

Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held May 24, 2011
Joint Meeting with Emergency Services Facilities Committee

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

Emergency Services Facilities Committee members present: Benak, Boyd, Emerson, Mangus, Miller, Zakrajsek (7:02 p.m.)

Emergency Services Facilities Committee members absent: Stewart

Others attending: Fire Chief/Ambulance Coordinator Stites, Planning/Zoning Administrator Meyers and 9 others.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

Public Comment

Lois MacLean, 5919 Linderleaf Ln

- Asked about insurance on auxiliary while performing volunteer activities to benefit the emergency services.

Paul Olson, Municipal Underwriters of Michigan, Whitewater Township's insurance agent responded that generally the non-profit auxiliary must have insurance for their activities.

Cheryl Walton, 8423 Crisp Rd

- Presented a Freedom of Information request.

Insurance Update

Paul Olson, Municipal Underwriters, presented the insurance package for the period June 1, 2011 to June 1, 2012. Olson also updated the board on changes in the policy.

Hockin asked Olson to comment on the MTA Workers Compensation Pool. Olson stated that this is a new program and since it is a new program all he could say is that the last he knew it was not approved by the insurance commission at this time. As with all new programs it is best to wait and see.

Lois MacLean, on behalf of the Auxiliary asked if the antique fire truck stored in the storage facility is covered by the township's insurance. Olson answered yes, if the truck is titled to the Township or Rural. Only volunteers with the auxiliary [501 c (3)] are covered by the township insurance.

Kim Halstead, ask what the additional insurance cost would be if the Township pulls out of Rural Fire. Olson stated he would give a quote on the vehicles to be insured when they are identified.

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Benak to approve the insurance proposal presented by Municipal Underwriters in the amount of 9,928.00. **Motion approved.**

Lake City Emergency Services Presentation/Discussion

Rob Hall representing the Lake City Fire Authority was present and gave a presentation on how Lake Township and the City of Lake City pulled out their former agreement and formed an Authority for fire protection; they have no ambulance since those services are provided by Lake County. The other four townships remaining in the original group are outlying townships and the Authority has Mutual Aid with those townships. The process was accomplished in 3 months.

The Authority purchased a pumper/tanker for 220,000 on a 10 year payment plan. They also got a 3,000 gal tanker for 20,000. Other equipment, a 2,000 gal pumper/tanker, 5/4 DNR brush truck and a large brush truck were procured.

Hall advises getting on the DNR list since a lot of equipment is available from the DNR.

Other information presented by Hall:

- The Authority has a 5 person Advisory Board comprised of 2 representatives from Lake Township, 2 representatives from the City Council and 1 member at large from Lake Township.
- ½ mill tax is allocated from each, Lake Twp (64,000) and City of Lake City (15,000), totaling 79,000 is taxes.
- The operating budget is 93,000; the remainder of the funding is from runs. Two-thirds of the operating funding is from Lake Twp.
- Consumers Energy has a lot of runs.
- There are 18 firefighters, some of them are DPW employees of the City of Lake City who can leave their jobs to go on fire calls.
- Firefighters are paid 20.00/run and 5.00/training.
- Chief is paid 5,000 plus runs; assistant chief is paid 2,500 plus runs.
- The city provides administrative support for 1,000.
- Uses spreadsheet for run statistics and payroll.
- Firefighters assist with extrication; however the ambulance service owns the extrication equipment.
- The City of Lake City is in Lake Township and has city water.
- The Authority has about 55 runs per year; many of them are Consumers Energy runs.
- Some members are dual enrolled with Authority and the old group.
- County has HAZ-MAT system at ambulance service.
- Create list of need equipment. Keep it simple.

Vaughn Harshfield, 4404 N. Broomhead Rd asked questions and Hall responded as follows:

- Advisory Board is paid for meetings.
- Advisory Board is appointed by the township board/city council.
- Advisory board members were selected based on previous experience.

Leslie Meyers, staff support for Emergency Services Committee, stated she has information re: other fire department operations.

Lake stated Rural Fire has suggested that we look at Springfield Township's plan.

There was a discussion of the fire budget.

Public Comment

None.

Announcements

- Meeting on Thursday 5/26 at 7 p.m. to discuss status of Rural Fire Dispute Resolution
- Regular board meeting on 6/14.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hockin, Clerk