

Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held April 26, 2011

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.

Roll Call

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

Township Board members absent: None

Others attending: Fire Chief/Ambulance Coordinator Stites, Planning/Zoning Administrator Meyers and 19 others.

Agenda

The agenda was amended adding to New Business: 3. Discussion of 04/19/11 letter.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

Public Comment

None.

Unfinished Business

Discussion of Board Meeting Dates & Options, Adoption of Resolution #11-13

Hockin made the board aware that Resolution #11-02 only covers meetings through December and also that the second meeting of the month may want to follow a modified agenda. The options for a modified agenda were discussed that would make a change in 2.4d of the Administrative Policies and Procedures.

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Boyd to modify the agenda for the second meeting of the month and amend 2.4d of the Administrative Policies as discussed. **Motion approved.**

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Benak to adopt Resolution #11-13, Resolution for Whitewater Township Board Meetings for the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year; this Resolution replaces Resolution #11-02 adopted on February 8, 2011. Roll call vote: Lake, yes; Benak, yes; Boyd, yes; Hockin, yes; Hubbell, yes. **Motion approved.**

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

2010/2011 Fiscal Year Budget Amendments

The clerk presented budget amendments necessary for the fiscal year end. The billing for State Unemployment has been received and is due in May, however it must be booked as accounts payable at year end; this would put the Park fund balance negative at year end.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Benak, to approve budget amendments for the 2010/2011 fiscal year as recommended by the clerk. **Motion approved.**

New Business

Ambulance Equipment

There was discussion of equipment for the back up ambulance once the new ambulance is delivered. Board members voiced their opinion on the equipment for the back up ambulance.

- **Hockin** LifePak 15
- **Lake** LifePak 15
- **Benak** LifePak 12
- **Boyd** LifePak 12
- **Hubbell** LifePak 12

Benak and Boyd reported information they had gathered regarding the need CO monitoring.

- North Flight reports that LifePak 12 is adequate
- Not used to monitor status, oxygen is given as treatment
- Benak presented the information that she received regarding the LifePak 12 from vendors other than Physio Control and how it is more cost effective to purchase from other vendors.

Stites explained the difference between the LifePak 12/LifePak 15. He also explained the use of CO monitoring by Whitewater Ambulance Service for fire personnel. LifePak 15 provides an analysis for emergency personnel at the hospital. The current LifePak 15 has been used on 7 patients since the first of January.

Boyd would like quotes stating everything that is included in the quote.

James Domagalski, EMT relayed information regarding a recent ambulance call with 6 patients that were experiencing flu like symptoms and his surprise when the LifePak 15 showed CO poisoning. The EMT's were able to begin oxygen at a high flow prior to the patients arriving at the hospital. High flow oxygen would not have been given for flu symptoms.

Boyd suggests purchasing a LifePak 12 and a hand held CO monitor and using funds saved for additional supplies for the ambulance if money allows.

Questions were identified regarding the quote from Foremost for the LifePak 12 and the quote from Physio Control.

- Is a loaner available when service is needed?
- Can the machine be added to the Physio Control contract?
- Price on CO hand held monitor.
- What is included in the LifePak 15 quote?

Moved by Benak, seconded by Boyd, to purchase the LifePak12 w/ETCO₂ from Foremost in the amount of \$7,630 pending information received on a loaner and the addition of LifePak12 to the Physio Control contract and hand held CO monitor does not exceed \$4,500.

Hockin asked if the motion would be negated if all conditions in the motion were not met. The answer was Yes.

Stites voiced concern regarding the Ni-Cad battery included in the quote from Foremost.

Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Boyd, yes; Hockin, yes; Hubbell, no; Lake, yes. **Motion approved.**

Hubbell stated his reason for voting no was that a final quote in writing is not available at this time.

Stites presented information on a Ferno Powerflex+cot (\$11,910.00) and a Stryker Power Pro Cot (\$11,736.35); the Ferno Stair chair (\$2,925.85) and the Stryker Model 6252 Stair Pro (\$2,715.23).

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Hockin, to purchase the Stryker Power Pro Cot and the Stryker Model 6252 Stair Pro. Roll Call vote: Boyd, yes; Hockin, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lake, yes; Benak, yes. **Motion approved.**

Park Capital Expenditure

Hockin presented a bid from National Coatings, Inc in the amount of \$2,850 for sandblasting and painting of the showers and women's restroom at Whitewater Township Park. This work was proposed as a capital expenditure in the 2011/2012 fiscal year budget for the park. The bid came in less than the original estimate of \$5,000. Only one bid was procured since National Coatings appears to be the only vendor locally that offers sandblasting.

Boyd stated he has done business with Dave Kaley from National Coatings and feels Hockin should negotiate for a lower price.

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Boyd, to approve the bid from National Coatings, Inc in the amount of \$2,850 for sandblasting and painting of the showers and women's restroom at Whitewater Township Park as a capital expenditure from the Park Fund. **Motion approved.**

April 19, 2011 Letter submitted by Whitewater Township Emergency Services Membership

Benak asked that Fire Chief/Ambulance Coordinator answer some questions regarding the letter written by the Emergency Services Personnel and distributed to area businesses to put out for the public to pick up.

Benak Who wrote the letter?

Stites Stated he did not know who wrote the letter, but did know that it came from the department membership. Stated he saw it at the fire station and is 99% sure it was not done at the station.

Benak Did you see the letter before it was distributed around town?

Stites Yes, I saw it the morning it was distributed.

Benak Did you ask your members to pick it up?

Stites No.

Benak Did you think to give it to your supervisor to see if it was OK to distribute this information?

Stites I talked to him about it.

Benak Did he ask you to pick it up?

Stites No.

Benak In our township the supervisor is the public information officer and only he can authorize the information that is distributed to the public. As an employee you have to notify the supervisor of this type of information being distributed to the public.

Stites I informed the supervisor. The letter does not state it is from Whitewater Township Board.

Benak Are you saying the Emergency Services Personnel did not consult you before decided to do this.

Stites That is what I am saying. They have the constitutional right to say what they want. I do not control them, they are not puppets.

Benak Once you found out you did not ask them to pick it up?

Stites I did not.

Benak It does not appear that you have much control over them. If they were doing this behind your back and you knew nothing about it until after it was done, that shows to me a lack of leadership and lack of administration.

Stites That is one person's opinion.

Benak I am not critiquing you here, I am just asking questions.

Stites It sounds like a critique.

Benak Maybe somebody should be doing that.

Lake What does the policy say about his evaluation and critiquing?

Benak I have looked at that and there sections about disciplining and the employee performance evaluation that we do not follow. We make our own.

Lake It says the supervisor will do the evaluation and the township board as a whole will approve or disapprove the evaluation.

Lake When I first found out about the letter, I went out to pick up the copies at Swanny's and they did not have them on the counter any longer . I tried to follow up and pick them up. Stites and I tried to follow the procedure. You will have a chance to approve or disapprove Stites evaluation in June. As far as the freedom of speech for those involved I would be careful about how much I infringed.

Benak Even though I am a board member, I have a right to my freedom of speech. So if I were to choose to put something out like this I am sure the board would look the other way too.

Lake Possibly, I like to read all information to make my decisions. When I ran for office I found out that I seemed to lose a lot of my rights. People can say whatever they like about you.

Benak My concern is that the Fire Chief is standing here saying he had no idea that this was going on and I have a hard time believing; it just shows he is not connected with what is happening.

Lake There were township at will employees who knew about that letter and they did not inform the supervisor. Why don't you talk to those employees about it.

Benak I did and I found out that the Fire Chief is the only one that the Township Board has control over and the members that did this are controlled by Rural Fire.

Stites Are you saying I should have stopped the letter once I saw it?

Benak Yes as a manager of your department, I feel you should have stopped it.

Benak What public forum that you have worked in could an employee put something out like this without reprimand. Only in government or a union, in the public sector you would have been gone. You are our employee and we are your employer.

Stites I did not write the letter.

Lake He is subordinate to the board but not to any one person.

Boyd When I talked to Chief Sedlacek, Lake came back to me verbally stating I should be careful of how I was perceived, as a resident or as a Trustee. To me this is a far more step than being careful and I take offense to who ever wrote it that this did not come back through the Fire Chief and the supervisor.

Lake You are wrong, immediately upon hearing about this I went out to get the copies and since then the Fire Chief and I have discussed this at least two or three times. This is not something that I ignored.

Hockin I have no idea how I got a copy in my mail box since I was off on the day that this was distributed. When I looked at the letter, I did not see anything on this letter that was not discussed in our meetings. I thought this was an attempt by the group who wrote the letter to get better participation at our meetings.

Benak I was not allowed to put information about this meeting in the newsletter.

Hockin The meeting was posted on the website, in the bulletin board and the agenda was on the website. We did not try to cover up this meeting.

Lake Board members are under different restrictions than members of the public. This group was advocating their position.

Benak One of my problems is that there was fear mongering going on in the letter. This board has worked very hard to build a relationship with the Emergency Services to project a positive reflection in the public. This letter did nothing to promote that idea.

Stites I agree with Lake & Hockin, I did not take the letter as derogatory.

Benak Who do you think they mean by officials newly elected two years ago.

Lake, Hockin We all were elected two years ago.

Stites Is there anything there that was not in board minutes?

Lake Benak has a good point in that we need to work together. We need to address these issues.

Boyd Took the first statement to mean the two most recently elected. (Benak & Boyd) Found this letter very offensive.

Stites I apologize on behalf of the Emergency Services Personnel.

Boyd There is a better way to get the information across.

Stites After speaking to the personnel they did not do this in a derogatory manner, just as a means to get information out to the public.

Boyd You demonstrated here tonight that you are willing to compromise.

Benak If in the future you find out that something like this is going on, what steps will you take?

Stites Will review it and sit down with the supervisor to discuss it.

More of the same statements were repeated.

Boyd You apologized and I accept the apology.

Benak I also accept the apology.

Hubbell Stated he wants the quote in writing for the LifePak12 and that is why he voted against the motion to purchase.

Public Comment

Don Benak, 8190 Bunker Hill Rd

- Wants to know who distributed the letter.

Cheryl Walton stated Tim Shaffer was seen taking the letter to Send Brothers.

Don Benak continued:

- Is any disciplinary action being taken against Send or Tim Shaffer?

Lake responded that we have to be very careful about disciplining people who exercise their right to free speech.

- If it is determined that Stites was involved in the letter, will disciplinary action be taken against him?

Lake responded that it would be a decision of the Township Board.

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Rd

- Distributed letter in an attempt to get more participation at Township Board meetings.
- When will emergency services personnel find out the answers to facilities, rural board membership, personnel and equipment?
- Feels the board has taken too long.

Lake responded that the priorities have been set by the board.

Announcements

- Clean Up Day 5/7
- Regular Meeting 5/10
- Clean Up Day-Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Breakfast.
- Pre-Engineering meeting on water service will be held on Wednesday, 4/27 at 2 p.m.

It was the consensus of the board to invite the Lake City people to our meeting scheduled for May 24th.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hockin, Clerk