

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held February 9, 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: Popp (Whitewater Township, MI), Vollmuth (Whitewater Township, MI)
Board Members absent: None
Others present in person: Tim Shaffer, Mike Jacobson
Others present on Zoom: Zoom Facilitator Lois MacLean and 15 others

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

There were no adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment (5:07)

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, spoke on being upgraded from a reserve ZBA member to a full ZBA member.

Mike Jacobson, 7031 Skegemog Point Road, commented on the decision to not reappoint Ted Hooper to the planning commission, letters written to the township not being read as public comment, and a parking lot for the Lossie Road Trail on the Skegemog Point Road end.

Vaughn Harshfield, 4404 North Broomhead Road, urged the board to have a civil meeting.

Captain Clark from the sheriff's office said he will answer questions that may come up on the agenda.

Dave Hauser, 9240 Skegemog Point Road, encouraged the township to keep the process moving forward for a revised estimate from the road commission and some bids.

Public Hearing (14:18)

None

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments (14:20)

County Board of Commissioners Report

Darryl Nelson is not present.

Fire Department Report (14:40)

Brandon Flynn gave the following report:

- They have been trying to get back into the station to do hands-on training if the state allows them to commingle again.
- They got their engine back from major repairs.
- Their new extrication equipment is in service. All of the three main front-line vehicles have extrication equipment now.

Planning Commission Report (15:35)

Via e-mail, Chairperson Kim Mangus gave the following report:

- They held a public hearing on February 3 on Zoning Amendment 78 regarding condominiums and recommended adoption.
- They have selected an instructor/consultant for PC education and master plan review.
- They began an evaluation of medical and recreational marijuana zoning.
- They discussed the circumstances contributing to vacant PC positions.
- Officers were elected and remained the same.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report (15:47)

Cheryl Goss gave the following report:

- The committee met last night; four members were present.
- The January 11th minutes will be slightly revised and brought back next month.
- Project updates were given.
- Revised survey results were discussed and will be posted soon.
- The Recreation Plan will be held up for the new census data due out April 30th.
- The capital improvements list is being revised based on the survey results.
- A couple items have been added to the Recreation Fund budget.
- The committee adopted their 2021/2022 fiscal year regular meeting schedule.

Cherry Capital Connection Presentation (18:00)

Tim Maylone, owner of Cherry Capital Connection, gave a presentation introducing his company and their efforts to install fiber in Northern Michigan. They are located in Whitewater Township. A total of \$5.6 million over a 10-year period has been allocated to them from the FCC to install fiber in Whitewater Township and other communities. He described the scope of the project and their plans for completion.

Questions from the board and public were answered by Mr. Maylone.

Consent Calendar (50:20)

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for January 2021
2. Clerk/Parks & Recreation Administrator's Report for January/February 2021
3. Zoning Administrator's Staff Report (not available)
4. Mobile Medical Response January 2021 Activity Reports
5. Fire Department January 2021 Report
6. Historical Society January 2021 Report
7. Approved 12/14/2020 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for December 2020, 4th Quarter Totals 2020, Year to Date 2020, January 2021
2. E-mail 01/15/2021 Ted Hooper re: Planning Commission
3. Grand Traverse County Pandemic Resolution
4. Kalkaska County Pandemic Resolution
5. DTE Clear Vision Program (RMP; no document)
6. Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes Year in Review
7. Foster Swift MDHHS 2021.01.29 Orders
8. Networks Northwest Newsletter

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 01/12/2021 regular meeting minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers # 46224 through 46333

Budget Amendments – 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 2020/2021

Revenue & Expenditure Report – 3rd Quarter 2020/2021 Fiscal Year

Motion by Benak to approve Consent Calendar items as presented; second by Vollmuth.

Goss answered several questions regarding the budget amendments. **Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes. Motion carried.**

Unfinished Business (54:45)**Review COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan**

Motion by Benak to adopt the Whitewater Township COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan as amended 02/09/2021; second by Goss.

Discussion followed:

- Popp's name will be removed as the co-workplace coordinator.
- Vollmuth questioned the implementation of best practices in the plan.
- Benak offered to meet with Vollmuth regarding her questions.

The motion was restated.

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

Review/Confirm Grand Traverse County Road Commission Skegemog Point Road (1:01:30)

Popp noted this is an identical agenda item to one under New Business.

New Business (1:03:01)**Addendum #1 to Interlocal Agreement for County Designated Assessor**

Motion by Popp to accept Addendum #1 to the designated assessor agreement as written; second by Benak. Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes. Motion carried.

Marihuana Petition (1:05:06)

Per Goss, the status of the marijuana petition is that the attorneys' office is still reviewing it. They hope to have their legal opinion out later this week or the first part of next week, at which time the board will need to schedule a closed session meeting to discuss it.

Resolution #21-01 - Whitewater Township Board 2021/2022 Regular Meeting Dates (1:06:23)

Motion by Benak to adopt Resolution #21-01 Whitewater Township Board 2021/2022 Regular Meeting Dates with an amendment of meeting start time from 7 p.m. to 9 a.m.; second by Hubbell.

Discussion followed.

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

Resolution #21-02 - Poverty Exemption Guidelines (1:13:26)

Motion by Hubbell to adopt Resolution #21-02 Poverty Exemption Guidelines as amended; second by Benak.

Revisions discussed were:

1. Page 1, add Township of Whitewater at the top.
2. Page 1, change supervisor/assessor to supervisor, assessor.

Hubbell and Benak confirmed their agreement with the changes.

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

Appointments/Reappointments to Boards/Commissions/Committees (1:17:40)

Motion by Benak to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Mr. Pat Pierce to a partial 3-year alternate post on the Whitewater Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee; the term will end on December 31, 2021; second by Hubbell.

Pat Pierce is present via Zoom.

Discussion followed.

Pierce said he understands the concerns, but he would be working for the entire township, does not have any agenda with Elk Lake or the waters. Been coming up here for 40 years, enjoys the

entire countryside, and does not intend to play favorites as far as looking at what can be done on the parks and rec situation.

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

Review/Approve Revised Work Scope for Skegemog Point Road (1:23:26)

Motion by Hubbell to approve the modified Request to Initiate description of work as noted below; second by Goss.

Discussion followed.

Two Skegemog Point Road residents, Mark Taylor and Dave Hauser, commented on their recollections of the 12/15/2020 meeting, with Hauser agreeing that what Schoonover has described in the second bullet point of his 01/08/2021 e-mail is what the petitioners want done on the northern 0.86 miles.

There was brief discussion that the first bullet point in the email appears to describe the same scope of work with the exception of the length of the roadway and the width of the shoulders.

Regarding the third bullet point, the road end, there is no change in scope of work, but it is eligible for 25% paid by the county.

Goss urged the motion be amended to say as described in the 01/08/2021 e-mail from Wayne Schoonover.

Hubbell and Goss agreed to the amendment.

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

Discussion on Community Police Officer Program (1:59:40)

Motion by Popp to receive additional CPO information from Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department; second by Goss.

Captain Clark is present via Zoom. He provided information about the program for the board packet and is willing to provide more in-depth information if there is interest. He noted Whitewater Township is about 3% of the call volume for the sheriff's office within the county and explained the information provided. The cost is \$84,265 annually for one officer and increases by a percentage each year. Other costs are covered by the county.

Captain Clark answered board questions.

After discussion, a majority of the board wished to bring this topic back in May.

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

Discuss Cell Tower Proposed Leases (2:16:15)**Motion by Hubbell to accept/decline any new lease options at this time; second by Popp.**

Goss proposed hiring Municipal Services Consulting to perform an analysis of the offers.

Discussion ensued.

There was board consensus to hire a consultant to evaluate the proposed lease offers. Popp will get a couple estimates for the board.

The motion and second were withdrawn.

Resolution #21-03 Allow Board of Review Protests by Mail and Electronic Means (2:26:20)**Motion by Goss to adopt Resolution #21-03 Allow Board of Review Protests by Mail and Electronic Means; second by Hubbell. Roll call vote: Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes. Motion carried.****Tabled Items (2:26:55)**

None

Board Comments/Discussion (2:27:16)

None

Announcements (2:27:23)

1. 02/16/2021 @ 6:00 p.m. – Budget Work Session
2. 02/23/2021 @ 6:00 p.m. – Budget Work Session
3. 03/09/2021 @ 7:00 p.m. – Township Board regular meeting

Public Comment (2:27:47)

Mike Jacobson, 7031 Skegemog Point Road, agreed with the time change for board meetings to 9:00 a.m., said he has applied twice to be put on the parks and recreation committee and does not think it's that hard to find people who want to serve, if you look.

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Road, proposed a letter be sent to Ted Hooper in appreciation of his time and effort and work with the township and the community.

Vaughn Harshfield commented that it is great to see our American flag under full lights at the township hall and thanked the board.

Adjournment (2:31:50)**Motion by Hubbell to adjourn; second by Goss. Roll call vote: Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Popp, yes. Meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss, Whitewater Township Clerk