

Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held July 12, 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, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Board members absent: None

Others present: Planning/Zoning Administrator Meyers and 23 others

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved as amended pulling from the consent calendar and adding to

New Business:

3. Clerk's Report

4. Supervisor's Report

5. Fire Chief Report

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Hearing

None

Public Comment

None

Reports/Presentations/Announcement/Comments

County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Inman was unable to attend due to the death of his brother.

Emergency Services Advisory Committee

Rod Kuncaitis, chairperson of the Emergency Services Advisory Committee updated the board on the activities of the committee. A written report is attached to the minutes.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Hubbell to give approval for the supervisor to authorize an independent appraisal of equipment and personal protection equipment used by the fire department. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Boyd, yes; Hockin, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lake, yes. **Motion approved.**

It was the consensus of the board to have the ladder truck housed in Whitewater Township.

Consent Calendar

Moved by Hubbell, supported by Boyd to approve the consent calendar items as follows:

Receive and File

1. Planning Commission approved minutes 06/01/11 regular meeting
2. Emergency Services Advisory Committee special meeting minutes of 6/20/11 and 6/27/11.
3. Planning/Zoning Administrator's report for June 2011

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Service Statistics for June 2011

Minutes:

1. Approval of minutes of regular meetings on 6/14/11 and 6/28/11 and 6/28/11 closed sessions

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers #34262-34406
2. Approval of Alden State Bank Miami Beach voucher #1108

Roll call vote: Boyd, yes; Hockin, yes; Hubbell, absent; Lake, yes; Benak, yes. **Motion approved.**

Unfinished Business

Farm Animal Ordinance Review Request

Debra Simerson, 9544 Elk Lake Trail

- Thought that the board understood that 40 feet stipulation was restrictive.
- Had misunderstanding of board action until she listed to the recording of the meeting.
- Still feels that 40 feet is too restrictive.
- Has talked to Supervisor Lake regarding the situation.
- Wants to know what they are supposed to do.

Lake

- Realizes that 40 feet is restrictive for some residents.
- Community has changed.
- Planning Commission has changed set back from 100 feet to 40 feet to make it less restrictive.

Simerson

- 40 feet is not a good spot on their property as it is sunny in that location.

Hockin

- Previous lot size was 2 ½ acres and 100 foot set back.

Lake

- Planning Commission has made it less restrictive.
- If a complaint is received for the 40 feet, it is not “grandfathered” since it was previously 100 feet.

Boyd

- Feels the original decision was correct.
- Relayed additional discussion by the PC.

Benak

- Where did the 40 feet come from?

Boyd

- From considerable discussion by the Planning Commission.

Planning/Zoning Administrator Meyers

- 95% of lots are 100 feet or more; maximum protection is provided for adjacent properties.

Lake

- Next step for Simerson is Zoning Board of Appeals.

Boyd

- Board should accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission. 40 feet leaves 20 feet median area on a 100 foot lot.

Vehicle Policy Update

Meyers updated the board on comments received on the vehicle policy. The comments were discussed.

Medical Marijuana Ordinance Update

Meyers updated the board on changes that are happening in the medical marijuana issue. The Planning Commission will be conducting a public hearing on July 6th. Meyers also shared a copy of the latest Attorney General Opinion on the matter.

Closed Session

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Boyd to go into closed session to discuss potential property acquisition. Roll call vote: Hockin, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lake, yes; Benak, yes; Boyd, yes. **Motion approved.**

The meeting was recessed at 7:55 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Benak to proceed as discussed in closed session. **Motion approved.**

Charter Township Status

Hockin presented information regarding the notification from the Secretary of State, Office of the Great Seal regarding the township's eligibility to become a Charter Township. No action is necessary at this time; however the clerk must publish the notice of certification in a newspaper within 15 days of receiving the notification and again 7 days later.

The clerk will prepare the publication and have it published as required.

Inventory & Fixed Asset Disposal

Hockin presented a form to be used for inventory by department heads. This inventory of assets is necessary to prepare for disposal of outdated equipment. The form will be distributed to department heads for completion.

Clerk's Report (Pulled from Consent Calendar)

Treasurer Benak voiced offense at the comment made by the clerk in her report that stated she was not pleased with receiving final information for the 3/31/11 year end from the treasurer on 7/5/11, over 3 months after year end and just a few days prior to the audit that is scheduled for 7/11/11. Clerk stated she felt the timing was terrible due to the amount of work to be done prior to printing the General Ledger after final information is received.

Benak made several comments on the incompetence, inefficiency and very unprofessional manner of the clerk and gave reasons why the clerk was the one who had held up the information. Benak asked that her comments be included in the minutes. A copy is attached to the minutes.

Hockin apologized for her show of frustration in her monthly report.

Moved by Benak, seconded by Hubbell to accept the Clerk's Report for June 2011. **Motion approved.**

Supervisor's Report

Boyd

Asked about fire inspections noted in previous reports and asked if there had been any progress in the contract.

Lake

Stated Rural Fire did not pursue the issue.

Benak

Stated this is an opportunity for additional revenue.

Boyd

Asked about the progress in appointing a Park & Recreation Advisory Committee.

Lake

Stated he is still looking for volunteers.

Moved by Benak, seconded by Boyd to accept the Supervisor's report for June 2011. **Motion approved.**

Fire Chief Report

Boyd

Asked about the status of the new ambulance.

Stites

Stated he and Hockin are working on paper work for licensure. Waiting for the title to the vehicle. Stocking the ambulance with supplies at this time.

Lake

Asked about storage of the ladder truck.

Stites

Working on storage with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Boyd

Asked about farm plans that were previously discussed.

Stites

- Sent letters to all farms; only response from Dean family.
- Farmer gets notice
- Farmer sends to the State
- State sends to the Local Emergency Management Committee
- Local Emergency Management Committee just received information.

Lake

Farm Plans are included in the fire chief evaluation that is in the process, plus other items that the board is not aware of. The board will receive a copy of the evaluation once Stites signs it.

Boyd

Have been reviewing previous reports and minutes and identifying areas that are unresolved.

Hubbell

- Stites should contact Dan Busby, Conservation District.
- Farmers are doing more than fire chief knows.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Hubbell to accept the Fire Chief Report for June 2011. **Motion approved.**

Public Comment

Kim Halstead, 7923 Cook Rd

- Asked what it would take to pull out of the Septage agreement.

Announcements

Next regular meeting of the Township Board is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26th at 7 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hockin, clerk