

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held June 8, 2021**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.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, Popp, Trustee Vollmuth

Board Members present via Zoom: Popp, Vollmuth

Board Members absent: None

Others present in person: Fire Chief Brandon Flynn and 8 others

Others present via Zoom: Zoning Administrator Robert Hall and 7 others

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

There were no adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment (6:10)

Dan Belanger, 9429 Whitney Road, spoke on the topic of a competitive starting wage at Whitewater Township Park.

(8:05)

Vern Gutknecht, 6801 Bunker Hill, spoke on the topics of board member behavior and assigning a township board member to the planning commission.

(14:15)

Ethan Korson, 6599 M-72 East, spoke on the topics of a township parcel at 6400 Elk Lake Road and offered his services on listing the property.

(15:35)

Michelle Mueller, 7482 Cook Road, spoke on the topics of the marijuana petition, a letter to the planning commission, and “party barns.”

(19:14)

Chris Hubbell, 8055 Angell Road, spoke on the topics of Gutknecht’s comments and marijuana misinformation.

(21:45)

Renee Savage, 9833 Pineneedle Lane, spoke on the marijuana issue and the vote of the people in 2018.

(23:34)

Kim Mangus, 1214 Cerro Drive and 5101 Brown Bear Lane, spoke on the topics of an e-mail from the clerk and the planning commission not scheduling a special meeting.

(27:15)

Linda Slopsema spoke on the topic of available resources regarding marijuana businesses in a community.

(32:03)

Rod Rebant, 648 Island View Drive, spoke on concerns stated and the planning commission's request for the services of a planner.

(36:15)

Bob Hall, zoning administrator, spoke on the topic of his report, e-mail and phone call inquiries regarding higher density development, commercial, industrial or residential, a planning process to handle growth and development pressure, the importance of getting a master plan in place and deficiencies in the master plan.

(41:00)

Dave Hauser, Skegemog Point Road, spoke on the topic of the public comments.

Public Hearing (41:52)

None

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments (42:00)**County Commissioner Report**

Darryl Nelson gave the following report:

- Thanked the board for stepping up to do their jobs.
- The board is looking into bonding the outstanding pension debt. They have been putting \$7 million a year toward it. They are up to about 60% funded. They will save \$8-15 million over the course of time with favorable interest rates.
- They are reevaluating all of the positions at the county, looking at the definitions of the position and the pay rate, trying to make sure they are at the right level and see who the jobs might be competing with. There may be some increases. They need to know that what they are paying the people is a fair and correct wage for the job they are doing.

Fire Department Report (47:12)

Brandon Flynn gave the following report:

- May was an eventful month. With dry conditions and low snow pack, they have been battling wildfires not just in Whitewater Township but all over the county. He reminded the general public of the high fire watch set by the DNR and said there is no burning, with the exception of campfires, cooking fires, and tree farmers.

Planning Commission Report (48:58)

The position of township board representative to the planning position is currently vacant.

Hall said the planning commission has been seeing more activity regarding development along M-72. He is meeting with two people this week for a pre-application conference.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report (50:40)

Cheryl Goss noted that she provided a few updates in her clerk's report; the committee meets again on June 14.

Consent Calendar (51:50)

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for May 2021
2. Clerk/Parks & Recreation Administrator's Report May/June 2021
3. Zoning Administrator May 2021 Report
4. Mobile Medical Response May 2021 Activity Reports
5. Fire Department May 2021 Monthly Report
6. Historical Society Report for May 2021
7. Approved 04/07/2021 Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
8. Approved 04/12/2021 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
9. Approved 04/22/2021 Planning Commission Special Meeting Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for April and May 2021
2. Letter 05/26/2021 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission re: EAP Exemption Requirements
3. Kim Mangus Missed Correspondence from April
4. Networks Northwest Newsletter
5. American Rescue Plan
- 6a. Skegemog Point Road Schoonover E-mail
- 6b. Skegemog Point Road Revised Opinion of Probable Cost 06/02/2021
7. U.S. Treasury American Rescue Plan
8. Vern Gutknecht E-mail 05/28/2021 (1)
9. Vern Gutknecht E-mail 05/28/2021 (2)
10. Clerk Goss Reply to 05/28/2021 Gutknecht Emails

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 05/11/2021 regular meeting minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers # 46600 through 46701

Budget Amendment re: Purchase of Snowmobiles

Revenue & Expenditure Report (none)

Popp noted he has questions on items 3, 4, 7, and 9.

Discussion followed.

- Item 3, services of planner for the PC, the request needs to come to the board as an agenda item with documentation of the proposed expenditure. It will be brought back in July. Three bids will be sought. A package will be assembled and circulated to Benak pre-bid.
- Item 4, 19 versus 20 ambulance runs was discussed.
- Items 7 and 9, approved 4/7 and 4/22 planning commission minutes, which standards to follow, state or local, was discussed.

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

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

Unfinished Business (1:25:05)

Proposed Cell Tower Lease Amendment - First Right of Refusal

Motion by Popp authorizing the supervisor to negotiate with MD7 for a modified right of first refusal in accordance with Chris Patterson's confidential legal opinion dated 05/23/2021, returning such modified right of first refusal to the board for final approval; second by Benak.

Discussion followed.

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

New Business (1:28:35)

Engagement Letter re: FYE 03/31/2021 Audit

Motion by Goss to approve the expenditure of up to \$6,950 for the FYE 03/31/2021 audit and F-65 preparation, and to authorize the clerk to sign the engagement letter dated 04/30/2021; second by Benak.

Discussion followed.

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

Proposed Resolution Establishing an Industrial Development District (1:30:52)

Motion by Popp to schedule a public hearing at the next regular meeting of the Whitewater Township Board on Tuesday, 07/13/2021, for the purpose of discussing, modifying, adopting, or denying the proposed resolution creating an industrial development district in the entire N-Industrial Zoning District of Whitewater Township as presented below; second by Hubbell.

Goss urged to strike the words "as presented below."

Popp and Hubbell agreed to the strike.

Discussion followed.

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

Appraisal of 6400 Elk Lake Road (1:44:29)

Motion by Popp not to pursue the listing and sale of 6400 Elk Lake Road at this time; second by Vollmuth.

Discussion followed.

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

Update Ambulance Service Request for Proposal (1:49:26)

Motion by Popp to update and recirculate the 2015 Request for Proposal Ambulance Service Document (sic) replacing township demographic data with current call data from Grand Traverse County Central Dispatch; additionally, replace the inventory lists with an offer to lease a properly equipped motor vehicle for the purpose of operating an ALS ambulance; second by Vollmuth.

There was no discussion.

Roll call vote: Benak, no; Vollmuth, present.

Discussion followed.

Vollmuth, yes; Popp, yes; Hubbell, no; Goss, no. Motion failed.

Website ADA Compliance (1:52:00)

Motion by Goss to refer the issue of the township's website ADA compliance to the township attorney's office for review and recommendation; second by Benak.

Discussion followed.

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

Park Ranger Graded Wage Scale (2:20:22)

Motion by Goss to revise the Graded Wage Scale for Park Rangers as recommended by the clerk, and to adjust the wages of existing rangers to the revised Graded Wage Scale; second by Hubbell.

Discussion followed.

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

Budgeted Transfer re: Purchase of Snowmobiles (2:46:12)

Motion by Goss to transfer \$11,854 from the Fire Fund to the Fire Capital Improvement Fund; second by Hubbell.

There was no discussion.

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

Tabled Items (2:46:50)

None

Board Comments/Discussion (2:46:52)

Benak reminded everyone about Cleanup Day this weekend from 8 to 12. Volunteers need to be there by 7:30, free tire drop off due to the grant, and Erickson's there to accept scrap metal, including appliances with freon.

Goss noted the need to put together a fact sheet for the newsletter regarding the ballot proposal.

Discussion followed.

Articles should be submitted to Benak by noon on 6/21.

There was board consensus to have a proposed fact sheet reviewed by the township attorney.

Vollmuth said she wants to know why the board voted the way they did on the ambulance request for proposal.

Discussion followed.

Announcements (2:55:05)

Next regular meeting is July 13, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment (2:56:18)

Heidi Vollmuth, 8388 Winnie Lane, presented a FOIA request to the clerk and spoke on the topic of minutes.

Adjournment (2:57:33)

Motion by Hubbell to adjourn; second by Popp.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk