

## **Vergennes Township Regular Meeting of the Township Board**

June 19, 2017

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

Pledge

Roll Call - Gillett, H. Hoffman, Wittenbach, J. Hoffman, and Rasch were all present.

The agenda was approved as presented with an addition of the Road Commission Request and MTA invoice with a motion from J. Hoffman and support from Gillett.

**Motion carried.**

The May minutes were accepted as presented with a motion from Gillett and support from Rasch. **Motion carried.**

The treasurer's report was read. J. Hoffman makes a motion we pay the bills as listed, H. Hoffman supports. **Motion carried.**

### **Citizen's Comments:**

There were no citizen's comments.

### **Public Hearing- Noise Ordinance Amendments**

**Public Hearing was opened 7:06 p.m.**

**Public Comment:**

#### **John Forsberg- 850 Montcalm**

He would like to know what is considered excessive noise. His house is 150 feet away from neighbors who are target shooting high caliber guns. There are times they shoot for two hours at a time and asked how the ordinance covers this issue. He is also concerned about shooting in a residential area where the properties are only 150ft wide. He noted there are designated areas that are better suited for this.

#### **Keegan Riordan- 852 Montcalm**

Had concerns about people using the river and neighbors target shooting near this area.

#### **Bisera Riordan - 852 Montcalm**

Had safety concerns regarding target shooting They want to know what the laws are with how far away people can shoot from other houses.

#### **Bob Sife- 13684 Beckwith**

Bob mentioned that he is a hunter. He said that it is recommended to inform your neighbor when target shooting, he isn't sure if it is the law, but knows it is recommended.

**Jeanne Vandersloot- Vergennes Township Zoning Administrator-** shared that she had checked with the state and there must be a sufficient backstop to catch all bullets when target practicing. A hunter may not hunt less than 450 ft from a home. She said that the township is the first point of contact for a complaint, but if there is a complaint

during hours when the township office is not open, the Kent County Sheriff's Department can be called to handle noise complaints.

**Morgan Jerema- 850 Montcalm**

She is concerned about the sound and the safety of the river area. She is concerned about the safety of people who use the river on kayaks, canoes and tubes. She appreciates the board approving an ordinance that allows law enforcement to get involved if there are concerns or issues.

The public hearing was closed at 7:20 pm.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. **Noise Ordinance Amendment 2017-4**-There was board discussion on proposed amendments. Gillett made a motion to approve the amendments to the Noise Ordinance as written. Rasch supported -A Roll call vote was taken at the Special Meeting that took place on June 26, 2017 to support this motion.- All members voted yes.  
**Motion carried.**
2. **Compensation for appointed members of various community boards- fire authority- LARA- LCTV, etc.--** Gillett motioned to compensate board members that serve on Fire Authority Board, LARA, LCTV, and Lowell Community Fund \$75 per board meeting.. J. Hoffman supported.  
**Motion carried.**
3. **CDBG funds- fire building maintenance allocation--** Wittenbach motioned to set a public hearing for the July 17, 2017 regular board meeting to allocate the CDBG funds for the fire building maintenance and ADA upgrades to the entrance. J. Hoffman supported,  
**Motion carried.**
4. **AT&T update on internet disconnect and phone solution-** We should have a resolution for our phone solution within the month. H.Hoffman wrote a complaint to the public service commission due to AT&T's lack of response. The office of the president of AT&T got involved and the township should be receiving resolution to their internet disconnection and a solution to their phone lines within the month. There will be an internet line credit back to January 2017. This should be close to \$1700. We should have this credit within 2 to 4 billing cycles. They have agreed to provided the township with a month to month phone contract.
5. **Consumers Energy- Alden Nash/Foreman road billing issue-** After it was discovered and the overpayment was brought to the attention of the Consumers Energy account manager, the township will be credited for payment on a street light that was removed in August of 2015 by Consumers Energy without the township's knowledge. The credit will be \$1270.39 plus \$134.92 = \$1405.31. We should get this credit within two billing cycles. The lighting contract for 2017 has been signed and sent. The approval of the mercury vapor lighting change has been sent.

**New Business:**

1. **Community Clean-up Day-** Scheduled for September 30, 2017. There is a grant to allow for tire disposal.
2. **Social Media Presence for the Township-** Heather Hoffman would like to create a Facebook page for Vergennes Township as another method of communication with the residents. Social media is a valid form of communication. There will not be a comment section on the posts. If there were questions or concerns, communication would be through a phone call or visit to the office. This form of communication would strictly be a tool to get inform the community quicker than our newsletter that comes out only twice per year.. The board agreed to move ahead with this project.
3. **Google Exchange Email service-** This is a cloud based server that would solve our email syncing problem. The cost is \$5 per email. This will run about \$35 per month covering seven email accounts. Gillett motioned to sign up for this service, Rasch supported.  
**Motion carried.**
4. **Township Operating Millage Rate for 2017- Headlee Roll Back--** J. Hoffman motioned to table this until the July board meeting. Wittenbach supported.  
**Motion carried.**
5. **Requirements for Subcontractors- Draft Copy of Contract for Subcontractors-** Board had discussion J. Hoffman motioned to adopt the contract to be used for any subcontractor, Gillett supported.  
**Motion carried.**
6. **Exploring the cost of an architect providing a preliminary set of prints for a building project- Timothy A. Spitzley, Architects, LLC-** The board had discussion regarding moving forward on obtaining a preliminary set of prints for a potential building project at the land owned by the township. This would provide a cost comparison of a new building compared to an addition at the current hall sight. Tim Spitzley, Architects, LLC answered many questions and gave a lot of good information to the board. He provided a cost for the preliminary drawings based on our functional requirements and space needs. Tim Wittenbach suggested the board hold a workshop to discuss this on Monday, June 26th, at 1 pm. The board agreed this was a good idea and scheduled a special meeting.
7. **277 River Pine request for waiver-** The board discussed the request for waiver versus the upgrades to the private road -Gillett motioned to grant the waiver with the addition that the road maintenance agreement becomes part of the legal description of the property. H. Hoffman supported.  
**Motion Carried.**
8. **Road Commission-** J. Hoffman motioned to table the discussion to the workshop. Gillett supported  
**Motion carried.**
9. **MTA membership dues -** The Board held discussion about the Michigan Township Association membership dues. J. Hoffman motioned to pay the membership dues and add them this month's bills. Gillett supported.  
**Motion carried.**

**Citizen's comments:**

The property owner at 165 River Pine asked for a similar waiver as the owners of 277 River Pine. The board will add her to the July agenda.

Jeanne Vandersloot- zoning administrator- shared some of the Michigan Township Association hot topics and class offerings including solar farms, lake home rentals, and the new medical marijuana laws.

Sandy Miles shared that the Zoning Board of Appeals recommended that the planning commission review the cell tower ordinance. Jean Hoffman agreed that the township board directs the planning commission to review the cell tower ordinance. Wittenbach motioned for the planning commission review the cell tower ordinance. Gillett supported.

**Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2017