

**Whitewater Township Board  
Minutes of Regular Meeting held May 10, 2022**

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Supervisor Popp 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.

Popp welcomed new trustee Don Glenn.

**Roll Call of Board Members**

Board Members present in person: Popp, Goss, Benak, Glenn, Vollmuth

Board Members absent: None

Others present in person: 8

Others present via Zoom: 6 at start, with a maximum of 12 during the meeting

**Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda**

Goss requested to add final approval of the Hazardous Tree Removal bid packet.

Added as Unfinished Business #6.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**Public Comment**

Public comment began at 9:05 a.m.

Via Zoom:

Connie Hymore welcomed Glenn, commented on the Baggs Road project, master plan, zoning ordinance, listen to people.

Vern Gutknecht welcomed Glenn.

Vicki Beam welcomed Glenn, commented on PC and board work together, pause development.

In person:

Bob Campbell, 8886 Skegemog Point Rd, president of Elk Skegemog Lake Association (ESLA), commented regarding boat wash station at boat launch, invasive species, signage.

Linda Slopsema spoke regarding boat launch project, boat wash station, invasive species, documentation, project progress, launch capacity.

Denise Peltonen welcomed Glenn, spoke regarding marihuana, marihuana ordinances, legal costs.

Public comment ended at 9:25 a.m.

**Public Hearing**

None

**Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments****County Commissioner Report**

Darryl Nelson gave the following report:

- Brad Jewett, County Commission Vice Chair, here as a guest to speak.
- Brine vote, more expensive but reportedly stays better.
- GTCRC report will get to you soon.
- ARPA timeline including public input.
- Northern Lakes Community Mental Health will be replaced with another mental health plan within a year. Will transition with help within the community.

Brad Jewett: County did approve \$265,000 Emergency Operation Center (EOC) upgrade including training. Continuing to address the senior center.

**Fire Department Report**

Brandon Flynn gave the following report:

- Busy month with wild fires.
- Fire Chief vehicle sale and ordering the brush truck.
- Working on two grants for the air truck project and equipment for the brush truck.
- Fence repair materials should be here in July.
- Fundraiser this coming Saturday with the auxiliary.

**Planning Commission Report**

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

Kim Mangus, via Zoom, reported the special use permit amendment to Article 25 is on hold; Article 12 and Article 1 amendments ready to be sent to attorney; approved Classic Equine and a riding stable; adjusted time to 6:00 p.m. for the June meeting.

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report**

Cheryl Goss gave the following report:

- Updates provided to committee on dugouts, playground, and tree removal projects.
- E-mail from Steve Largent regarding wet area and bridge on Lossie Trail with options. Committee will continue to pursue laying groundwork for this project, despite lack of funding.
- Committee disappointed that a new member has not been appointed, despite application from Amber Voice.
- Committee discussed details of upcoming Hi Pray Park cleanup project.
- Request from Slopsema to replace tennis nets; she will provide vendor links.
- Committee discussed electronic locks for Hi Pray Park.

**Consent Calendar**

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for May 2022
2. Clerk/Parks & Recreation Administrator's Report for April/May 2022
3. Treasurer's Report 03/31/2022
4. Trustee's Report (*not available*)
5. Zoning Administrator's Report (*not available*)
6. Mobile Medical Response April 2022 Activity Reports
7. Fire Department April 2022 Report
8. Historical Society Report (*not available*)
9. Approved 03/02/2022 Planning Commission Minutes
10. Approved 03/11/2022 Planning Commission Minutes
11. Approved 03/21/2022 Marihuana Subcommittee Minutes

#### Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for April 2022
2. DNR – Oil Leases
3. King – Oppose Baggs Road Project
4. Mangus – Address Comments

#### Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 04/12/2022 regular meeting minutes

#### Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers # 47682 through 47770

#### Budget Amendments (none)

#### Revenue & Expenditure Report (none)

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

Discussion followed.

Goss will send the playground inspection reports to all board members.

Popp will put on next month to review the PC ordinance.

Copies of the Guide to Planning and Zoning will be ordered for the board. The zoning amendment process will be brought back for reevaluation after receiving the book.

Regarding document formats, will request specific program/formats from vendors when receiving paid for services and items.

Minor changes to the 4/12 minutes were provided by the recording secretary: Removal of two blank lines, a space in the middle of a word, change motion passed to motion carried, and change footer date to the standard eight-digit format.

***Goss modified the motion to add including revisions as stated to the 04/12/2022 minutes.***

*Benak seconded the revised motion.*

*Roll call vote: Vollmuth-yes; Benak-yes; Popp-yes; Glenn-yes; Goss-yes. Motion carried.*

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **ARPA REPORTING**

Reporting was completed and sent in before the April 30 deadline.

Benak suggested a 2-person team to come up with a survey to be sent with the July tax bills and volunteered to be on the team.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Board consensus that Benak, Karin Boyd, Vicki Beam, and Denise Peltonen will write a short survey to go in the tax statements.

#### **COUNTY ROAD IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT (BRINING)**

*Motion by Goss to continue to include the township-owned portion of Park Road on the County Road Improvement Agreement and the cost of same to be paid out of the Road Fund; second by Benak.*

Discussion followed.

*Roll call vote: Goss-yes; Vollmuth-no; Glenn-no; Popp-no; Benak-yes. Motion failed.*

*Motion by Popp to continue to include the township-owned portion of Park Road on the County Road Improvement Agreement and the cost of the same to be paid out of the Park Fund; second by Glenn.*

*Roll call vote: Benak-no; Glenn-yes; Goss-no; Vollmuth-yes; Popp-yes. Motion carried.*

*Motion by Popp to amend Whitewater Township gravel road 2022 document, specifically seasonal road section, spelling of Samels Road correction and to amend its length from 1 mile to 0.5 mile; Vinton Road from south end to seasonal to be moved to the non-seasonal portion of the list; remove boat launch; second by Glenn.*

Brief discussion followed.

*Roll call vote: Popp-yes; Goss-yes; Vollmuth-yes; Benak-yes; Glenn-yes. Motion carried.*

At 12:03 p.m., there was a point of order at three hours.

*Motion by Popp to continue with today's meeting; second by Goss.*

Discussion followed.

*Goss rescinded her second of the motion.*

*Glenn seconded the motion.*

*Roll call: Glenn-yes; Popp-yes; Benak-yes; Goss-yes; Vollmuth-yes. Motion carried.*

***ELECTRONIC MEETING ACCOMMODATION POLICY (EQUAL ACCESS POLICY)***

***Motion by Glenn to forward this proposed Electronic Meeting Accommodation Policy to legal for review; second by Vollmuth.***

Lengthy discussion followed.

Popp will bring a revised policy to next month's meeting, before it is sent to the attorney.

***Glenn rescinded his motion to forward the proposed Electronic Meeting Accommodation Policy to legal for review.***

*Vollmuth rescinded her second.*

**BOAT LAUNCH/ENTRYWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – FINAL PLANS AND PROJECT MANUAL**

***Motion by Popp to authorize the clerk to work with Fleis & VandenBrink to finalize the project manual and thereafter to seek formal sealed bids for the boat launch/entryway improvement project; second by Benak.***

Rick Stout from Fleis & VandenBrink is present via Zoom.

Lengthy discussion followed.

***Roll call vote: Benak-yes; Vollmuth-no; Popp-no; Glenn-no; Goss-yes. Motion failed.***

***Motion by Popp that we call on F&V for an updated engineer's estimated cost of construction and an estimated cost for the ranger station and shed removal or replacement, whatever that plan is going to be, and then we bring this back in front of the board.***

Discussion followed.

***Popp amended his motion to include updated engineer's estimated cost of construction with relocation of boat wash station to inbound traffic and estimated cost for ranger station and shed removal and replacement.***

Further discussion ensued.

Benak suggested a special meeting to discuss this agenda item.

Motion re-read as follows: ***Motion by Popp that we call on Fleis & VandenBrink for an updated estimated cost of construction and updated estimate of cost of construction of relocation of boat wash station to inbound traffic and an estimated cost for ranger station and shed removal and replacement.***

***Second by Glenn.***

Motion re-read a second time.

***Popp suggested removing the word relocation and make it addition of boat wash station inbound.***

Discussion followed.

Motion re-read and revised again: ***Motion by Popp that we call on Fleis & VandenBrink for an updated estimated cost of construction and addition of boat wash station in inbound traffic and estimated cost for ranger station and shed removal and replacement.***

***Glenn seconded the revised motion.***

***Roll call vote: Popp-yes; Benak-yes; Vollmuth-yes; Goss-yes; Glenn-yes. Motion carried.***

At about 1:43 p.m., the meeting recessed.

At about 1:50 p.m., the meeting reconvened.

#### **HI PRAY PARK DUGOUTS – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

***Motion by Benak to approve the expenditure of \$18,262 from the Recreation Fund to install two 7' x 24' dugouts at Hi Pray Park; second by Goss.***

***Goss noted correction of the amount to \$18,672.***

Discussion followed.

***Roll call vote: Vollmuth-no; Goss-yes; Glenn-no; Benak-yes; Popp-yes. Motion carried.***

***Motion by Goss to approve Independent Contractor Agreement between Whitewater Township and Lynn Bartosik d/b/a Peterson Built Services; second by Popp.***

Discussion followed.

***Roll call vote: Goss-yes; Glenn-yes; Benak-yes; Popp-yes; Vollmuth-yes. Motion carried.***

#### **TREE REMOVAL AGREEMENT (added)**

***Motion by Goss to approve the Hazardous Tree Removal and Mitigation Project bid packet; second by Glenn.***

Discussion followed.

Goss repeated the motion: *Motion to approve the Hazardous Tree Removal and Mitigation Project bid packet with a change from June 1 to June 6 for receipt of bids.*

*Roll call vote: Glenn-yes; Popp-yes; Goss-yes; Vollmuth-yes; Benak-yes. Motion carried.*

#### **New Business**

#### **RESOLUTION #22-14 AMBULANCE MILLAGE RENEWAL LANGUAGE**

*Motion by Benak to adopt Resolution #22-14; second by Goss.*

*Roll call vote: Benak-yes; Vollmuth-yes; Popp-yes; Glenn-yes; Goss-yes. Motion carried.*

Goss will get the millage language to the county by the 4:00 p.m. deadline today.

#### **CERTIFIED ZONING SERVICES AGREEMENT**

*Motion by Benak to approve the updated service agreement between Whitewater Township and Certified Zoning Services with monthly fee to be \$1,507.75 and additional hours, if needed, invoiced at a rate of \$29.22 per hour, as written; second by Glenn.*

Discussion followed.

Popp will revise the agreement to add a termination clause and change paragraph 7b to show supervisor or clerk to approve additional time over 4 hours.

*Motion will be modified to say “with changes as amended.”*

*Roll call vote: Popp-yes; Benak-yes; Vollmuth-yes; Goss-yes; Glenn-yes. Motion carried.*

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE OF HOSE REELS**

*Motion by Goss to allow Chief Flynn to purchase two hose reels and accessories as listed to complete the DNR grant project in the amount of \$6,740.00; second by Vollmuth.*

*Roll call vote: Vollmuth-yes; Goss-yes; Glenn-yes; Benak-yes; Popp-yes. Motion carried.*

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT SCBA DISPOSITION**

*Motion by Goss to allow Chief Flynn to donate 10 existing Scott SCBA air packs and 20 SCBA air bottles to North Central Michigan College Regional Firefighter Training Center; second by Vollmuth.*

*Roll call vote: Goss-yes; Glenn-yes; Benak-yes; Popp-yes; Vollmuth-yes. Motion carried.*

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – CHARLES DAVIS**

Mr. Davis has left the building. Popp will add to the next agenda if Mr. Davis is still available.

**PARK RANGER WAGES**

*Motion by Goss to approve 2022 wages for Dan Belanger, Margaret (Peggy) Quast, Dean Crawford, Mary Crawford, Spencer Lance, and Nakai Halpin, as recommended by the clerk; second by Benak.*

Discussion followed.

*Roll call vote: Glenn-yes; Popp-no; Goss-yes; Vollmuth-no; Benak-yes. Motion carried.*

**PUBLIC ACCESS ZOOM RECORDINGS AND AGENDAS**

*Motion by Popp to authorize up to \$1,200.00 as a one-time fee for Brick House Interactive to design and set up a YouTube channel and Google Drive for public video and agenda viewing; second by Vollmuth.*

Discussion followed.

Popp will upload the files to the YouTube channel and the Google Drive.

This expenditure will be allocated to 804 under Township Board or Contingency.

*Roll call vote: Benak-yes; Vollmuth-yes; Popp-yes; Glenn-yes; Goss-yes. Motion carried.*

*Motion by Vollmuth to authorize up to \$200.00 annually to Brick House Interactive as hosting fees for the YouTube channel and Google Drive expanding public access to township information; second by Glenn.*

*Roll call vote: Popp-yes; Benak-yes; Vollmuth-yes; Goss-yes; Glenn-yes. Motion carried.*

Goss will issue a purchase order to Brick House Interactive.

**PAR PLAN GRANT – THROWABLE LIFE RINGS**

*Motion by Glenn to approve Resolution #22-15 in support of Whitewater Township's application to the Michigan Township Participating Plan Risk Reduction Grant Program to supply and install two (2) throwable life rings at Whitewater Township Camping Park; second by Vollmuth.*

Discussion followed.

*Roll call vote: Vollmuth-yes; Goss-no; Benak-yes; Popp-yes; Glenn-yes. Motion carried.*

**Tabled Items**

None

**Board Comments/Discussion**

Professional planner, trying to gather information from Randy Mielnik for possible input and assistance. A conflict of interest issue was raised as Mr. Mielnik lives in Whitewater Township.



Glenn will interview with Beckett & Raeder with the planning commission chair and possibly the zoning administrator.

It was noted that the PC is doing an update of the master plan, not a complete rewrite.

Vollmuth volunteered to write an ad for a planner for the Record Eagle and the ER News.

### **Announcements**

1. Open tree removal bids 06/07/2022 at 9:00 a.m. (informal)
2. Next regular meeting 06/14/2022 at 9:00 a.m.

### **Public Comment**

Public comment began at 3:05 p.m.

Via Zoom:

Vern Gutknecht commented on length of meeting, park standing on its own, boat launch, transparency, dugouts.

Connie Hymore spoke on benefits of a full board, big difference between shall and may, Article 25 amendment.

Popp responded to Hymore comments.

Vicki Beam inquired about the PC investigation, training needed, Hall availability via internet, campgrounds, help keep Whitewater rural.

Karin Boyd (inaudible)

Kim Mangus spoke on letter to board, clarified the PC did not eliminate training, PC will review comments from public and attorney at the June meeting, PC needs a board representative.

Connie Hymore commented on being scolded by Mangus.

Public comment ended at 3:35 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

***Motion by Benak to adjourn; second by Vollmuth. Roll call vote: Glenn-yes; Popp-yes; Benak-yes; Goss-yes; Vollmuth-yes. Meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.***

Lois MacLean  
Recording Secretary