

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting held June 14, 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: Popp, Goss, Benak, Glenn, Vollmuth

Board Members absent: None

Others present in person: 7

Others present via Zoom: 13

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

Popp requested to add Whitewater Township playground inspection and remove payables from the Consent Calendar.

Playground inspection added to New Business as #16. Consensus.

Payables to be discussed under Consent Calendar.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

Public comment began at 9:04 a.m.

Melissa Melton, 5044 Vinton Road, PRAC Chair, slideshow from Hi Pray Park cleanup day.

Vicky Beam, Baggs Road, tired of the fighting, embarrassing, represent the township, work together, PC meeting public hearing, opposes the Baggs Road project, concern, preserve the rural character.

Connie Hymore, Baggs Road, commented on the Baggs Road survey map and site plan map, master plan and ordinance, quotes, ordinance and zoning confusion, preliminary site plan review.

Name not given, commented regarding the Baggs Road project, request town hall meeting, proactive not reactive, marihuana, lawsuits cost the township taxpayers, township planner, board needs to work as a team, work together, listen to the community.

Name not given, commented on the meeting packet, landowners on planning commission, voting rights, ARPA survey.

Heidi Vollmuth, 8388 Winnie Lane, private citizen, commented on concerns about playground equipment, inspections.

Amber Voice, commented on communication, the ballfields and parks, opposed to closing the playground, fix instead of shut down, applied for PRAC committee to help, work together, put conflict of interest aside.

End in-person public comment and begin public comment via Zoom at 9:38 a.m.

Linda Slopsema commented on marihuana applications, concerns regarding marihuana nuisances and monies being spent.

Jason Gillman, Grand Traverse County Road Commission, regarding the supervisor report item regarding culvert, beaver dam on private property plugged up the culvert, clear now, FEMA flood plain.

Vern Gutknecht, commented on ARPA survey and park cleanup, confrontation on the board, negative press, division in government, listen to the people, work together, social media opinions, conflict of interest on specific items.

Goss read a public comment received from Stephanie Anderson regarding opposition to closing of Hi Pray Park, no safety concerns, parks are a draw to young families.

Public comment ended at 9:51 a.m.

Public Hearing

None

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments (9:52 a.m.)

County Commissioner Report

Not available

Fire Department Report

Brandon Flynn gave the following report:

- May was busy, mostly with wild fires, work with the DNR.
- Run total is way up, 79% increase over last year, with staffing down by 28%.
- Two new applicants will be attending the fire academy this fall, won't finish until next May.
- Completed projects: SCB air packs, chief vehicle, snowmobiles received, December storm damage cleanup.
- Brush truck acquisition is still on hold. We do not use the old brush truck. State owns the smaller brush truck that is currently being used.

Planning Commission Report

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

Planning Commission Chair Kim Mangus gave the following update: Public hearings are set for July 6, 2022, on Article 25- Site Plan Review and Special Use Permit standards, Medical Marihuana Ordinance, public comment on Article 12-Setbacks and Article 1-Preamble.

No recreational marijuana ordinance public hearing at this time.
The board will be receiving a large bulk of ordinance coming to them for review in the near future.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report

Cheryl Goss gave the following report:

- PRAC meeting last night.
- Updates provided on HPP dugouts, WTP playground renovation. Goss will contact Rick Stout of Fleis & VandenBrink on landing zone material.
- Hi Pray Park playground maintenance and safety check list, no concerns found.
- BCNA/LRNT tree removal on today's agenda, bids and use of unused funds.
- Lossie Trail wetland and bridge improvement discussion.
- Slideshow presented of the Hi Pray Park cleanup day.
- Closure of Hi Pray Park statement from PRAC discussion for presentation to the board. Goss read the statement.
- Discussed concerns about the PRAC appointment process and how it is addressed in Ordinance #48.
- Discussion of the proposed Deputy Parks and Rec. Administrator.
- Next meeting July 11.

Goss will supply the board with her notes from the meeting.

Paul Olson – Municipal Underwriters of West Michigan

Has been insuring the township for 37 years, currently insures about 191 public entities. Commented on the playground issue, many playgrounds that are not up to standards, very few clients have closed a playground unless it is decrepit.

Recommends the township do playground inspections checking equipment and documenting regularly. Thirty-seven years of work in this area and very few playground litigations. The policy covers up to \$3 million.

Township owned property reviews have been done over the past years.

Olson presented updated information.

Insurance premiums have gone up even without any claims.

Risk control can be contacted to do inspections. There is also cloak of governmental immunity.

Goss inquired about zoning insurance. The \$100,000 covers attorney fees and damages. Damages over \$100,000 are the township's responsibility.

Olson noted that they have never had anyone go over the \$100,000 limit of zoning insurance. The township can request a higher limit for an additional fee.

Glenn inquired about the breakdown of the parks, fire, and general coverage. All components have the \$3 million coverage.

We have a breakdown of the insurance for budgeting purposes.

Volunteers are covered under the Med Pay portion for injuries.

Discussion ensued regarding the insurance policy, itemization and automatic liability.

Olson recommended backup, off premise storage of valuable papers and records.

Consent Calendar (10:29 a.m.)

Receive and File

1. Supervisor's Report for June 2022
2. Clerk/Parks & Recreation Administrator's Report for May/June 2022
3. Treasurer's Report April 2022
4. Treasurer's Report May 2022
5. Trustee Vollmuth's June 2022 Report
6. Trustee Glenn's June 2022 Report
7. Zoning Administrator's Report for June 2022 (*not available*)
8. Mobile Medical Response May 2022 Activity Reports
9. Fire Department May 2022 Monthly Report
10. Historical Society Report for March, April, May 2022
11. Approved 03/14/2022 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
12. Approved 04/11/2022 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
13. Approved 05/04/2022 Planning Commission Special Meeting Minutes
14. Approved 05/04/2022 Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Correspondence

1. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Statistics for May 2022
2. Rohraff – Brine Moore Road
3. Beam – Conflict of Interest
4. Vollmuth – Conflict of Interest
5. Keaton – Conflict of Interest
6. C2AE – Progress Report #4
7. Keaton – Planner – Moratorium
8. Article 05/26/2022 OnlyInYourState.com - Elk Lake One of the Clearest Lakes in Michigan
9. E-mail 06/04/2022 Heidi Vollmuth to Cheryl Goss re: Clerk's 6/14 Agenda Items
10. Record-Eagle Article 06/06/2022 – Winery Zoning Restrictions are Unconstitutional

Minutes

1. Recommend approval of 05/10/2022 regular meeting minutes

Bills for Approval

1. Approval of Alden State Bank voucher #s 47771 through 47886

Budget Amendments (none)

Revenue & Expenditure Report (none)

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

Discussion ensued.

Glenn had questions on specific reports and check payments. Goss and Benak responded.

Popp requested copies of specific checks and documentation.

Benak recommended, per the auditor, an accountant be available "on call" for accounting questions.

Various comments regarding purchase orders and board approved expenses and contracts.

Roll call vote: Vollmuth-yes; Benak-yes; Popp-no; Glenn-yes; Goss-yes. Motion carried.

Consensus to adjust agenda to address New Business #9, Hi Pray Park Electronic Door Locks,

with the Anavon Technology Group representative prior to addressing Old Business.

HI PRAY PARK ELECTRONIC DOOR LOCKS (10:53 a.m.)

Motion to approve the installation of electronic door locks by Anavon Technology Group on the Hi Pray Park Pavilion restroom doors at a cost of \$3,275, by Popp, second by Benak.

Discussion followed. Mark Garrett from Anavon is present.

Roll call vote: Goss-yes; Vollmuth-no; Glenn-yes; Popp-yes; Benak-yes. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business (11:11 a.m.)

REVIEW BIDS/AWARD CONTRACT – BCNA/LRNT HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL AND MITIGATION PROJECT

Motion to award bid to Grand Traverse Conservation District (GTCD) for \$34,600, by Benak, second by Popp.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Steve Largent, wildlife biologist of GTCD, answered questions. GTCD does not support large scale chipping. Largent notes that it is a “not to exceed \$34,600” bid.

Benak amended the motion that the cost will not exceed \$34,600, amended motion seconded by Popp.

Reasons to vary from the RFP include better use of public funds, stays within the budget, environmental responsibility as presented by the GTCD, lower impact to the land and trail, do not see a hazard by not chipping.

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

PROPOSED ELECTRONIC MEETING ACCOMMODATION POLICY (11:48 a.m.)

Motion to forward proposed Electronic Meeting Accommodation Policy to legal for review by Popp, second by Glenn.

Discussion and changes followed. Goss noted all references to “Township Clerk” will be removed from the entire document.

Benak left the meeting at noon for the Grand Traverse County Treasurer meeting.

Point of Order called at the 3-hour point.

Unfinished Business item #2 discussion stopped.

Motion to finish the rest of this business meeting on June 21, 2022 at 9 a.m., by Vollmuth, second by Glenn.

Roll call vote: Glenn-yes; Popp-yes; Benak-n/a; Goss-no; Vollmuth-yes. Motion carried.

Popp noted the motion is still open on the Proposed Electronic Meeting Accommodation Policy.

Vollmuth said we have to do something about the marihuana because of the 18th, maybe need a special meeting somewhere.

Discussion followed, with various motion language proposed.

Motion to move Unfinished Business #2 and all of New Business, except #9, which has been addressed, of the June 14, 2022, Whitewater Township Board meeting to June 15, 2022 at 9 a.m., by Vollmuth, second by Glenn.

Discussion followed. Goss noted she is not available at 7:00 p.m.

Vollmuth amended the motion from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., amended motion seconded by Glenn.

Roll call vote: Benak-n/a; Vollmuth-yes; Popp-yes; Glenn-yes; Goss-no. Motion carried.

New Business

MICHIGAN PARTICIPATING PLAN – INSURANCE (postponed to 6/15/2022)

TOBIN & CO. – AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER (postponed to 6/15/2022)

REVIEW/MODIFY/APPROVE ARPA SURVEY (postponed to 6/15/2022)

HI PRAY PARK – PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PLAYGROUND DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS (postponed to 6/15/2022)

PARK RANGER WAGES (postponed to 6/15/2022)

TOWNSHIP BOARD RECORDING SECRETARY (postponed to 6/15/2022)

ADDENDUM NO. 1 TO LAWN-N-ORDER CONTRACT (postponed to 6/15/2022)

PROPOSED DELAY ACCEPTING MARIHUANA APPLICATIONS (postponed to 6/15/2022)

HI PRAY PARK ELECTRONIC DOOR LOCKS (completed before Unfinished Business)

PROPOSED CONSULTANT/PLANNER INTERVIEW (postponed to 6/15/2022)

REVIEW/MODIFY/APPROVE TOWNSHIP ROAD MAP (postponed to 6/15/2022)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – COMPUTER EQUIPMENT (postponed to 6/15/2022)

WEBSITE UPDATE MEETING CANCELLATION (postponed to 6/15/2022)

PARK AND RECREATION SUCCESSION PLAN – JOB DESCRIPTION, ADVERTISE, REQUEST TO PRAC (postponed to 6/15/2022)

REVIEW/DISCUSS 03/11/2022 PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT (postponed to 6/15/2022)

Tabled Items (not addressed)

Board Comments/Discussion (not addressed)

Announcements (not addressed)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

In person:

Vicky Beam, commented on this meeting, grant writing, 7 p.m. meeting, town hall meeting, rural character, Baggs Road project, notes.

Name not given, gave a definition of team, commented on Randy Mielnik, Amber Voice, town hall meeting, township is the priority, marihuana, spend money wisely, consistency of meeting notifications, work with us and asked who wants to work for the township.

Connie Hymore, Baggs Rd., commented regarding “We the People”, stop the division, the people demand to be heard.

Via zoom:

Linda Slopsema, thank you for reconvening the meeting tomorrow.

Board Comments/Discussion

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Vollmuth, second by Glenn.

Roll call: Popp-yes; Benak-n/a; Vollmuth-yes; Goss-no; Glenn-yes. Adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois MacLean

Recording Secretary