

**Whitewater Township Board  
Minutes of Special Meeting held March 21, 2023**

**Call to Order**

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan.

**Roll Call of Board Members**

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

Board Members absent: Treasurer Benak

Others present in person: Fire Chief Brandon Flynn, Zoom Facilitator Lois MacLean, and 2 others

Others present via Zoom: Six

**Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda**

There were no adjustments.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**Public Comment**

Public comment began at 9:01 a.m.

Denise Peltonen

Lois MacLean

Terese Hooper

Linda Slopsema

Vicki Beam

Connie Hymore

Popp read an e-mail from Frank Hymore, and then gave his own public comment.

Heidi Vollmuth

Public comment ended at 9:33 a.m.

**Agenda Items as Listed in Special Meeting Notice****PUBLIC HEARING - 2023/2024 FIRE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT BUDGET**

Public hearing was opened at 9:40 a.m. A sign-in sheet was provided.

Legal notice of the budget public hearing was published in the Traverse City Record-Eagle on 03/05/2023, in the Elk Rapids News on 03/09/2023, and at the township hall.

Written comments were as follows:

1. 03/19/2023 e-mail from Rod Rebant – (read by Goss): Detailed data appreciated, transfer of unused funds makes good sense, comments on wage increases, park fund capital funding huge ask for community, recommend professional services be

blended/simplified, adopt policy for documentation for 10% or higher increases/decreases, keep up improvements/transparency.

2. 03/20/2023 e-mail from Linda Slopsema – (read by Goss): Salary resolution and additional activities compensation concerns, county problems with this sort of policy, budget does not comprehend these additional costs, could amount to \$100,000 or more per year, develop and define policy to drive accountability and prevent abuse, not allow board members to resign from current duties, board action on new initiatives, last year spending drained reserve funds by \$550,000, no improvements, will force residents to pay additional 0.5 mill for fire, plan to drain \$1.6 million in reserves, three tables in email, work on cost savings, revenue generation, prioritize projects, prevent waste of resources.

In-person comments were as follows:

- Linda Slopsema: Regarding fire fund, instead of tax increase, use reserve funds.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed Fire Special Assessment District budget is 1.5000 mills.

Estimated revenues \$409,500, estimated expenditures \$408,250.

Public hearing was closed at 9:51 a.m.

### **PUBLIC HEARING - 2023/2024 AMBULANCE MILLAGE BUDGET**

Public hearing opened at 9:52 a.m. A sign-in sheet was provided.

Legal notice of the budget public hearing was published in the Traverse City Record-Eagle on 03/05/2023, in the Elk Rapids News on 03/09/2023, and at the township hall.

Written comments were received from:

1. 03/19/2023 e-mail from Rod Rebant (same as above)
2. 03/20/2023 e-mail from Linda Slopsema (same as above)

There were no in-person or zoom public comments.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed Ambulance Millage Budget is 1.5000 mills, as reduced by MCL 211.34d.

Estimated revenues \$383,600, estimated expenditures \$315,050.

Public hearing was closed at 9:56 a.m.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – 2023/2024 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND ALL OTHER TOWNSHIP BUDGETS**

Public hearing opened at 9:58 a.m. A sign-in sheet was provided.

Legal notice of the budget public hearing was published in the Traverse City Record-Eagle on 03/05/2023, in the Elk Rapids News on 03/09/2023, and at the township hall.

Written comments were received from:

1. 03/19/2023 e-mail from Rod Rebant (same as above)
2. 03/20/2023 e-mail from Linda Slopsema (same as above)

There were no in-person or zoom public comments.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed General Fund Budget and all other Township Budgets is 1.0000 mills, as reduced by MCL 211.34d.

Estimated revenues General Fund \$623,273, estimated expenditures General Fund \$1,526,670.

Estimated revenues Road Fund \$44,530, estimated expenditures Road Fund \$48,000.

Estimated revenues Road Repair/Replacement Fund \$500, estimated expenditures Road Repair/Replacement Fund \$400,000.

Estimated revenues Park Fund \$1,039,034, estimated expenditures Park Fund \$1,083,951.

Estimated revenues Recreation Fund \$221,052, estimated expenditures Recreation Fund \$239,332.

Estimated revenues Ambulance Replacement Fund \$0, estimated expenditures Ambulance Replacement Fund \$0.

Estimated revenues Federal Fund \$50, estimated expenditures Federal Fund \$295,479.

Estimated revenues Public Improvement Fund \$75,200, estimated expenditures Public Improvement Fund \$75,000.

Estimated revenues Fire Capital Improvement Fund \$324,273, estimated expenditures Fire Capital Improvement Fund \$308,500.

There were no in-person or zoom comments.

Written comments were received from:

1. 03/19/2023 e-mail from Rod Rebant (same as above)
2. 03/20/2023 e-mail from Linda Slopsema (same as above)

Public hearing was closed at 10:07 a.m.

Changes to the proposed budget document were as follows:

- Resident Outreach Subcommittee will be added to the Salary/Wage Schedule, members \$75/meeting, chairperson \$120/meeting, recording secretary \$53/hour.

- Planning commission line items were increased as follows for a DIY master plan survey: Add \$3,000 to 101-400-702, add \$1,000 to 101-400-728, add \$2,000 to 101-400-804, add \$1,000 each to 101-400-901 and 101-400-902. No additional money will be added for facility expense.
- Municode, North Place Planning, organization of ordinances. Thus far, \$7,170 has been paid to Municode under 101-101-804. \$6,500 will be added to 101-101-804 for completion of recodification of the general and zoning ordinances, but it may not necessarily be paid to Municode.
- 101-171-727 will be increased to \$1,500 to allow for the purchase of a laptop, software, and associated equipment for the deputy supervisor.
- 208-756-727 will be increased to \$3,000 to allow for the purchase of a laptop, software, and associated equipment for the park manager.
- 101-000-402 will be increased to \$154,738 to reflect the increase in taxable value after March Board of Review (\$274,164,416 taxable value x estimated 0.5644 mills).
- 101-209-727 will be increased to \$700.
- The proposed \$75,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Public Improvement Fund will not be made.
- \$7,000 will be added to 208-756-956 to allow for the cost of a rental trailer for a temporary ranger station and utility connections.

At 12:02 p.m., the meeting recessed.

At 12:18 p.m., the meeting reconvened.

- 206-000-402 will be increased to \$411,247 based on the March Board of Review taxable value of \$274,164,416 x 1.5 mills.
- 210-000-402 will be increased to \$393,536 based on the March Board of Review taxable value of \$274,164,416 x 1.4354 mills.
- In the Federal Fund, 285-966-999 has been changed from \$295,471 to \$295,479 due to previous board action on the checks to Cherry Capital Connection and 186networks.
- 285-966-999 will be reduced by \$121,148 due to the ability to write checks to both broadband providers directly from this fund, leaving \$174,331 in this line item.
- Line item 285-000-970 will be added for the purpose of the checks to the broadband providers. The detail for 970 will show half of the funds going to Cherry Capital Connection and half to 186networks.
- 401-000-699 will go from \$75,000 to \$0 consistent with the earlier decision to not transfer \$75,000 from the General Fund to the Public Improvement Fund.
- 206-966-999 will increase to \$137,082 based on the increase in taxable value which the fire special assessment district levy is calculated on.
- 406-000-699 will increase to \$330,155 after correcting the amount to be transferred from the Fire Fund to \$137,082.

Goss explained the Projected Change in Fund Balances document.

**FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Goss revised the proposed Recreation Fund budget amendment to add \$110 to 703 and subtract \$110 from 930.

*Motion by Goss to approve the 2022/2023 fiscal year budget amendments as revised; second by Glenn.*

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

**RESOLUTION #23-05 SALARY FOR SUPERVISOR 2023/2024**

*Motion by Popp to approve Resolution #23-05 Salary for Supervisor 2023/2024; second by Vollmuth.*

Discussion followed.

The packet resolution will be revised as follows:

- The first Whereas will remain.
- After the first Whereas, insert the following language as the second Whereas: Whereas, in addition to statutory duties, the Whitewater Township Administrative Policy & Procedure Manual and township ordinance assign various duties to the office of township supervisor, hereinafter duties, for which a base salary has been calculated;
- The original second Whereas will become the third Whereas.
- Delete the original third Whereas, which refers to additional compensation.

*Popp added “as amended 03/21/2023 at 2:04 p.m.” to his motion.*

*Vollmuth re-seconded the motion.*

*Roll call vote: Goss, yes, under duress and coercion; Vollmuth, yes; Glenn, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, absent. Motion carried.*

A true and complete copy of said resolution is filed with the minutes.

**RESOLUTION #23-06 SALARY FOR CLERK 2023/2024**

*Motion by Glenn to amend Resolution #23-06 as presented in the packet, Salary for Clerk 2023/2024, Whitewater Township, Grand Traverse County, Whereas, pursuant to MCLA 41.95(3), which provides that in a township which does not hold an annual meeting, the salary for officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board; and Whereas, in addition to statutory duties, the Whitewater Township Administrative Policy & Procedure Manual and township ordinance assign various duties to the office of township clerk, hereinafter duties, for which a base annual salary has been calculated; Whereas, the township board deems that an adjustment in the base salary of the office of clerk is warranted for statutory responsibilities and duties as described above; Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that as of April 1, 2023, the yearly base salary of the township clerk shall be \$30,645; second by Vollmuth.*

***Roll call vote: Benak, absent; Glenn, yes; Goss, yes, under duress and coercion; Vollmuth, no; Popp, no. Motion failed.***

Discussion followed.

Popp asked for reconsideration of Glenn's motion.

***Glenn said he would make the same motion.***

***Vollmuth re-seconded the same motion.***

***Roll call vote: Popp, yes; Goss, yes, under duress and coercion; Vollmuth, no; Benak, absent; Glenn, yes. Motion carried.***

A true and complete copy of said resolution is filed with the minutes.

#### **RESOLUTION #23-07 SALARY FOR TREASURER 2023/2024**

Vollmuth read the following verbiage: Proposed Resolution #23-06 (sic), Salary for Treasurer 2023/2024, Whitewater Township, Grand Traverse County, Whereas, pursuant to MCLA 41.95(3), which provides that in a township which does not hold an annual meeting, the salary for officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board; and Whereas, in addition to statutory duties, the Whitewater Township Administrative Policy & Procedure Manual and township ordinance assign various duties to the office of township treasurer, hereinafter duties, for which a base annual salary has been calculated; Whereas, the township board deems that an adjustment in the base salary of the office of treasurer is warranted for statutory responsibilities and duties as described above; Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that as of April 1, 2023, the yearly base salary of the township treasurer shall be \$30,068; ***motion by Vollmuth to adopt the foregoing resolution; second by Glenn.***

Vollmuth corrected the resolution number to 23-07.

Glenn seconded the change.

***Roll call vote: Glenn, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, absent; Goss, yes, under duress and coercion; Vollmuth, yes. Motion carried.***

A true and complete copy of said resolution is filed with the minutes.

#### **RESOLUTION #23-08 SALARY FOR TRUSTEES 2023/2024**

***Motion by Popp to adopt Resolution #23-08 Salary for Trustees 2023/2024; second by Glenn.***

Discussion followed.

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

A true and complete copy of said resolution is filed with the minutes.

**RESOLUTION #23-09 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2023/2024**

***Motion by Popp to adopt Resolution #23-09 as presented; second by Glenn.***

Section 13 of Resolution #23-09 will be amended as follows: The fiscal officer shall transmit to the board at the end of each month a report of financial operations, in accordance with Whitewater Township Policy & Procedure Manual Section 4.5.

***Popp changed his motion to say “as amended.”***

***Glenn seconded the change.***

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

A true and complete copy of said resolution is filed with the minutes.

**GRADED WAGE SCALE 2023/2024**

***Motion by Popp to approve the Graded Wage Scale 2023/2024 as presented in the packet; second by Goss.***

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

**SALARY/WAGE SCHEDULE 2023/2024**

***Motion by Popp to adopt the Salary/Wage Schedule 2023/2024 as amended; seconded by Vollmuth.***

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

**Board Comments/Discussion**

Length of tomorrow’s meeting, addition to tomorrow’s meeting, and publication of Amendment 1 to Ordinance 53 was discussed.

The meeting will recess to allow Goss to re-post the notice for tomorrow’s meeting.

At 2:43 p.m., the meeting recessed.

At 2:53 p.m., the meeting reconvened.

**Public Comment**

Public comment began at 2:56 p.m.

Karin Boyd  
Connie Hymore

Public comment ended at 2:58 p.m.

**Adjournment**

*Motion by Glenn to adjourn; second by Vollmuth. Roll call vote: Glenn, yes; Popp, yes; Goss, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, absent.*

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Cheryl A. Goss  
Whitewater Township Clerk