human Services, should follow MIOSHA requirements.

Benak said her concern is that this has been going on a year and we have never given the plan to our employees. She acknowledged changes are needed to accommodate executive orders being replaced with MDHHS name and order numbers, and said she did not feel it was appropriate for her to do that without the blessing of the board.

Discussion ensued regarding the name of the plan, getting it out to employees, and what is the action plan going forward.

Benak said her suggestion is that she take out all references to executive orders and put the correct MDHHS direction in, not changing the plan, changing who told us to do it.

Popp recommended it be done first time it appears and call it the authority thereafter, and refer to the Family First act as amended, and refer to the entire act as a link.

Goss suggested Benak make the changes she thinks are necessary and call it good.

Hubbell agreed.

Popp said this needs to be approved by the board.

Motion by Goss that Benak will make the changes and bring it back for approval at the February 9 meeting; second by Benak. Roll call vote: Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes. Motion carried.

New Business (1:13:15)**12/03/2020 Draft Legal Opinion re: Lossie Road Nature Trail**

Goss noted there is no prepared motion for this agenda item.

Popp said we are not asking for approval of anything; we are asking for direction, and stated he does not have a suggested direction.

Benak stated it turns out that there is a little bit more to just allowing these property owners access; it brings in more responsibility and more obligations and possibly more expense to the township as a whole. Benak said it is concerning to her that we are opening ourselves up to this liability and the expense of now maintaining this road if we choose to open it up to vehicle traffic, even a limited amount.

Discussion followed touching on:

- Vehicle access cannot be limited to adjoining property owners.
- Township liability, cost of maintenance.

- Question whether county properly relinquished jurisdiction over the road.
- Listed steps.
- Legal fees.
- Attorney suggestion that township approach abutting property owners regarding willingness to offset legal cost.
- Document public record to verify ownership of trail.

There was board consensus to follow the steps outlined in the legal opinion and bring it to an end one way or the other. Popp said he will be more than happy to do it, does not think it will all be accomplished for February; said he will ask the road commission for their information and research township minutes.

Appointments/Reappointments to Boards/Commissions/Committees (1:28:16)

Motion by Vollmuth to recommend the supervisor appointing of Connie Rountree to a two-year term on the Whitewater Township Board of Review; the term will end on December 31, 2022; second by Goss. Roll call vote: Vollmuth, yes; Benak, no; Goss, no; Hubbell, no; Popp, yes. Motion failed.

Motion by Benak to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Brenda Welch Baker to a term on the Whitewater Township Board of Review; the term will end on December 31, 2022; second by Vollmuth. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Benak to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Eric Sanborn to a two-year term on the Whitewater Township Board of Review; the term will end on December 31, 2022; second by Hubbell. Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Vollmuth to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Linda Slopsema to a partial 3-year post on the Whitewater Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee; the term will end December 31, 2021; second by Goss.

Vollmuth commented that people come forward and volunteer their time; shame on anyone that is not going to give them that chance. Benak responded that Vollmuth constantly shaming the board is unnecessary and unprofessional, and wishes she would please stop. Goss agreed. Hubbell told Vollmuth to keep her opinion to herself, and told Popp to grab control of the meeting and move on.

Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, no; Goss, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Goss to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Thomas Cosgrove to a three-year position on the Whitewater Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee; the term will end on December 31, 2023; second by Vollmuth. Roll call vote: Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, no; Goss, yes; Hubbell, no. Motion carried.

Motion by Hubbell to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Roberto Garza to a partial three-year seat on the Whitewater Township Zoning Board of Appeals; the term will end on December 31, 2021; second by Benak. Roll call vote: Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.

Tim Arends is present via Zoom.

Popp introduced the appointment of Tim Arends, who is recommended for a 3-year position on the planning commission and will replace Glenn Savage.

In response to questions from Goss, Arends provided the following information:

- He is not a landowner in the township. He lives in a house owned by his wife's family trust.
- Regarding why he wants to participate on the planning commission, he said he just felt it was something he had time to do. With his history in government, that type of work interests him. He plans on living here until he passes away; he is interested with what happens with the township.
- To those who have not visited the township, he describes it as beautiful lakes, just through pictures; it is beautiful. Everyone says we are going to Traverse City. They don't say we are going to Whitewater Township, or they will say Elk Rapids. Said we are hampered by that stigma that he doesn't think is really going to change until you are an incorporated city. As far as his roots in the area, said he learned how to water ski on Round Lake. Graduated from Kalkaska High School and grew up there. These have been his stomping grounds since age 12.
- Regarding whether he has education, training or experience related to planning or zoning, he said not directly related, other than his experience in attending meetings, presentations to planning commissions, attending staff meetings weekly at the city level regarding planning commission items presented to them. In his current position, he does watch every city commission meeting, planning commission meeting, DDA board meeting to make sure he is fully aware of everything that could possibly come his way. He is the executive director of Traverse City Light and Power, a full-time job, plus.
- Regarding skills/abilities he would bring to the planning commission, he does not have specific planning education. Can bring his knowledge of process and procedure in a government setting, when it may be appropriate to call a question, how to make a motion. Anybody can learn those tools or should be allowed the opportunity to work their way through it. Said he brings the commitment to review the package information fully and come to the meetings fully informed to make an unbiased decision about what you believe as an individual commissioner, is the most important thing for the benefit of everyone collectively in Whitewater Township, knowing that probably with every decision you make, half the people will not agree with you.
- Regarding his vision for the township 10 years from now, he said he thinks about what he thought it was going to be 20, 30 years ago. He grew up on Valley Road, always believed that when the Grand Traverse Resort was built that Acme and Kalkaska would become one continuous commercial corridor. That never happened to the degree he expected. Have seen a lot more of that with the casino and thinks there is going to be more and more. Was very pleased to see some agriculture happening along M-72 to put

some breaks in between there. He likes driving through the agricultural portion of Whitewater Township, loves the cornfields, sunflower fields, the water, respect for the environment. Also recognizes the need for commerce, for a town core commercial enterprise to support all the other things he likes.

- Has not read the township master plan or zoning ordinance; understands that would be homework to do.
- Has not attended any planning commission meetings.
- When asked to define private property rights, he said he thinks there is a balance. (Zoom connection with Arends was briefly lost) He believes people have the right to use their property as they desire within the legal constraints in the state and federal government and local ordinances, but believes the right is limited to that enjoyment that does not disallow somebody else from their quiet enjoyment of using their property. He acknowledged there can be a fine line on where those cross and said that is why we have local government, to create these rules and what is allowed and what is not allowed.
- When asked if a big beautiful oak tree in a man's front yard is private property or a community asset, he stated it can be both. If it is in the right of way, it is a community asset if it is in the township or city right of way. He thinks it can be classified as a desired community trait, but if the tree is on the owner's property and their desire is to build an attached garage and it means cutting down the tree -- he has seen this play out in the city where they are trying to save as much tree canopy as possible and still create rules for new construction and that type of thing. Said he can't answer that question black and white. It's a bigger issue. There is community value for the tree itself, environmental attributes, and then private property rights.
- Understands he would be required to take an oath to support the U.S. and State Constitutions, and that it means something. Said he is insulted Goss would ask that.

Benak, Hubbell, Vollmuth had no questions.

Motion by Vollmuth to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Tim Arends to a vacant partial 3-year term position on the Whitewater Township Planning Commission; the term shall end December 31, 2022.

The motion was not seconded.

Despite two additional recommendations for appointments, Popp announced he is done with appointments.

Discussion between Popp and Benak ensued, with Benak stating we need to finish the recommendations; they have already been put off a month.

Goss asked why the appointment in the packet for December for Ted Hooper for the planning commission is not in this packet.

Popp said it was not an oversight.

Brief discussion followed.

Motion by Goss to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Brandon Hubbell to a 3-year position on the Whitewater Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee; the term will end on December 31, 2023; second by Benak. Vollmuth commented on the picking and choosing of volunteers. Brief discussion followed. **Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes. Motion carried.**

Motion by Benak to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Melissa Melton to a 3-year position on the Whitewater Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee; the term will end on December 31, 2023; second by Hubbell. Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes. Motion carried.

Legal Opinion re: Appointment of Township Board Representative to Planning Commission (2:03:40)

Goss noted she sought a legal opinion regarding the process for appointing an ex officio member of the township board to the planning commission, and asked if Popp has any recommendation this evening for the township board representative to the planning commission.

Popp asked what the board is going to do with the legal opinion, and said who is currently on the planning commission is unclear. Popp asked who is currently members of the planning commission.

Benak said no board member is currently a member of the planning commission.

Goss said everyone on the planning commission right now was appointed with the recommendation of the supervisor.

Popp asked who are those people.

Benak asked why Popp is asking that question; it just wastes time, and said Goss had a specific question and Benak would appreciate an answer.

Goss repeated the question: In light of the legal opinion, whether Popp has a recommendation for the township board representative to the planning commission this evening.

Popp said he will repeat his December recommendation of Heidi Vollmuth, but that is all he is prepared to make at this point.

Goss noted that would be inconsistent with the legal opinion, and then paraphrased the legal opinion, the supervisor does bring the appointments for the planning commission, even for the ex officio board member, but those appointments are subject to approval of the township board. If a candidate is proffered and not appointed, the supervisor has to choose someone else.

Popp then accused the board of attempting to stack the planning commission and thinks that blinded them for the December recommendation. Said if the board still does not want to approve Vollmuth's recommendation, he will look for someone else.

Goss noted the board voted on that last month.

Popp said we also voted to illegally appoint Benak.

Benak said that has been reversed with the legal opinion. Now Popp has a choice; there are three other board members; Popp is supposed to bring somebody forward out of those three, noting that Popp has one board member that wants to do it, but for some reason Popp is resisting this. She asked Popp what are his objections.

Popp said his objections to putting Benak on the planning commission is very similar to some of the public comments that we have heard.

Popp was asked for his specific objections.

Benak noted one public comment from the same guy twice.

Popp replied that he made his recommendation, you didn't like it, you chose to try and do something illegal, said he told you it was illegal and you still went ahead and did it. He said he doesn't have a replacement appointment tonight, and said we can move on or we can end the meeting now.

Goss said the legal opinion made it clear that Benak's appointment was not valid, Benak is not on the planning commission, and told Popp his recommendation in December was turned down by the board and he has a duty to bring another recommendation.

Popp said he will fulfill that duty.

Goss asked when.

Popp said when the supervisor is prepared to do it.

Hubbell said he thinks it's pretty sad that when we have somebody here that has had all the years of experience, that is offering to do it, we aren't going to do it.

Vollmuth said we also have another person that offered to do it, her.

Hubbell told Vollmuth he understands that and it is nothing against her. He just thinks she needs a little bit --

Vollmuth interrupted Hubbell with her arguments as to why she should be appointed to the planning commission and can be removed if she is not doing her job.

Benak noted the same would apply to her, and stated she has submitted her resignation from the ZBA and noted Popp will now have to find another board member to fill that position; she is done.

Hubbell reiterated to Vollmuth that it is nothing against her, said he thinks she just needs a little more experience, it is nothing personal, and said he thinks Benak is the right one for this job, in his opinion, and does not see what the argument is here.

Vollmuth replied that, in her opinion, she (Vollmuth) has sat in those meetings and Benak is not the best person for the job, and stated she has to disagree with Hubbell.

Vollmuth went on to complain that no one has ever joined her in the meeting but Popp.

Benak said Popp should not be attending planning commission meetings and should not be giving reports to the township board as if he is the representative, it is totally inappropriate, and suggested that if Vollmuth attended some new official training, Vollmuth would understand that.

Vollmuth interrupted Benak and continued to talk over her throughout Benak's last comment.

Hubbell pointed out no one heard what Benak, Vollmuth, or Popp said, and asked Benak to repeat what she said.

Benak reiterated that Popp should not be attending the planning commission meetings. In new official training, they tell you because he has appointment powers over those commission members, he should not be attending. It puts undue stress on them. In new official trainings, they tell board members to stay away from other planning commissions and other boards, unless they have been assigned to it. If they have been assigned to it, they bring that information back for the rest of the board members. Told Popp he should not be attending those, and told Vollmuth her criticizing Benak for not being at the planning commission is wrong. Benak told Vollmuth she was not on a board; she had an opportunity to do that. Benak said she reads the minutes, that is what she is supposed to do, and she is supposed to listen to the township board representative when they come with their information, and said she is following what we are supposed to do, and does not care if Vollmuth does not like it.

Vern Gutknecht asked a question of Benak.

Benak briefly responded.

Goss asked why a member of the public is inserting himself into board discussion, noted it needs to stop, and suggested the supervisor get control of the meeting.

Popp said the board took that away from him and gave it to Lois.

Goss reminded Popp he is supposed to be running the meeting and can stop someone who is making an inappropriate comment.

Popp said he does not have the ability to lock the microphones off.

Goss noted Popp can interrupt and tell Gutknecht his comments are not appropriate at this time; that is a different issue than whether Popp can mute them or not, and suggested it is time to move on.

2020/2021 Fiscal Year Budgeted Transfers (2:15:41)

Motion by Goss to transfer \$5,000 from the General Fund to the Road Fund; second by Benak. Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Goss to transfer \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Road Repair/Replacement Fund; second by Benak. Roll call vote: Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Goss to transfer \$20,000 from the General Fund to the Recreation Fund; second by Popp. Roll call vote: Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hubbell to transfer \$65,000 from the General Fund to the Ambulance Fund; second by Goss. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Popp to transfer \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Public Improvement Fund; second by Hubbell. Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, no; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Goss to transfer \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Fire Capital Improvement Fund; second by Benak. Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes. Motion carried.

Whitewater Township Park 2021 Dates and Rates (2:20:15)

Motion by Popp to designate the 2021 opening, closing, and free camping weekend dates as recommended by the clerk; second by Benak. Roll call vote: Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Goss to approve the 2021 Camping and Miscellaneous Rates as recommended by the clerk; second by Hubbell. Roll call vote: Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.

Cherry Capital Connection Request for Presentation on 02/09/2021 (2:21:56)

Motion by Goss to schedule a 20-minute presentation by representatives of Cherry Capital Connection at the township board's 02/09/2021 regular meeting; second by Benak.

Popp took issue with a statement in Goss's memo having to do with Mr. Maylone making a "similar request last year for time on the board's agenda but was denied the opportunity to do so by Supervisor Popp," detailed his previous efforts, and further stated that saying he denied Maylone the opportunity is fake news, but we are accustomed to that from the clerk.

Discussion followed.

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

Letter of Interest to Grand Traverse Band re: Possible Sewer Extension (2:26:10)

Regarding the proposed letter, Goss noted several corrections.

Popp asked for consensus to send the letter to Joe Huhn to see if the Grand Traverse Band will entertain the thought.

Goss asked when it will be sent.

Popp said he is not sure when he will finish the count of parcels, but by the end of the month.

Goss noted that a copy needs to be given to the clerk's office for official filing.

There was board consensus to send the letter out with the recommended changes.

Budget Work Sessions (2:30:09)

The following dates and times were set for budget work sessions:

- February 4 at 6:00 p.m., Park Fund.
- February 16 at 6:00 p.m., Fire Fund.
- February 23 at 6:00 p.m., General Fund.

Tabled Items (2:35:05)

None

Board Comments/Discussion (2:35:06)

Benak commented that she sends Popp e-mails and he never responds, and asked if he is not getting her e-mails, specifically, her request for adding an item to the packet twice now for the planning commission appointment and her resignation twice now.

Popp said he will have to check his outgoing mail and stated he has an issue between Outlook and the Charter server; it sometimes does not send things. He said he is considering going to Google and having a Gmail account.

Goss addressed Slopsema's comments about "missing public comment" and explained the process.

Vollmuth talked about publishing meetings in two papers and said she will make sure it gets on next month's agenda. She also brought up the reading of letters into the minutes and proposed that she is going to read nine letters now.

Discussion followed regarding the reading of letters.

Announcements (2:51:40)

1. Budget work sessions 02/04/2021 at 6:00 p.m., 02/16/2021 at 6:00 p.m., 02/23/2021 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Township Board regular meeting on 02/09/2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment (2:52:12)

Vaugh Harshfield said he will sum up tonight's meeting with one word: wow.

Linda Slopsema said she understands the attachments are after the draft is approved.

John Nolan chastised the board for vindictive comments, childish behavior, and a disorderly meeting.

Vern Gutknecht directed comments to Benak regarding the 5-acre issue.

Richard Boyd seconded Vaughn's comment, wow 2.0.

Kim Mangus mentioned that the planning commission has voted to hold a public hearing that was cancelled for December in February for Article 28, condominium regulations, and said they are moving forward with everything they were moving forward with before, as well as provided her opinion regarding the reading of letters.

Vollmuth read aloud a letter from Renee Savage dated 12/07/2020.

Adjournment (3:07:32)

Motion by Popp to adjourn; second by Goss. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk