

Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held November 9, 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, MI 49690.

Roll Call

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

Township Board members absent: None

Planning Commission members present: Boyd, Lyons, Mangus, Miller, Savage and Zakrajsek

Planning Commission member absent: Courtade (excused)

Also attending: Planning/Zoning Administrator Meyers, Heather McPhail from McKenna Associates and 16 others.

Agenda as Written in Special Meeting Notice

1. Presentation of the Community Survey Results

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as posted.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

Cheryl Walton, Whitewater Watch, PO Box 161, Williamsburg

- States raw data is public documents and needs to be retained by the Township for future Freedom of Information requests including returned surveys

There was a delay in the meeting due to technical difficulties.

Meeting was recessed at 7:08 p.m.

Meeting was reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

Heather McPhail of McKenna Associates presented the results of the survey in a power point presentation. The report will be available on the township website as well as printed copies for review at the township hall. A copy will be on file in the office of the township clerk.

Following the presentation, McPhail stated that while there was an indication the re-development of the Village was not desired, people wanted small scale businesses in the Village.

The floor was opened to questions from the public.

Richard Bukowski, 10304 Elk Lake Trail

- Voiced concern that Question 8 might be skewed
- Also voiced concern on pole barns

Cheryl Walton, no address given

- Asked what Ag Based Tourism jobs are included

Jim Snider, no address given

- Asked if all surveys were tabulated.

McPhail responded that McKenna Associates allowed two extra weeks past the deadline; only 10 surveys were received after that date and not counted. She read those surveys and they did not change the tone of the other responses.

Bob Schafer, no address given

- Asked why certain choices were offered on the survey when some have proven to not be viable.

Boyd responded that the survey was conducted to assist in the writing of the Master Plan.

Mark Smith, Island Lake

- Perspective on the Village not a theme type like Acme and Gaylord.

Jim Snider, no address given

- Suggested a possible need to expand on certain questions

McPhail responded that the survey leads to additional research by the Planning Commission.

Boyd responded that the survey assist the Planning Commission in further research.

Rod Kuncaitis, Elk Lake Rd

- Asked if the entire document would be on the website.

Meyers responded that the entire document would be on the website by 8:30 a.m. on November 10th. Document is 103 pages in length.

Kim Mangus, Planning Commissioner

- Stated the survey is a tool to use to ask additional questions.
- Community involvement in the process is vital.

Glenn Savage, Planning Commissioner

- People want growth on M72 and in the Village.

Rod Kuncaitis, Elk Lake Rd

- Need to work on communications.

Boyd asked what can we do with the comments?

McPhail responded: review the comments and act.

Public Comment

Richard Bukowski, Elk Lake Trl

- Look at the survey in the context of the economic times we are in at this time.
- A Master Plan and a Zoning Ordinance must be written that allows for occasional appeals.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hockin, Clerk