

Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held November 2, 2009

Call to Order

Supervisor Lake called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.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: Attorney Derman, Fire Chief Randy Stites and 6 others

Agenda as Written in Special Meeting Notice

1. Fire Station Furnace & Heaters
2. Cemetery Fencing
3. Lawn Maintenance Bids
4. Snow Removal Bids
5. EMT Training Cost

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as posted.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

John Goss, no address given

- Asked about storage of the ladder truck; states should not be left outside.
- Voiced concern about election signs that were pulled; stated they were not obstructing the view.

Lake responded that storage for the ladder truck is being researched.

Jim Snider, 8316 Old M72

- States signs place by the fire department at the Township Hall and Fire Station are in the right of way and should be pulled like the election signs.
- Fire equipment should be housed not left out in the weather.
- Rural Fire should give the Township an ambulance.
- Stated there is no need to have a special meeting to accept bids, can be done at a regular meeting.
- States people in the cemetery are not requesting a fence.
- States the board has not responded in writing when he gave them 5 days to respond.

Fire Station Furnace & Heaters

A spreadsheet showing the bids received from Arms & Cole, Sheren and Team Bob's and copies of the bids was presented. It was noted that the bids were not for identical equipment. There were questions regarding warranty, venting, specifications, etc. Boyd also suggested a 10% retainage for a period of time.

The fire chief was instructed to prepare specifications and questions that need to be answered and to contact the vendors for the additional information. The bids are to be reviewed at the November regular board meeting.

Cemetery Fencing

Lake left the table, declaring a conflict of interest since the owners of Perfect Fence are his nephews. The clerk took over the meeting during the supervisor's absence.

Three bids were presented for fencing for Williamsburg Cedar Rapids Cemetery. This project has been in the budget for the past three years, with monies coming from cell tower revenues. The bids were from Apple Fence, Perfect Fence and Grand Traverse Bay Fence. Bids specifications were requested for the west side and the front of the cemetery only. Of particular concern is the west side of the cemetery where snow from the fire station has been pushed.

The bids were discussed and concern was raised over the cost. It was suggested that some type of temporary fencing could be put in place on the west side of the cemetery that could be taken down in the spring. Hubbell volunteered himself, Boyd and Lake to put in T-stakes and temporary fencing this fall and take them out in the spring.

It was the consensus of the board to postpone fencing at the cemetery at this time, will be reviewed in the future.

Lake returned to the board table.

Lawn Maintenance Bids

Bids were received from Vasquez Outdoor, Blackmore Property Maintenance, Johnson Outdoors and All Around Maintenance. All bidders attended the mandatory walk through. The board was given a copy of the bid specifications as given to the bidders; one verbal addition was made during the walk through, that being the extra (crematory) lot at Hi Pray Park.

The bids were reviewed by the board, questions were asked and answered.

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Boyd, to award the contract for 2010 Lawn Maintenance bids to Blackmore Property Maintenance. Roll call vote: Lake, no; Benak, yes; Boyd, yes; Hockin, yes; Hubbell, yes. **Motion approved 4-1.**

Snow Removal Bids

Bids were received from SRW, Vasquez Outdoor and Shore & Timber Construction. All bidders attended the mandatory walk through. The board was given a copy of the bid specifications as given to the bidders; bidders were made aware of the issue of snow plowing near the cemetery.

The bids were reviewed by the board, questions were asked and answered.

Moved by Boyd, seconded by Benak to award the contract for 2009/2010 Snow Removal to Vasquez Outdoor. Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Boyd, yes; Hockin, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lake, yes. **Motion approved 5-0.**

EMT Training Cost for Dawn Martin

Ambulance coordinator Randy Stites presented a request for approval of payment of the cost of EMT training for Dawn Martin. The class begins tonight.

Moved by Hubbell, seconded by Boyd, to approve the cost of EMT training for Dawn Martin. Roll call vote: Boyd, yes; Hockin, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lake, yes; Benak, yes. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Closed Session

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

Public Comment

Kim Halstead, 7923 Cook Rd

- States the board has a conflict of interest regarding the property being discussed.

Jim Snider, 8316 Old M72

- Commends the board on using common sense approach regarding pushing snow onto the cemetery property.
- Suggests putting up a sign at the cemetery regarding no snow being pushed onto the grave sites.
- States this can be done because Carol managed to get “no snowmobiles” signs up at “Hi” Pray Park in just one day.
- Regarding the property proposal, the township does not need the property; don’t take it off the tax rolls.

Randy Stites, Fire Chief

- Has one or two new recruits, will bring the number up to thirteen.

Della Benak, Township Treasurer

- States the Firemen’s Halloween party went well.

Recessed to closed session at 8:56 a.m.

Reconvened in open session at 9:17 a.m.

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

Lake reminded the board members and public of the joint meeting of Township Board and Planning Commission to receive the results of the Community Input Survey.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hockin, Clerk