

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held February 17, 2022**

Call to Order

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan.

Roll Call of Board Members

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

Board Members absent: None (trustee vacancy)

Others present in person: 3

Others present via Zoom: 1

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

There were no adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment (3:22)

Public comment began at 9:01 a.m.

Rod Rebant commented on excellent questions to Chief Flynn in the last budget meeting, staffing is critical and should be number one, moving pieces in the park budget, prioritize safety issues, be cautious about pay increases.

Public comment ended at 9:08 a.m.

Agenda Items as Listed in Special Meeting Notice (10:14)**BUDGET WORK SESSION - PARK/RECREATION FUNDS**

Goss provided the proposed Park Fund and Recreation Fund budgets, and addressed public comment concerning projects and wages.

Popp commented on several park projects.

The Park Fund budget was reviewed line by line. Changes included the addition of the \$200,000 Waterways grant funds to line item 590 and an increase in the propane line item to \$1,500.

Popp expressed that he wants plans submitted to the board for capital expenditures and playground repair.

Board comments and discussion followed.

The Recreation Fund budget was reviewed line by line. Changes included a decrease in 930 Facility Repairs/Maintenance to \$20,345 (removal of \$8,000 of playground upgrades).

There was lengthy discussion of a funding source and the cost for the Battle Creek Natural Area and Lossie Road Nature Trail August 2021 storm damage cleanup.

A new line item called Storm Damage Cleanup will be created and funded at \$67,200, with funds to be transferred from the General Fund, increasing 699 Transfers from Other Funds to \$97,200.

Popp expressed that he wants to see a site plan for the dugouts.

It was agreed that the proposed capital expenditure line item costs to address the wet area on Lossie Road Nature Trail (\$25,000) and trail evaluation/upgrades for Battle Creek Natural Area (\$15,000) will be put on hold for one year in order to address the enormous cost of storm damage cleanup in those parks. Line item 699 Transfers from Other Funds will be decreased to \$57,200.

Benak suggested the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee investigate grant opportunities to pay for the Lossie Road Nature Trail plan for the wet area and the BCNA trail evaluation/upgrades.

Recommended wage increases were discussed at length.

At 11:37 a.m., the meeting recessed.

At 11:42 a.m., the meeting reconvened.

Wages for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee will increase to \$80 for members and \$120 for the chairperson.

The Recreation Fund 703 Wages line item will be increased to \$7,600.

REVIEW/AWARD ARBORIST BID (3:48:25)

Matthew Haro from Parshall Tree Care Experts is not present.

Motion by Popp to accept Parshall's bid as a qualified arborist for \$17,200; second by Benak.

Board comments and discussion followed.

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

Popp will speak with Matt Haro and propose up to 90 days from signing of the agreement to provide the tree inventory and 12/31/2022 for completion of cleanup.

Board Comments/Discussion (4:13:56)

None

Public Comment (4:14:01)

None

Adjournment (4:14:19)

Motion by Vollmuth to adjourn; second by Popp. Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Benak, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes. Meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk