

Vergennes Township Regular Meeting of the Township Board

March 20, 2017

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

Roll Call - Gillett, Rasch, H. Hoffman, Wittenbach were present. J. Hoffman was absent.

The agenda was changed to move public comment above the public hearing and H. Hoffman added the Consumers Energy Lighting discussion. An addition was added to new business to adopt a resolution for the Industrial Development District. A motion to approve this change was made by H.Hoffman and supported by Gillett. **Motion carried.**

The February Board minutes were accepted as presented with a motion by Gillett, supported by Rasch. **Motion carried.**

The February 27 Special Meeting minutes were accepted as presented with a motion by Gillett, supported by Rasch. **Motion carried.**

The treasurer's report was read. Gillett made a motion to pay the bills as presented, supported by Rasch. **Motion carried.**

Guest: Thomas Albert -- State Representative, District 86

Thomas Albert updated the board on what he is working on in Lansing. Criminal justice reform and government pension fund deficit are his main focus.

He encouraged the Board to contact him and let him know of ways he can be of assistance to the township.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Public Hearing -- 2017-18 Budget

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:14 p.m. The recommended 2017/2018 budget and budget changes were reviewed. Citizen Comments: Bob Seif asked if the township will receive income from the Verizon tower. The board informed him that the only income the township will receive will be a very small portion of personal property tax. The public hearing was closed by Wittenbach at 7:18 p.m..

Public Hearing -Establishment of an Industrial Development District

The Public Hearing for Establishing an Industrial Development District was opened at 7:19 p.m. There was discussion about where the district will be located, the effects this would have on the township and the benefit to new businesses. Citizen Comments: Bob Seif asked to know more about the new poultry business going into the development. He also wanted to know when the district would go into place. The Board discussed the new business and noted the time frame. Mr. Smith was concerned about what the impact on the roads would be and about maintenance concerns regarding the parcel entrance, as it is not part of the site condo. He said this could be addressed in the future. The public hearing was closed by Tim Wittenbach at 7:29

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Consumer's Energy Lighting Discussion

Consumers Energy is rewriting the lighting contract and will present the township with a cost comparison/savings breakdown on new lighting options. Once this is received, the township will have all of the information necessary to make a decision to replace all of the mercury vapor lights with either high pressure sodium or LED. This will be addressed at the April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget Amendments for 2016-17 Budget

All amendments were approved as presented with a motion from Gillett, supported by H. Hoffman. **Motion carried.**

2. Adoption of 2017-18 Budget

Gillett made a motion to adopt the 2017-18 proposed budget with amendments included, Rasch supported. **Motion carried.**

3. Agreement to cooperate with Lowell Township's park project

Lowell Township is seeking help from neighboring townships to participate with minor costs, like bathroom cleaning, for their new park project. Lowell Township is requesting grant funding and needs to have enough points to be eligible for the grant. Grants are awarded based on a points system. Lowell Township believes that by having the support and participation of neighboring townships on the application, this will give them enough points to be awarded the grant dollars they are seeking. The cost to neighboring townships will be minimal.

Wittenbach made a motion to support the Lowell Township's park project, Gillett supported.

Motion carried.

4. Establishment of an Industrial Development District -Resolution 2017-3

Motion made by Gillett to adopt the resolution as presented in resolution 2017-3 for the Establishment of an Industrial Development District. There was a roll call vote taken- all present voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Reminder was given regarding the Fire Authority meeting on March 30th about fire safety at Lowell City Hall at 7 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for April 17th, 2017