

# Vergennes Township

## Regular Meeting of the Township Hall

February 19, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call- Wittenbach, Mork, Hoffman, and Rasch were present. Gillett was absent.

The agenda was approved with the addition of approval of the January 17, Special Board meeting minutes with a motion from Mork seconded by Rasch, All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

The January Regular Board meeting minutes were approved as presented with a motion from Rasch, seconded by Hoffman. All members voted yes, **Motion carried.**

The Special Board meeting minutes were approved as presented with a motion from Rasch, seconded by Mork. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

The treasurer's report was read. Wittenbach motioned to pay the bills as presented, Hoffman seconded. All members voted yes, **Motion carried.**

### **Guest: Lisa Plank- Lowell Area Historical Museum Annual Report**

Lisa Plank from the Lowell Area Historical Museum provided the board with a copy of the 2017 annual report. She also provided an overview of the current programs the museum has provided the community. In the last year, 31,831 people were served directly, there were 56,000 visits to their new website, and they have 285 new artifacts. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a school program called museum immersion. Currently, this serves all the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes at Murray Lake Elementary. Their hope is to expand this program to include each third grade class in the Lowell Area School District. Currently a grant from the state of Michigan helps cover the cost of this Immersion Program. They are continuing to partner with Fallasburg Historical Society on historical projects. They are also working with Lowell Township on their new Township park and making sure to preserve the historical integrity of the park. They are anticipating a very busy 2018.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Old Business:**

#### **1. Township Hall Building Update:**

At the budget meeting last week, the board made a motion to offer \$500,000 to the church property. To build new, it would cost over 1 million dollars.

#### **2. Updates to 2017-2018 Budget**

Mork reported there is no anticipated work on the county drains for 2018/2019. Hoffman talked to Lowell Township about representatives for Authority Boards.

### **New Business:**

**1. LARA-- Recreational Plan Draft- Public Input Needed- Representative at Large Open Vacancy**

February 26th at 6pm LARA will be holding an open house for public input on the draft of the Recreation Plan. LARA is requesting letters of support from each municipality for the new trail. Hoffman motioned to write a letter of support for the new Phase 2 project. Rasch supported, all members voted yes, **motion carried.**

**2. 911 Kent County Dispatch Info- Tim Wittenbach**

Tim attended the supervisor's meeting and a representative from the Kent County 911 Dispatch gave a presentation. New Towers are needed for the 911 system. 82% of all 911 calls are cell phone generated which is up from only two or three years ago where only 40% were calls from a cell phone. The new towers will increase their response time and with the Smart 911 system –where a registered user can add addresses into the system - when a 911 call is placed, dispatchers can pin-point the closest registered address to the tower it is pinged from.

**3. Water Testing Discussion-**

The supervisor was contacted about water safety from a resident. The Board discussed testing two locations in the township, although, there is no concern of issues, the Board opted to be proactive and reach out to the superintendent of Lowell Schools to ask if they may be interested in sharing the expense of testing Murray Lake Elementary and either the well at the high school or the Wittenbach-Wege Center. It is quite an involved and expensive process, but the board is looking into it.. Wittenbach makes a motion to look into the process and reach out the Greg Pratt to ask if the board will share in the expense of testing the water not to exceed \$3000 for two tests, Mork supported. All members voted yes.

**Motion carried.**

**4. Public Comment Discussion-**

Hoffman contacted neighboring townships to research their public comment policies and protocols. There was board discussion about the requirements and statute of the Open Meetings Act. The Board agreed to do more research on this and tabled it until March meeting

**Public Comment:**

Sandi Miles spoke during public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm with a motion from Mork and support from Hoffman. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2018.