

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held February 20, 2018**

Call to Order

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan.

Roll Call of Board Members

Board Members present: Benak, Goss, Popp, Lawson (arrived at 6:29 p.m.), Hubbell (arrived at 6:41 p.m.)

Board Members absent: None

Others present: Interim Fire Chief Tim Arbenowske and 3 others

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

There were no adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

Ted Hooper, 6575 Cook Road, stated he is here in regard to the last meeting and the way that it was handled in regard to the zoning administrator. He stated he is pretty disappointed in the way he was berated here. He stated the following: We all know that our zoning ordinance has a lot to be desired and a lot to work with. Yet, you give him a job and you want him to go out and do his job. Part of his job is to do enforcement. It looks to me like he tried to do his job, found out that, gee, I can't go this direction, and didn't go that direction. To act the way that you acted, some of the people on the board, like it was a big deal because of this lady, who obviously has a violation, and somebody complained about the violation. It looked to me like Denny did his job, and you guys berated him in a public forum. You made a big deal about, hey, we can't send all these applications up here for the fire chief because it has this information on it that is personal; we don't want anybody to see that. Yet, here, in front of the public, you guys treat your administrator -- if he made a mistake, that's fine, but you don't do it in a public forum. You don't berate somebody. You are his employer; you do it behind closed doors. It was way out of line, in my opinion. I think you owe the man an apology for what happened.

Agenda Items as Listed in Special Meeting Notice

Review Fire Chief Applications/Select Interviewees

There was discussion of how the review should be handled.

Applicant Kent Farquhar's qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Farquhar will not be interviewed.

Applicant Keith O'Neil's qualifications and experience were discussed.

At about 6:29 p.m., Trustee Lawson arrived and was brought up to speed on the progress of the meeting.

It was agreed that Mr. O'Neil will be on the "maybe" list.

Applicant John Baker's qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that he will be offered an interview.

Applicant Brandon Flynn's qualifications and experience were discussed.

At about 6:41 p.m., Trustee Hubbell arrived and was brought up to speed on the progress of the meeting.

Projected budget numbers for chief salary, deputy chief wage, officer wages, and health insurance stipend were briefly reviewed.

The board continued to discuss Flynn's qualifications and experience. It was agreed that Mr. Flynn will be offered an interview.

Applicant Janis "John" Smits' qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that he will be offered an interview.

Applicant Gary Dreyer's qualifications and experience were discussed. Goss noted that he called her office shortly after applying and wanted to offer further information, which Goss declined to take, and instead indicated to Mr. Dreyer that he could give that information to the board if he was interviewed. It was agreed that Mr. Dreyer will be on the "maybe" list.

Applicant Joseph Shafer's qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Shafer will not be interviewed.

Applicant Bradley Justin Bailey's qualifications and experienced were discussed.

It was agreed that out-of-state candidates will have to bear the expense of showing up for an interview. Skype interviews were briefly discussed, but it was agreed that in-person interviews will be required.

It was agreed that Mr. Bailey will be offered an interview.

Applicant Kevin Harmes' qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Harmes will not be interviewed.

Applicant Marc Brade's qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Brade will not be interviewed.

Applicant Michael Paige's qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Paige will be offered an interview.

Applicant Robert Atkinson's qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Atkinson will not be interviewed.

Applicant Robert Wirtz, Jr.'s qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Wirtz will not be interviewed.

Applicant Thomas Ford's qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Ford will be on the "maybe" list.

Applicant Thomas Rudolph's qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Rudolph will not be interviewed.

Applicant Tim Orenic's qualifications and experience were discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Orenic will not be interviewed.

In summary, Flynn, Smits, Baker, Bailey, and Paige will be interviewed. On the "maybe" list are Dreyer, O'Neil, and Ford.

Details of notifications to applicants and the interview process were discussed and agreed to as follows:

- Goss will notify the candidates who have not been selected to be interviewed.
- The status of the three "maybe" candidates will be changed to "yes" (interview will be offered).
- Face-to-face interviews will be conducted in the first two weeks of April.
- Candidates to be interviewed will be contacted by Goss stating that the board would like to interview them and inquiring of their availability in the first two weeks of April.
- Local candidates will be offered weekday evening interviews.
- In-state candidates will be offered weekday afternoon interviews.
- Out-of-state candidates will be offered Monday or Friday interviews to accommodate travel needs.
- Before making a final determination on whether to interview Baker, Paige and Ford, Goss will ask them to submit their salary requirements. The board will review this information at the 2/27 regular meeting and make final determinations.
- Benak and Goss will work on a schedule for interviews.

Items already on the 2/27 agenda were briefly discussed.

Budget Work Session

Due to the length of the meeting, the budget was not discussed. Future budget work session dates were agreed upon as follows:

- 2/22 at 7:00 p.m.
- 3/1 at 7:00 p.m.
- 3/6 at 7:00 p.m.
- Budget public hearing will be held on 3/20 at 7:00 p.m.

Board Comments/Discussion

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion by Lawson to adjourn; second by Popp. On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk

DRAFT