Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held November 26, 2024

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
Supervisor Slopsema called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Board Members
Board members present: Clerk Wendy Hoeksema, Supervisor Linda Slopsema, Treasurer Jill Koester, Trustee Tim Arends, Trustee Randy Mielnik.

Others present: Fire Chief Josh Morgan, Zoning Administrator Deborah Graber, Deputy Clerk Maria Hoeksema, Rene Stratton, Thomas Bartnicki

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda
None

Declaration of Conflict of Interest
None

Public Comment:
Supervisor Slopsema read the Rules of Conduct for Public Comment
None

Special Meeting Agenda ITEMS:
1. Planning Commission Appointment
Per Documentation in packet, discussion ensued along with interview of appointee.
Motion made by Slopsema to appoint Rene Stratton to a 3(three) year term to Planning Commission. Arends made a friendly amendment to make term effective December 1st, 2024. Slopsema agreed to amended motion to state new effective date. Seconded by Arends. Motion approved by all in favor.

2. Fire Department New Hire
Per documentation in packet discussion ensued along with interview of proposed employee.
Arends made a motion to approve Thomas Bartnicki as a probationary firefighter effective immediately. Mielnik seconded. Motion approved.

3. Fire Department Turnout Gear
Documentation provided in packet regarding 2 sets of firefighter gear from Axes & Irons to match existing gear. Discussion with Fire Chief to explain need.
Motion made by Arends to approve purchase of turnout gear as described for $8162.92. Seconded by Mielnik. Motion approved.

4-a. Deputy Treasurer appointed- Andrew Tezak
Resume included in packet

Motion made by Treasurer Koester asking Board to approve Andrew Tezak's wage as Deputy Treasurer starting at $22.91 based on hourly graded wage scale for Township. Seconded by Arends, Motion approved.

4-b. Deputy Clerk appointed- Maria Hoeksema
Resume included in packet
Motion made by Arends to approve Maria Hoeksema's wage as Deputy Clerk starting at $24.31 based on hourly graded wage scale for Township. Seconded by Mielnik. Motion approved.

5. Appointment of Board Members to Committees
Discussion of importance of having Board presence and reports.
Motion made by Slopsema to appoint Treasurer Jill Koester as Board representative on Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Seconded by Arends. Motion approved.

Motion made by Hoeksema to appoint Trustee Randy Mielnik as Board representative on Planning Commission. Seconded by Koester. Motion approved.

Motion made by Arends to appoint Clerk Wendy Hoeksema as Board representative on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Seconded by Mielnik. Motion approved.

6. Recording Secretary
Documentation in packet and discussion ensued regarding best use. It was decided that individual would need to include Zoom meeting moderator.
Motion made by Arends to approve contract with Kay Held at rates described to include Zoom moderation to be effective immediately. Seconded by Slopsema. Motion approved.

7. Cell phones for Township Business Use
Discussion ensued regarding uses and costs.
Motion made by Slopsema to add to existing Verizon plan for 4 (four) cell phones. Seconded by Koester. Motion approved.
**updated at 12/10/2024 meeting by Koester to say 5 (five)*

8. Southwest (Treasurer and Zoning Admin) office heating
Documentation included in packet for bids.
Motion made by Slopsema to approve expedited installation of mini-split system not to exceed $7000 to West wall of Township Hall Treasurer/Zoning office. Koester seconded. Motion approved.

9. Engineer support for complex site plan reviews
Documentation in packet for response of local engineering assistance to Zoning Administrator and discussion on why this was necessary.
Motion made by Arends to approve request of specialized engineering help on site reviews as needed. Seconded by Koester. Motion approved.

10. Abandonment of Arnold Road end

Documentation in packet regarding past history. Fire Chief Morgan expressed concerns regarding access to Whitewater Township areas of State Land at end of Arnold Road. Letter would need to be sent prior to next GTRC meeting on December 12th,2024.
Motion made by Arends for Supervisor Slopsema to send letter to Grand Traverse Road Commission on behalf of Whitewater Township residents and Board in support of keeping Arnold Road open to public, with copy to Acme Township Board and Grand Traverse County Commissioners. Seconded by Koester. Motion approved.

Public Comment
Deb Graber, (Zoning Administrator) spoke on above letter, stating her opinion that it needed to be sent to DNR as well and welcomed new Board.

Adjourned by Agreement at 10:50 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Hoeksema, Clerk

Approved 12/10/2024 WH