

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held April 25, 2018**

Call to Order

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 6:17 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: Interim Fire Chief Tim Arbenowske

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

There were no adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

Agenda Items as Listed in Special Meeting Notice

Discuss Fire Chief Candidate Interviews/Possible Decision

Arbenowske supplied his assessment of each candidate and ranked each one.

Benak called all of the references that each candidate supplied and compiled all of the responses.

Benak stated she Googled every candidate and also looked up all of their Facebook pages. She relayed what she found during those searches.

Discussion of various candidates followed, including input from Arbenowske.

There was consensus that Justin Bailey is everyone's first choice.

Benak, Goss, Hubbell, and Lawson voiced that Flynn was their number two choice.

Popp stated he does not believe there is a number two.

Discussion turned to the type of employment package which should be offered to Bailey. His salary requirements are "\$60,000 per year but may be negotiable."

Various benefits, i.e., healthcare stipend, moving expense, chief's vehicle, cell phone stipend, were all discussed.

The township's vehicle policy was briefly discussed.

Arbenowske stated he will need turnout gear, at a cost of close to \$5,000.

Motion by Hubbell to offer Justin Bailey the following: \$60,000 annual salary, \$5,500 healthcare stipend, \$480 annual cell phone stipend, \$5,000 one-time moving expense, and the use of a chief's vehicle, which includes gas and maintenance; second by Lawson.

Goss suggested it be added to the motion that Goss will put the offer in writing and transmit it to Bailey, and that the board would like a decision by May 7.

Lawson stated his second of the motion stands with the additions.

There was no further discussion.

Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, yes; Popp, no. Motion carried.

Goss stated she will transmit the offer tomorrow.

There was consensus that the board will await Bailey's answer before discussing an employment package to the number two candidate.

Board Comments/Discussion

Hubbell thanked Benak for all the time and effort she put into this. Lawson seconded that.

Benak stated she wants to caution everybody about talking about this too much. She does not want to scare off other candidates in case Bailey is not able to take the offer.

The suggestion was briefly discussed.

Motion by Goss that the job offer details not be disclosed to anyone.

Discussion followed that it is a public meeting. Benak stated the minutes will be available, but she just wants to caution the board to keep it under their hats until we know what is going on with the candidates.

Public Comment

Tim Arbenowske, 6408 Elk View Drive, Williamsburg, Interim Fire Chief, stated he has some questions about the open house. He stated he has gotten so much flack one way or another about it. A lot of the guys were not happy, but it is what it is. He has been trying to figure out how everything is going to happen because it was almost like pushed on them. They do want an open house, but they hope they are going to be ready. He talked to Jim from MMR. He said the CPR lessons are all taken care of. He does not know if he is going to be able to get the smoke house. He stated he will make an effort to contact Chief Moldenhauer from the tribe, and related an incident in February where they were scolded for doing training at the casino, and also that Chuck Stewart is no longer his contact. Also, Metro is going to do water shovel training sometime in June, and he hopes it will not be the 23rd as he has already committed to that. He

stated they want to be there for the community, but please let them figure out if the times and dates work for them.

The proposed new logo was briefly discussed.

Adjournment

Motion by Lawson to adjourn; second by Popp. On voice vote, all those present voted in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk

DRAFT