

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2013

As amended

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 pm in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present: Tim Wittenbach -Supervisor
Mari Stone -Clerk
Jean Hoffman -Treasurer
Rick Gillett -Trustee

Members Absent: Al Baird -Trustee

The agenda for the July 15, 2013 meeting was approved with the addition of Fire Authority Discussion. Motion made by Tim Wittenbach; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the June 17, 2013 meeting were approved as presented. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved as presented. Motion made by Jean Hoffman; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

It was noted that the new quarterly payment for the Fire Authority is \$25,295. The previous budget year payment was around \$21,000.

Unfinished Business:

1. Hope Network/ Senior Neighbors CDBG Contracts-

The board was given the new CDBG contracts for Hope Network and Senior Neighbors. The allocated amount for Hope Network would be \$3,201.42 and Senior Neighbors would be \$4,481.27. Wittenbach motioned to sign and approve the CDBG contracts in the amounts of \$3,201.42 for Hope Network and \$4,481.27 for Senior Neighbors; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Request for Fireworks Permit at Pink Arrow Game-

Stone informed the board that the paperwork has not been received yet, but Teresa Beachum had called her about getting a permit again this year for the Pink Arrow Game. Beachum said there would be no changes. Stone motioned to approve the permits contingent on receiving the paperwork for the fireworks permit for the Pink Arrow Game; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

2. Fire Authority Discussion-

The board discussed some concerns with the Lowell Area Fire Authority budget. The budget has been raised each year, but LAFA continues to spend more money than they have. Stone

commented that perhaps LAFA could obtain a grant for a professional to come in and evaluate the authority to see that it is running as efficiently as possible. It was also noted that the authority could re-evaluate the budget formula. Also, the board wondered if there should be mechanisms to deal with unusual situations such as the recent flooding in the City of Lowell, and the high cost associated with this level of services through LAFA.

Additional board concerns: an evaluation for the chief is overdue - he has never been evaluated to their knowledge. Transparency – some areas of operations are not fully understood and/or explained. The board said they will continue to discuss this issue.

Wittenbach also told the board that the Chief has given the authority a request for *a new truck to replace two old ones that will not pass inspection much longer.*

Michwave update -

Glenn Watson updated the board about Michwave and the status of the tower. The plans were submitted to Mark Fleet and Michwave is now waiting for the approval from the building inspector. Mark Fleet had some questions for the engineer that created the plans and told the board that the tower will probably need some modifications. Board said that they could set the public hearing for the August board meeting if Michwave can get all the permits and plans approved by August 1st. Hoffman motioned that if the township receives everything by August 1st and Mark Fleet approves the plans then the township will set the Special Use Public Hearing for the August 19th Board Meeting; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Stone commented that the new BS&A software that was installed in the township in 2012 is working well. BS&A offered a zero interest payment plan for the \$25,000 total over five years. The township budgeted for it, but the company didn't invoice last year, so Stone said that the board should plan to add more to the budget for next year's payment.

Citizen's Comments:

There were no citizen's comments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
