

**Whitewater Township Board**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting held October 20, 2009**

**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: Attorneys Derman & Turkelson, Planning/Zoning Administrator Meyers, Owners Representative LaPointe, Fire Chief Stites, Sgt. Fewless, and 25 others.

**Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda**

The meeting agenda was adjusted as discussed.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

**Public Comment**

Cheryl Walton, 4995 Buck Rd, speaking on behalf of Whitewater Watch

- Presented a letter summarizing the survey that was sent out by Whitewater Watch regarding the proposed fire station. A copy of the letter is attached to the original minutes. Also requested the information be posted on the township website.
- States Tom & Mary Lou Baggs, Ed Lautner and Jim Wells did not receive the Community Survey mailed by the township.

Gene Veliquette, 8369 Elk Lake Rd

- Voiced concern that many townships are spending a lot of time receiving reports, unfinished business and new business, but not accomplishing anything.
- Stated the zoning ordinance regulations are too tough.
- Voiced concern about the cost of government.
- Stated people do not come to meetings because nothing significant is going on.

**Public Hearing**

None.

**Receive and File**

1. Election Commission minutes of 10/12/09 special meeting
2. Planning Commission 10/07/09 regular meeting cancelled
3. Supervisor's report for September 2009
4. Clerk's report for September 2009
5. Planning/Zoning Administrator's report for September 2009
6. Battalion #3 Fire Chief Activity Reports
7. 2008/2009 Audit Report

## **Correspondence**

1. Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department Board minutes of 09/15/09 regular meeting
2. Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department Service Statistics for September 2009
3. Grand Traverse County Road Commission minutes of 08/26/09 rescheduled regular meeting and 08/27/special meeting
4. An 10/09/09 letter from Mary Gillis, Grand Traverse County Road Commission Manager, re: County Road Millage Proposal Township List of Priorities
5. An 10/07/09 letter from Grand Traverse County Health Department, re: flu clinic/shot information
6. Recycle Smart October 2009, 2009-Unused Medications, Where Can I Dispose?

## **Reports/Presentations/Announcement/Comments**

### **Sheriff Department Report**

Sgt. Fewless reviewed the statistics for September 2009. He left information on the County ORV Ordinance.

Hubbell voiced concern re: speed of traffic & school buses on north bound Elk Lake Rd.

Benak voiced concern that someone is doing donuts on newly re-graveled Bunker Hill Rd.

### **Fire Chief/Ambulance Coordinator Report**

Randy Stites updated the board:

- September runs; 16 runs were made, 13 medical and 3 fire.
- Attended Fire Inspectors Conference.
- Working on Farm Fire Plans.
- Working on Township Disaster Plan.
- November 9<sup>th</sup> will be on standby at Mill Creek for a flu clinic.
- Researching rental of building for ladder truck.
- Will be at Turtle Creek Casino for two days to do water load testing.
- Inspection contract is on the Grand Traverse Band Council agenda.

### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Derman updated the board on the following:

- Millbrook Sewer Replacement bank statements have been forwarded to appropriate township officials.
- WMDLS-a final accounting on the project will be coming soon.
- Planning Commission is having a public hearing on the Site Plan Review amendment to the Zoning Ordinance
- On 9/28 Whitewater Township approved Resolution #09-17; County Commissioner Inman hand carried the resolution to the meeting of the Septage Committee.
- Septage Committee investigation of manager and attorney is estimated to cost \$20,000; the County Board of Commissioners has advanced \$10,000 for the investigation.
- Requests a closed session on real estate proposal.
- Supervisor Lake, Attorney Derman, Clerk Hockin, Owners Representative LaPointe and Joe Huhn representing the Grand Traverse Band Water Department met recently to review the proposed water agreement. Some revisions were requested by Township officials; Huhn will take this back to the GTB Council. Paul Olson, Municipal Underwriters has review the document and has no issues.
- Verizon Amendment #1 was signed and submitted to Verizon

### **Owner's Representative**

LaPointe gave an update on the grant process for the proposed fire station:

- FEMA grant was not included in phase 1; still in for phase 2.
- Included in the revisions to the Water Agreement with the Grand Traverse Band is a provision to buy back the system in the future.
- Has done research with professionals and a private well would cost \$220,000-\$300,00 plus permit fees and a test well; would also have a monthly maintenance of \$500-\$1,000. This information is in regards to the proposed fire station.
- An operating budget for the proposed fire station completed by township residents Rod Kuncaitis and David Galligan, Supervisor Lake, Clerk Hockin and Owners Representative LaPointe was presented. The power point will be updated with this information and put on the township website.

### **Consent Calendar**

1. Approval of minutes 09/15/09 regular, 09/25/09 closed session and 09/28/09 special meeting.
2. Approval of Alden State Bank vouchers #31895-32005 and Alden State Bank Miami Beach voucher #1082.

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Boyd, to approve the consent calendar items. **Motion approved 5-0.**

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Update: Proposed Water Service District Agreement**

This item was updated in the attorney's report.

#### **Ambulance Coordinator Request for Responder Membership**

Ambulance Coordinator Randy Stites presented an application for Merrill Jay Hansen for membership in the ambulance service. It was noted that he can be approved as a driver only until such time as he completes an EMT course.

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Boyd, that Merrill Jay Hansen be approved as a driver only in the ambulance service until such time as he completes an EMT course, pending an acceptable physical.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

#### **RFP's for Attorney, Auditors and Computer Repair Service**

The clerk will work with the zoning administrator on the RFP's and bring them back at a future meeting.

#### **County Commissioner Report**

County Commissioner Inman was attending a county meeting and unavailable to attend.

#### **New Business**

Supervisor Lake recommended the appointment of Dewayne Kirkman, 9021 O'Dell Rd to a term expiring December 31, 2011, on the Whitewater Township Board of Review.

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Benak, to confirm the recommendation of the supervisor appointing Dewayne Kirkman to the Whitewater Township Board of Review for a term expiring on December 31, 2011. Roll call vote: Boyd, yes; Hockin, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lake, yes; Benak, yes. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Kirkman will be instructed to take his oath of office within 10 days.

### **Ambulance Privacy Officer**

The board was made aware that Ambulance Coordinator Randy Stites needs to be appointed as the Ambulance Privacy Officer to comply with HIPAA.

Moved by Hockin, seconded by Benak, to appoint Randy Stites, as Ambulance Privacy Officer for Whitewater Township Ambulance Service. **Motion approved 5-0.**

### **Proposal: Rural Fire Point Compensation to Local Firemen**

Chief Stites proposes that the Rural Point payment go to the firemen rather than the township. The point monies could be used for lights and sirens for the firemen.

Hockin stated she has a problem with the proposal since the resolution for fire personnel wages specifically states that the payment for points will reimburse the township for wages paid. She also stated that the lights and sirens were approved for ambulance personnel and the board was told there would be no cost to the township for the lights and sirens.

After discussion, Boyd stated the resolution needs to be re-evaluated.

It was the consensus of the board that additional information is needed and should be presented at the next board meeting.

### **2010 Budget Work Sessions**

Boyd requests that budget work session be scheduled early this year. It was the consensus of the board that the work sessions would begin in early January and Parks and Recreation budgets are the first to be worked on.

### **2009/2010 Budget Amendments**

The auditors were consulted regarding distribution of pension plan charges. In some townships the entire cost of pension is charged to the general fund, in others the charges are spread to other funds. The clerk recommends charging all pension plan charges to the general fund.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Hubbell, to charge all pension plan fees for qualifying township employees to the general fund. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Budget amendments were presented by the clerk for board approval. A copy of said amendments is attached to the original minutes.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Benak, to approve the amendments to the 2009/2010 budget as recommended by the clerk. **Motion approved 5-0.**

### **Public Comment**

None.

**Closed Session**

Moved by Benak, seconded by Boyd to go into closed session to discuss proposed property acquisition. Roll call vote: Hockin, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lake, yes; Benak, yes; Boyd, yes. **Motion approved 5-0**

The board recessed to go into closed session at 8:27 p.m.

The board reconvened in open session at 8:50 p.m.

Moved by Benak, seconded by Boyd, to proceed as discussed in closed session. **Motion approved 5-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Hockin, clerk