

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held January 11, 2022**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

In the absence of Supervisor Popp, Clerk Goss called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nominations for Moderator

Benak nominated Vollmuth.

Vollmuth nominated Benak.

Vollmuth declined the nomination.

Benak declined the nomination.

Vollmuth nominated Goss.

Goss accepted the nomination.

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

Roll Call of Board Members

Board Members present in person: Treasurer Benak, Goss, Trustee Vollmuth

Board Members absent: Popp

Others present in person: County Commissioner Darryl Nelson, Fire Chief Brandon Flynn, and 3 others

Others present via Zoom: 7

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

There were no adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment (8:06)

Public comment began at 9:06 a.m.

Brian Kelley, Acme Township resident, spoke on the reasons for his attendance at Whitewater meetings and the upcoming election.

Linda Slopsema spoke on adding money to legal budget line item and people wanting to vote.

Rod Rebant echoed comments of Slopsema and the amount expended on legal services, as well as the historical budget allocation.

Public comment ended at 9:12 a.m.

Public Hearing (14:00)

None

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments (14:06)

County Commissioner Report

Darryl Nelson gave the following report:

- Regarding the TCAPS school board meeting last night, the county employees, administration, and the county health department were maligned at the meeting. The issue was mandatory masking. TCAPS went with the recommendation of another county. Nelson found it disappointing.
- The wage and compensation study found that Grand Traverse County was anywhere from 9% to 18% low on pay with comparable organizations in county government and other large organizations who they would be competing with for help. All county employees will have received a 9.5% increase by 04/01/2022, accomplished in three steps. It is in the budget; there will not be a tax increase. They will study it again next year.
- Nelson has been working with John Roth regarding the M-72 and Bates Road intersection in Acme Township. The goal is to avoid fatalities at this complicated intersection. Nelson wants to get MDOT looking at it, also Jack O'Malley, the future rep for that area.
- Long Lake Township has approached the county about taking over Twin Lakes Camp, a 176-acre property in Long Lake Township. Details were provided. They will have more discussions about that.
- Northern Lakes Community Mental Health offered the position of new director to Dave Pankotai, a highly regarded candidate with jail experience.
- Nelson introduced Don Glenn, the Grand Traverse County GOP nominee for the trustee election on May 3. Glenn wants to be involved in the community, has been in front of many local boards in his previous career.

Fire Department Report (23:38)

Brandon Flynn gave the following report:

- Kind of a busy month in December with the structure fire, also helped Metro with a structure fire.
- Training was at a minimum, did end of year review business meeting. Firefighters get to critique the chief. They have dinner.
- VASA race is coming up on 2/12 and 2/13. They will only be in Whitewater Township on 2/12.
- The air packs were delivered last Friday. The AFG grant program is pretty much wrapped up. West Shore Fire will be here tomorrow to get them fired up and registered. Flynn appreciates the entire board's help with the project. The end result is that the department has approximately \$90,000 worth of new equipment which cost the township \$10,000.

The end-of-year event was briefly discussed, as well as updates on items which have been ordered. Flynn relayed what he has been told by Gorno Ford and said he expects the

chief's vehicle to be in in the next couple weeks. The brush truck has not been ordered; no one will take an order for a cab and chassis right now. Regarding the snowmobiles, Polaris is having supply chain issues, but delivery is tentatively scheduled for the end of March.

Planning Commission Report (29:59)

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

PC Chair Kim Mangus reported the PC was unable to make a quorum for their January meeting due to sickness. They are currently working on the draft marihuana ordinance so it can be rescheduled for public hearing. They also have a draft of an adjustment to Article 25 special use permit to address the lack of standards for special use permits. They are also addressing Article 12 setbacks. There are no specific plans to reschedule the meeting at this point.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report (33:48)

Cheryl Goss reported that, due to lack of quorum, last night's regularly scheduled meeting did not take place. It will be rescheduled later this month.

Consent Calendar (34:08)

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for January 2022
2. Clerk/Parks & Recreation Administrator's Report for December 2021/January 2022
3. Treasurer Reports – September/October/November 2021
4. Trustee Vollmuth January 2022 Report
5. Zoning Administrator's Report (*not available*)
6. Fire Department December 2021 Monthly Report
7. Mobile Medical Response December 2021 Activity Reports
8. Historical Society Report for November/December 2021
9. Approved 11/08/2021 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for December 2021, 4th Quarter Totals, 2021 YTD
2. GT Clerk – Call for Special Election
3. Housing North – Announcements
4. Linda Frank – Newsletter Comments
5. Linda Slopsema – Declines PRAC Reappointment
6. Letter 01/04/2022 Kingdom Hall to Whitewater Township
7. Letter 01/04/2022 Kingdom Hall to Whitewater Township Park

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 12/09/2021 special meeting minutes, 12/14/2021 regular meeting minutes, 12/21/2021 special meeting minutes, and 12/21/2021 closed session minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers # 47359 through 47437

Budget Amendments 01/11/2022 (Legal Services, Ambulance Fund)

Revenue & Expenditure Report (04/01/2021 thru 12/31/2021)

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

There was brief discussion concerning the playground expansion project.

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

Unfinished Business (36:51)

THANK YOU - ELK SKEGEMOG LAKE ASSOCIATION

Motion by Goss to support ESLA's efforts in the community by subscribing to an annual membership at the \$1,000 level for 2022; second by Benak.

Board comments and discussion followed.

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

186NETWORKS REQUEST FOR ARPA FUNDS (43:44)

Motion by Vollmuth to assist, for discussion purposes only, 186networks with the expansion of broadband throughout Whitewater Township by reserving one-third (1/3) of the total funds received by the township through the American Rescue Plan Act for such purpose; second by Benak.

Board comments and discussion followed.

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

DISCUSS/AWARD ARBORIST QUOTES (52:37)

This agenda item was brought back from the last meeting due to only receiving one quote from an out-of-state company. New information is:

- Local resident Josh Tress (Precision Landscapes) voluntarily marked the trees, prepared an inventory, and submitted a bid.
- A bid is still expected from Parshall Tree Service.
- Wade Logging said they will pay the township for the trees.

After discussion, there was board consensus to give Parshall Tree Care time to turn in their bid, see if Wade Logging turns in anything, and then bring it back to the board.

Goss will call Wade Logging to see if he wants to provide a bid for tree removal at BCNA and Lossie Trail.

New Business (59:57)

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD OF REVIEW, PLANNING COMMISSION, AND PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Motion by Vollmuth to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Rodney Challender to a partial 2-year term on the Whitewater Township Board of Review, term to end 12/31/2022; second by Benak.

Mr. Challender is present and answered a couple questions from Vollmuth.

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

Motion by Benak to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Frances Butler to a 3-year position on the Whitewater Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, term to end 12/31/2024; second by Vollmuth.

There was no discussion.

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

Motion by Vollmuth to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Al Keaton to a partial 3-year position on the Whitewater Township Planning Commission, term to end 12/31/2023; second by Benak.

Mr. Keaton is not present.

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

MAY 2022 ELECTION AND BALLOT INITIATIVE (1:04:56)

Motion by Goss, based on the legal opinion, to not place the recreational marijuana initiative on the May 2022 election date; second by Benak.

Board comments and discussion followed.

The motion was re-read.

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

RISK MANAGEMENT ARPA FUNDS (1:09:53)

This agenda item was brought forward by Popp; no motion was provided.

Board comments and discussion followed.

There was board consensus that Popp should bring this agenda back with more development.

PER DIEMS FOR MARIHUANA SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS (1:13:44)

Motion by Goss to amend the Salary/Wage Schedule 2021/2022 to add per diems for Marijuana Subcommittee members, chairperson, and recording secretary; second by Benak.

Board comments and discussion followed.

Goss amended the motion to add "as recommended by the clerk."

Benak seconded the amended motion.

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

ZOOM LAWSUIT - DISCUSSION (1:21:00)

This agenda item was brought forward by Popp; no motion was provided.

Brief discussion followed.

There was board consensus to take no action on the information from the Settlement Administrator.

WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP PARK 2022 DATES AND RATES (1:22:49)

Motion by Benak to designate the 2022 opening, closing, and free camping weekend dates as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Administrator; second by Goss.

There was no discussion.

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

Motion by Vollmuth to approve 2022 Camping and Miscellaneous Rates as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Administrator; second by Benak.

Board comments and discussion followed.

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

RESOLUTION #22-01 TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022/2023 FISCAL YEAR MEETING DATES (1:40:28)

Motion by Benak to adopt Resolution #22-01; second by Vollmuth.

There was no discussion.

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

SET BUDGET WORK SESSION DATES (1:41:21)

The following dates and alternate dates were discussed:

- 2/9 or 2/10 at 9:00 a.m. - Fire budget.
- 2/16 or 2/17 at 9:00 a.m. - Parks/Rec budgets.
- 2/23 or 2/24 at 9:00 a.m. - General Fund and other budgets.

There was board consensus that Popp and Vollmuth will choose which dates work for them and let the clerk know.

Tabled Items (1:47:32)

None

Board Comments/Discussion (1:47:37)

None

Announcements (1:47:51)

1. Special meeting on 01/13/2022 at 1:00 p.m.
2. Special meeting on 01/20/2022 at 9:00 a.m.

3. Next regular meeting 02/08/2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment (1:49:16)

Public comment began at 10:47 a.m.

Carl Wroubel, 9806 Elk Lake Trail, spoke to the membership fee for Elk-Skegemog Lake Association and offered to pay it.

Lois MacLean, 5919 Linderleaf Lane, commented that Three Lakes Association and several other lake associations they work with do not receive money from townships nor are they members.

Brian Kelley, Acme Township resident, spoke to sources other than ARPA funds for rural broadband funding, as well as other challenges with broadband.

Rod Rebant spoke to a conflict with the township becoming a member of the Elk Skegemog Lake Association, as well as agreement with consolidating water, sewer, policing, broadband under a title of infrastructure and looking at the bigger picture.

Public comment ended at 10:54 a.m.

Adjournment (1:56:13)

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk