

Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held April 19, 2010

Call to Order

Supervisor Lake called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, MI 49690.

Roll Call

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

Township Board members absent: None.

Also attending: Fire Chief Stites and 19 others

Agenda as Written in Special Meeting Notice

1. Fire Chief Contract
2. Park Staff for 2010 Season

Approval of Agenda

With all board members present, the agenda was amended adding:

3. Discuss Fire Board
4. Discuss Park Board

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

Public Comment

None.

Fire Chief Contract

Supervisor Lake opened the floor to comments by board members.

Lake

- Favors a full time fire/chief and ambulance coordinator

Hockin

- Favors a full time fire chief/ambulance coordinator

Boyd:

- Does not want a full time chief.
- Establish a fire board separate from the Township Board that includes representatives from farms, industrial, GTB, residential and at large member that makes recommendations to the Township Board.
- Reports need to be made that adequately reflect the operations of the department.
- Problems w/proposed fire building due to poor work by grant writer.
- States he is in charge of emergency services committee that has been meeting
- Full time position requires a deputy, 10 hrs are not needed
- Wants a leader
- Fire Chief negligent in Rennie Fire re: hazardous materials
- Pay for paperwork, duty call, but not full time fire chief

Lake

- Referred to Bratschi fire and ambulance runs-good response. Do not wait for need, do it now.

Boyd

- In reference to inspection contract w/GTB, states other inspectors can perform the duties. Do not get the cart before the horse.

Benak

- Believes the board let the fire chief down by not setting goals and objectives when he was hired.
- Township benefits from a full time fire chief.
- From a business stand point, an employee needs to be given goals and evaluated on them, not just terminated.

Boyd

- Why did Fire Chief take the vehicle to Discount Tire rather than the dealer when there was a problem with the tire? Dealer does not sell tires; he chose to have the tire(s) replaced at Discount Tire.

Chief Stites

- Tires are not under warranty. The tire had a nail in the tire in the inside of the wall. An incident report was made and filed with the clerk and a purchase order issued prior to the work being done.

Hubbell

- Stated he did not come to terminate the fire chief position. Believes the fire board is a good idea.

The board discussed the make up of a Fire Board.

Lake

- Chief Stites has a history of relationship with the GTB and feels this is important.

Boyd

- Differs with Lake on the importance of Stites history with the GTB.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Hubbell to extend the fire chief/ambulance coordinator position for 6 months with supervision and guidance from the supervisor.

Hubbell stated that he wants Stites to know that this is nothing personal, just business.

Motion approved 5-0.

Discussion continued on goals and objectives.

Hockin stated she has heard many complaints about usage of the vehicle; she presented a proposed vehicle log that could be used to track vehicle usage. It was the consensus to add “duty related” and “personal” columns to the log.

Boyd voiced concern regarding availability of “command vehicle”.

Hockin stated that personnel issues such as mileage reimbursement for personal vehicles are the responsibility of the Township Board and should not be delegated to a Fire Board. Fire Board responsibilities are defined by State statute.

Lake would like to expand inspection contracts with entities other than the GTB.

Lake will work with Chief Stites on goals and objectives.

Park Staff for 2010 Season

Hockin recommended park staff for the 2010 season.

Moved by Benak, seconded by Hubbell to approve the following park staff for 2010:

Edith Deveneau, Full Time, Starting 04/12/2010, Rate of Pay, \$10.11

Kenneth Giolda, Full Time, Starting 04/26/2010, Rate of Pay, \$9.00

Scott Rozema, Full Time, Starting 04/26/10, Rate of Pay, \$9.00

Daniel Belanger, Full Time, Starting 06/15/10, Rate of Pay, \$9.82

Margaret Quast, Full Time, Starting 06/15/10, Rate of Pay, \$9.82

Motion approved.

Fire Board Discussion

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Boyd to pursue appointing a fire board after the report is received from the Emergency Services Advisory Committee. **Motion approved.**

Park Board

Boyd states he wants more oversight of park land so that one person is not making all of the decisions regarding the parks.

Hockin stated that in the absence of an elected Park Commission the Township Board acts as the Park Board and that is what is been occurring. She also stated she consults with the supervisor on park issues and bring anything that is not in the budget to the Township Board. She does not feel she is the only one making a decision. The State requires that the manager be available 24/7 and it is not always reasonable to call a meeting of the Township Board or a Park Board/Committee for day to day issues and referred to the delegation of duties for park and recreation administration.

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Boyd to pursue appointing a park committee. **Motion approved.**

Chuck Decker, 5589 Millbrook Dr.

- Stated why add additional bureaucracy to something that is running well. The park is running the best it has in years.

Public Comment

Angel Scroggins, 5677 N. Broomhead Rd.

- Uses the Petobego area and likes it the way it is.

Hubbell stated he wants the parking lot improved.

Chuck Decker, 5589 Millbrook Dr.

- Sounds like funding is an issue with the recreation areas.

Tim Shaffer, 5309 Moore Rd

- No guidelines were set for the fire chief position, but chief is making changes.

Hal Mankin, 5485 Millbrook Dr.

- Saw this as a good area and that is why he moved here.
- Permanent fire chief/ambulance coordinator is needed. Deputies are need for the fire chief and ambulance coordinator.

Announcements

Clean Up Day-May 1st

May 11th, 6 p.m. Special meeting of Emergency Services Advisory Committee and Township Board.

May 11th, 7 p.m. Regular Township Board meeting.

Boyd wants Fire/EMS personnel to show up for Clean Up Day

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hockin, Clerk