

**Whitewater Township Board  
Minutes of Special Meeting held March 9, 2022**

**Call to Order**

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.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: 7

Others present via Zoom: 2

**Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda**

Vollmuth requested to add a 5-minute discussion on ARPA funds.

Added as Business #2.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**Public Comment**

Public comment began at 7:02 p.m.

Linda Slopsema spoke against wage increases.

Diane Mack spoke on the few numbers of people present.

Denise Peltonen spoke on increased hours for deputies and asked about what is part-time for clerk, treasurer, supervisor.

Connie Hymore spoke against the proposed Baggs Road condominium development.

Vicki Beam commented on the Baggs Road condo site development of 22 homes, not able to find the agenda for this meeting, responsibility for taxpayer dollars.

Kim Mangus spoke against wage increases.

Vicky Emerson spoke against raises, difficulty finding the meeting, and the fire department needing attention.

Public comment ended at 7:20 p.m.

**Agenda Items as Listed in Special Meeting Notice****DEPUTY WAGES, SALARY/WAGE SCHEDULE**

The proposed increase in deputy wages was discussed at length.

Popp recommended a 3% across the board and adding an additional guideline to the bottom of the form that helps a future board understand that they can modulate throughout the entire scale based upon the qualities of the candidate before them.

Goss pointed out that Popp's proposed guideline already exists on the Graded Wage Scale, #9.

Popp clarified that his recommended 3% is the same 3% which deputies are already entitled to.

Goss acknowledged it is more symbolic than effective but stated she is rescinding her vote for the Additional Activities Compensation Program and her vote supporting the \$18 per hour wage for people who attend one meeting a month.

Previously agreed to increases on the Salary/Wage Schedule were reviewed.

Per diems for the parks & recreation advisory committee will go to \$70 for members, \$100 for the chair.

There will be no increases for board of review, planning commission, or zoning board of appeals.

There will be no change in the previously agreed to increases for the fire department.

There will be no change in the previously agreed to election wages of \$16 per hour for election inspectors and \$18 per hour for election chairpersons.

Starting wages of deputies was revisited.

After further discussion, deputy starting wage will go to \$14.30. Current deputies will be placed in the appropriate year of their service.

#### **5-MINUTE DISCUSSION OF ARPA FUNDS**

Vollmuth reported on her phone call with Baird, Cotter & Bishop.

Benak reported she followed all the steps and learned from Derek at Baird that the reason she cannot go to the next step is that the federal government does not have it completed yet and it is not available to us, and was also told if we get to the end of the month and cannot figure it out, call him and they will fit us in.

After discussion, there will be no decision today that Baird, Cotter & Bishop is going to do the township's ARPA reporting.

Benak noted that if the ARPA reporting is beyond her skill set, she will let the board know and we will hire it out.

**Board Comments/Discussion**

None

**Public Comment**

Public comment began at 9:28 p.m.

Linda Slopsema spoke on the budgeting process and compensation in the business world.

Diane Mack spoke on how representatives get along, updated information on website, workday meetings, doing more for employees, attorney fees, training, pay rates, benefits instead of pay raises, and her desire to serve the community.

Connie Hymore repeated her opposition to the Baggs Road development and spoke on giving and receiving respect and professionalism.

Kim Mangus commented that the township has already saved money on attorney fees by granting the planning commission access to a consulting planner; it is helping them get things done that they could not do otherwise.

Vicki Beam spoke again on her opposition to site condos on Baggs Road and water runoff issues, compensation because of covid, no part-timers have benefits, and there should be no grudges.

Public comment ended at 9:48 p.m.

**Adjournment**

***Motion by Vollmuth to adjourn; second by Benak. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Popp, yes; Vollmuth, yes. Meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.***

Cheryl A. Goss  
Whitewater Township Clerk