

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held March 20, 2012**

Call to Order

Supervisor Lake called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Board members present: Benak, Boyd, Hockin, Hubbell and Lake

Board members absent: None

Others present: 4 others.

Agenda Items as Listed in Special Meeting Notice

1. Budget Work Session
2. Grand Traverse County Local Road Improvement Program
3. Storm Damaged Tree Removal Proposals
4. Budget Amendment
5. Pension Plan Amendment

With all board members present an additional item was added:

6. Letters re: Lot Size/Planning Commission

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Budget Work Session

The clerk reviewed the budget work papers and changes were discussed and made. It was noted that the Budget Public Hearing on all Funds is scheduled for March 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Grand Traverse County Local Road Improvement Program

- Conditions of the township roads were discussed.
- Consensus that Supervisor Lake and other board members talk to the Road Commission regarding the condition of the roads including the deterioration of roads in the WMDLS special assessment district.
- Lake was instructed to compose a letter to the Road Commission for presentation at the 03/27/12 regular meeting.
- Noted that a copy of said letter should be sent to Mark McKellar, chairperson of the Grand Traverse County Road Commission.

Bid Document for Storm Damage

Bill Mouser, member of the newly created Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee assisted the clerk in putting together a bid package. The bid document was reviewed and discussed by the board. Fire Captain Arbenowske addressed the trees indicated for removal at the Fire Station; these trees are close to the building and the firemen are concerned that they will fall on the building. The bid document will be changed to reflect marketing the trees for logs. Boyd would like to add payment performance bonding by the bidder to the bid document.

Boyd stated he feels that a lot of the work can be done by volunteers. He would like to see some of the work done by volunteers prior to going out for bids. Hubbell volunteered to help with this also. Hockin stated that the volunteer work needs to be identified prior to the walk through with the potential bidders. Boyd stated it could be done this weekend. Hockin stated that volunteers need to sign a "Hold Harmless Agreement" for any volunteer work that is done..

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Boyd, to go out for bids after the volunteer committee has cleaned up what they can. **Motion approved.**

The clerk and Mouser will amend the bid documents for potential bidders during the walk through.

Budget Amendment

Budget amendments were presented by the clerk for the Fire Capital Improvement and Ambulance Funds.

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Benak to approve the budget amendments as presented by the clerk. **Motion approved.**

Pension Plan Amendment, Resolution #12-04

The clerk/pension plan administrator presented information from Burnham & Flower regarding IRS changes that necessitate making changes in the pension plan and 457 plans. The pension plan change has been made by Burnham and Flower, but the 457 plan requires a resolution by the Township Board.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Hubbell, to adopt Resolution #12-04, Group Pension Plan 457 (b) Plan Amendment. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Boyd, yes; Hockin, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lake, yes. **Motion approved and resolution declared adopted.**

A true and complete copy of said resolution is attached to the minutes.

Letters re: Lot Size/Planning Commission

Lake reported that several letters have been received from residents who asked that they be read into the record. These letters are in regard to lot size and the rewrite of the Master Plan.

The board discussed the situation and the consensus is that the Planning Commission should be addressed regarding this issue prior to discussion by the Township Board.

Trustee Boyd, representative to the Planning Commission stated that the Planning Commission has not made a decision on the issue at this time.

Board Comments/Discussion

Boyd suggests considering options regarding the Fire Vehicle owned by the Township.

Public Comment

John Mater, 302 Island View Dr

- Stated Island Lake people are very concerned regarding a possible change in the RC-1 district to allow lower acreage.
- Supply road is a traffic corridor that is not developed; there are no businesses between Fife Lake and Three Mile Rd.
- Keep it Rural.
- Judge ruled in favor of five acre lot size previously; change could result in a new lawsuit.
- 2009 Survey, five acre lot was supported.

Cheryl Walton, 11613 Topview

- Not clear that 5 acre minimum was enacted properly
- Lawsuit “protected Island Lake property owners”
- Spot zoning in place for agriculture North of M72
- Need to take a hard look at 5 acre minimum and other items in Master Plan
- If there is concern, Island Lake property owners should buy the property so no one can develop the property.
- People cannot give property to their children because of the 5 acre zoning; this is wrong.

Announcements

- Special meeting 4/3/12 at 7:00 p.m. to review bids for storm damage
- Treasurer Benak will be gone on 4/24/12 for scheduled meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hockin, Clerk