

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held March 8, 2022**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 in person: Benak, Goss, Popp, Vollmuth

Board Members absent: None (trustee vacancy)

Others present in person: County Commissioner Darryl Nelson, Fire Chief Brandon Flynn, and 2 others

Others present via Zoom: 7

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Goss requested to add update on the ARPA reporting.

Popp noted it is already on the agenda.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment (1:50)

Public comment began at 9:01 a.m.

Vicky Beam commented on the meeting time and development of the area, specifically on Baggs Road.

Connie Hymore spoke against site condo development in the township, specifically on Baggs Road.

Public comment ended at 9:07 a.m.

Public Hearing (7:53)

None

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments (7:57)**County Commissioner Report**

Darryl Nelson gave the following report:

- Regarding Northern Lakes Community Mental Health, an update was given on director and board positions. The BOC is revisiting the whole NLCMH, what needs to be done, what results they would like to see. They are not happy with the services being provided.
- Regarding ARPA funds, the Record-Eagle says the BOC is operating secretly with public sector consultants on the ARPA money. The administration has appointed 11 people from the community to work on the structure of how they are going to get public input,

governmental input, and the process moving forward. There is no deliberation of how to spend a penny. The process will be brought to the full board for approval.

- They have seen continued changes on the ARPA funding requirements. The money is to be spent by 2024. Ten million dollars was set aside in a restricted fund. They are not putting it into the budget; it is not going to the commissioners; it is just there, ready for the process.

There were board questions related to problems with the mental health, how to be kept in the loop about ARPA funds coming to townships, and a recent road commission report.

Fire Department Report (20:24)

Brandon Flynn gave the following report:

- February was busy, 10 emergency calls, up probably 70% from last year's total at this time. He is keeping a close eye on that; looks like the trend is EMS assists.
- Meetings were all held, except Local Planning Team (LPT) was cancelled.
- They are losing another firefighter on 4/16. Koeplin is moving to Puerto Rico. That is two guys in the last six months.
- They have finally taken delivery of the chief's vehicle, after a long year.
- They are still waiting on the cab and chassis order (brush truck). Ford Fleet is still working on pricing for the 2023 models; then they will start taking orders.

Planning Commission Report (22:55)

The township board representative to the planning commission position is currently vacant.

PC member Carl Wroubel reported the PC approved the changes to the Send Brothers store to a veterinary clinic. They had an informal presentation from the Baggs Road condominium, with several comments against it. There was supposed to be a presentation on a horse clinic across from the casino; no one showed up. There were some minor changes to the master plan with one or two issues. He believes they had minor wording changes to recreational marijuana.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report (25:26)

Cheryl Goss reported that the lack-of-quorum February meeting was not rescheduled. The next meeting is 3/14.

Superintendent Julie Brown - Elk Rapids Schools (26:07)

Julie Brown spoke on the voter-approved \$50 million bonds and how the money is being spent. Groundbreaking is set for March 28. They hope to have a community groundbreaking ceremony on 4/11 or 4/25. Many details of the phases of development were provided. They appreciate the support.

Brown answered several questions and will get the groundbreaking invitation to the boards.

Consent Calendar (43:22)

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for March 2022
2. Clerk/Parks & Recreation Administrator's Report for February/March 2022

3. Treasurer's Cash Balance Report 12/31/2021
4. Treasurer's Cash Balance and Interest Report 01/31/2022
5. Trustee February 2022 Report
6. Zoning Administrator's Staff Report (*not available*)
7. Mobile Medical Response February 2022 Activity Reports
8. Fire Department February 2022 Monthly Report
9. Historical Society Report (*not available*)
10. Approved 12/03/2021 Planning Commission Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for February 2022
2. Letter 02/15/2022 Paddle Antrim re: Chain of Lakes Water Trail
3. Letter 02/18/2022 Michigan Township Participating Plan re: Board of Directors Elections
4. Recycle Smart February 2022 Newsletter
5. EGLE Marquette County Battery Recycling
6. Planning Services

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 02/08/2022 regular meeting minutes, 02/09/2022 special meeting minutes, 02/17/2022 special meeting minutes, 02/23/2022 special meeting minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers # 47505 through 47576

Budget Amendments (none)

Revenue & Expenditure Report (none)

Motion by Benak to approve Consent Calendar items as presented; second by Vollmuth.

Roll call vote: Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes; Popp, yes; Goss, yes. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business (44:07)

ARPA REPORTING - VERBAL UPDATES

Vollmuth reported she has found one person who is thinking about it, last name Whitney, a local CPA, but she is still working on it.

Benak explained the process she has followed to get the login, which is different than previously, updated the account administrator, the point of contact for reporting, and the authorized representative for reporting. Benak and Popp are listed. The hub is updated. She has reattached three reports done previously. She cannot get past a certain point to do the compliance reporting and thinks we need to hire this out.

Vollmuth volunteered to contact CPAs on the list.

Popp recommended using Baird out of Cadillac.

Vollmuth will call Baird, Cotter & Bishop in Cadillac and get answers to whether they can do the township's ARPA reporting, the cost, and if any contract is required.

RESOLUTION #22-03 INTENT TO OPPOSE INCORPORATION AS CHARTER TOWNSHIP (57:37)

Motion by Popp to adopt Resolution #22-03 Intent to Oppose Incorporation as Charter Township; second by Benak.

Roll call vote: Goss, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Popp, yes; Benak, yes. Motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES COMPENSATION PROGRAM (58:43)

Motion by Popp to amend Section 3.4 of the Whitewater Township Policy and Procedure Manual adding the following words: Any non-salaried board, commission, committee, or society member who accepts additional occasional duties assigned by the body is eligible to request compensation thru the Additional Activities Compensation Program. The request must be prepared by the body's chairperson and submitted to the supervisor or clerk for approval. The request shall be submitted in accordance with Whitewater Township's Policy and Procedure Manual Section 4.2 on an approved time sheet. Rate of compensation shall be set annually in the Salary/Wage Schedule. It is strictly understood the Additional Activities Compensation Program does not create an ongoing employment agreement of any type or establish eligibility to any benefit program offered by the township; second by Vollmuth.

Brief discussion followed.

Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Popp, yes. Motion carried.

Goss will send the updated section to board members electronically.

ARPA TOWNSHIP HALL PLANNING SESSION (1:05:02)

Numerous ideas were discussed.

Popp proposed a date not be set today, he will take the comments, hone the idea down, maybe come back with an idea or two on surveys.

Vollmuth volunteered to help Popp.

There was board consensus to develop the idea over the month.

New Business (1:21:52)

PROPOSED POLICY - EQUAL ACCESS

There was general discussion regarding where the legislature is at with the process for remote board member participation, the attorney general opinion that ADA trumps the Open Meetings

Act, determination of “qualifying disability” under the ADA, burden on the individual to show they have a qualifying disability, and non-applicability to the public.

There was board consensus that this issue will be referred to the township attorney.

RELOCATE BATTERY RECYCLING (1:35:24)

Popp proposed a patio box be placed near the recycle bins for battery recycling buckets due to the fire concern of lithium batteries.

Discussion followed.

There was board consensus that Popp will get a purchase order for the cost of a patio box and install it near the recycle bins, bolted to the existing signpost.

Benak will put a notice in the newsletter that the battery recycle station has been moved.

Goss noted Popp can use the credit card.

REVIEW/SET AMBULANCE VALUE (1:47:32)

Motion by Goss to accept Fire Chief Flynn’s ambulance inventory list and vehicle value assessment as presented and to forward the same to MMR for approval; second by Vollmuth.

Roll call vote: Popp, yes; Goss, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Benak, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Popp to authorize supervisor and clerk to sign an amended Motor Vehicle Lease containing an updated Exhibit MV-1 description to include inventory list and statement of agreed value of ambulance; second by Vollmuth.

Discussion followed.

Goss noted the second motion is premature.

Popp rescinded his motion.

Vollmuth rescinded her second.

Tabled Items (1:52:49)

None

Board Comments/Discussion (1:52:51)

Benak noted she would like the newsletter to go out the third week of April and the deadline is 4/15 to get information in.

Benak will have cleanup day information for the 4/12 agenda.

Announcements (1:56:36)

1. Budget work session on 3/9 at 7:00 p.m.
2. Budget public hearing on 3/21 at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment (1:56:55)

Public comment began at 10:56 a.m.

Lois MacLean, 5919 Linderleaf Lane, commented the PC is always notified of the upcoming newsletter, as well as not delaying use of the ARPA funds due to inflation.

Connie Hymore reiterated her and her husband's opposition to the proposed condo development on Baggs Road.

Amy Haskell, 6699 Baggs Road, spoke against the proposed subdivision.

Vicky Beam reiterated her opposition to the Baggs Road proposed condo development.

Denise Peltonen inquired about home fire extinguisher location and checks.

Carl Wroubel commented that one member of the commission contradicted themselves.

Public comment ended at 11:07 a.m.

Adjournment (2:07:27)

Motion by Benak to adjourn; second by Vollmuth. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Vollmuth, yes; Popp, yes; Goss, yes. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk