

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held February 27, 2018**

Call to Order

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan.

Roll Call of Board Members

Board members present: Benak, Goss, Hubbell, Lawson, Popp

Board members absent: None

Others present: Acme Township Supervisor Jay Zollinger, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Chief Pat Parker, and 4 others

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Goss stated that she provided a memo and some information today updating the Fire Chief applications and asked that it be added to the agenda.

Added as New Business #8.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations

Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department

Popp stated he provided this information the other night at the budget meeting. The Rural Fire Board has determined that for each township to maintain the equipment in their barn, the fee is \$413,000. There are a couple exceptions. The engine in Fife Lake has drivability issues; it will be fixed or replaced before 3/31. He stated the board will have to make a decision ourselves whether we want to pay that kind of money for the equipment. Popp stated he thinks it is well worth it; there is at least \$380,000 worth of trucks, let alone the equipment on the trucks. It will also include a third of the surplus equipment that is located at Station 2.

Unfinished Business

Update on Junk Complaints

No update has been provided. There was discussion whether the zoning administrator knows that this issue is always on the board's second-meeting-of-the-month agenda.

New Business**Review/Approve Proposed Mutual Aid Agreements/Cost Recovery****a. Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department**

Metro Fire Chief Pat Parker and Metro Fire Chairman Jay Zollinger are present.

In answer to Goss's question, Chief Parker confirmed that this is the same agreement they sign with other municipalities, including the fee schedule. At Goss's suggestion that Whitewater should have their attorney review the proposed agreement and there might be additions, Chief Parker voiced that he did not have a problem with that process.

Benak inquired about the difference in price on the schedule of fees. Chief Parker explained the fee structure.

Popp stated he does not share the concern about legal review. He has no problem with approving the mutual aid agreement with Metro.

Parker stated he has the authority to sign it.

Discussion followed. The proposed agreement will go out for legal review.

b. Elk Rapids Township Fire Department

Goss noted that Attorney Steven Delie provided a clean copy and a revised copy of the draft agreement provided by Elk Rapids Township. Whitewater's attorney put the agreement into a more organized format and added several things that are not in the Elk Rapids agreement.

Motion by Popp to send the attorney-reviewed clean copy to Elk Rapids Township for their approval; second by Lawson. There was no further discussion. On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Goss will send the clean copy to Elk Rapids Township tomorrow.

Resolution #18-01 Whitewater Township Poverty Exemption Guidelines

Benak inquired who wrote the guidelines. Popp replied that it is a recommendation from the State Tax Commission; a couple changes were made.

Motion by Goss to adopt Resolution #18-01 Whitewater Township Poverty Exemption Guidelines; second by Lawson. There was no further discussion. On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Goss pointed out that Popp's memo suggests a separate motion to approve the application.

Motion by Lawson to approve the Whitewater Township Poverty Exemption Application; second by Benak. There was no further discussion. On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Resolution #18-02 Waiver of Penalty for Late Filing of Property Transfer Affidavit

Popp provided a memo detailing the reason this issue is before the board, i.e., it is customary for smaller units of government to waive the daily penalty for late filing of a Property Transfer Affidavit. The waiver does not alter the requirement to file the affidavit.

Benak noted that the affidavits go to Assessor Kuhns.

Motion by Benak to adopt Resolution #18-02 Waiver of Penalty for Late Filing of Property Transfer Affidavit; second by Hubbell. There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.**

Discuss/Approve Consumers Energy Invoice for Power Pole Removal

Goss provided a memo outlining the reason this issue is before the board, i.e., there is an abandoned Consumers power pole which needs to be removed before the new parking lot behind the Emergency Services building can be completed. The invoice needs to be paid in order to get the work scheduled. There is an additional abandoned pole behind the cemetery which Consumers will also be removing.

Motion by Lawson to pay Consumers Energy Invoice No. 9312109859 in the amount of \$4,146.00; second by Popp. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.**

Budget Amendment re: Fire Fund Wages

There were no questions on the proposed amendment.

Motion by Hubbell to approve the recommended budget amendments in the Fire Fund; second by Goss. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes. Motion carried.**

Budgeted Transfers – Recreation Fund/Ambulance Fund

There were no questions on the proposed transfers.

Motion by Goss to transfer \$22,000 from the General Fund to the Recreation Fund, as budgeted; second by Benak. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes. Motion carried.**

Motion by Lawson to transfer \$125,000 from the General Fund to the Ambulance Fund, as budgeted; second by Hubbell. There was no further discussion. **Roll call vote: Lawson, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes. Motion carried.**

Resolution #18-03 Whitewater Township Board 2018/2019 Regular Meeting Dates

Goss noted that no holidays are included in the meeting dates.

Motion by Goss to approve Resolution #18-03 Whitewater Township Board 2018/2019 Regular Meeting Dates; second by Lawson. There was no further discussion. **On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.**

Fire Chief Applications Update (added)

Goss provided a memo with an update on information requested from prospective fire chief applicants.

Lawson, Benak, and Hubbell stated they would like more time to look over the new information.

This item of business will be added to the 3/1 meeting agenda.

Tabled Items

Review Administrative Policy Section 5 (tabled 10/14/2014)

This agenda item will remain tabled.

Review Ordinance 22 Pension Plan (tabled 10/25/2016)

This agenda item will remain tabled.

Review Whitewater Township Planning & Zoning Fees (tabled 02/28/2017)

This agenda item will remain tabled.

Board Comments/Discussion

Goss stated she thinks a huge disservice was done to the zoning administrator with what went on at the 2/13 meeting and suggested that he be issued a written apology. Goss offered to write the apology and bring it to the 3/1 meeting for approval.

Benak agreed with Goss.

There were no other comments.

Announcements:

1. March 1 at 7:00 p.m. – Township Board Budget Work Session
2. March 6 at 4:00 p.m. – Board of Review Organizational
3. March 6 at 7:00 p.m. – Township Board Budget Work Session
4. March 12 from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Board of Review Protests
5. March 13 at 7:00 p.m. – Township Board Regular Meeting, including public hearing on the ordinance creating the fire department.
6. March 15 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Board of Review Protests
7. March 20 at 7:00 p.m. – Township Board Budget Public Hearing

Public Comment

Kim Mangus, 1214 Cerro Drive, provided the history of adoption of the Code Enforcement Policy. She asked that the inactive link to this document on the website be restored.

Adjournment

Motion by Lawson to adjourn; second by Hubbell. On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk

DRAFT