

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2013

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 June 17, 2013 meeting was approved with the addition of Farm Market Discussion. Motion made by Tim Wittenbach; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the May 20, 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.**

Unfinished Business:

1. Gravel Road Maintenance

The board reviewed estimates for maintaining McPherson and Ashley roads by using limestone. The price to limestone two miles of McPherson Road would be \$68,750 and one mile of Ashley would be \$33,000. McPherson has issues with wet spots, and receives a lot of complaints about potholes and mud from the residents on that road. The board concluded that the limestone application on McPherson may solve some of those issues. Gillett motioned to limestone McPherson between Parnell Avenue and Alden Nash Road and study the results for other roads; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

Stone motioned to amend the township budget to add for this project by \$68,750; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

2. Michwave Update

Glen Watson came to the board meeting representing Michwave. He updated the board on the progress of the tower. The electrical permit was approved, and the special use and building permits have been submitted. The tower is still currently running. Watson expressed concern about potential legal action taken by the township during this process. He was assured that the township will hold off on taking legal action as long as the permitting process is being followed. Watson is committed to managing this process. A resident in attendance asked why the board is allowing Michwave to continue with this process since they haven't complied in over a year. The board noted that the residents using the service are of the greatest concern, not to mention the expenses on the township that would come from going to court. The board is not in favor of extending the deadline past July since Michwave has not been obeying the township regulations for the past year.

New Business:

1. Township Millage Rate for 2013

Board agreed that the millage rate would stay the same as in 2012. Hoffman motioned to adopt the millage rate for 2013 as .8672; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

2. Annual Hope Network and Senior Neighbors CDBG Contracts-

Stone motioned to table this until next month due to the fact that she has not received the paperwork yet; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

3. Farm Market Discussion-

Ronald Steffens updated the board on his Farm Market project. He signed his lease for the property and started cleaning up the property by taking the barns down. Unfortunately, the co-owner of the property was not in favor of Steffens taking the barns down or changing the landscape of the farm. Steffens has put his project on hold for right now and doesn't know if it will go anywhere in the near future. Steffens thanked the board for their support and appreciated their cooperation with his project.

Citizen's Comments:

Wittenbach informed the board about a meeting the fire authority had. The authority currently has an \$18,570 deficit. It appears from the report that \$4,000 of the deficit is caused by the severe flooding that occurred in the city, and the board questioned the appropriateness of that. The department is increasing their budget and they are going to need to buy a new fire truck in the next year or so. The board discussed management of the department and proper use of funds. Stone commented that the fire authority could ask the Lowell Community Fund for a grant for a study that would show best practices. The board agreed and said that the three municipalities should get together and talk about the deficit.

Duane Rasch told the board that he would be interested in serving as a trustee in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
