

Vergennes Township
Regular Board Meeting
March 21, 2016

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

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

Approval of the agenda – There were several additions to the agenda including Englehardt Fund Representative Appointment, Township Hall addition proposals, Rockford Ambulance, and discussion about inspection services agreement with Mark Fleet. A motion by Wittenbach was made to approve the agenda with additions, Stone supports. **Motion carried.**

The minutes from the February 15, 2016 meeting were approved as presented. The minutes of the Special Meeting on January 13, 2016 were approved as presented.

A partial Treasurer's report was given. The bills were approved as presented.

Public Hearing – 2016-2017 Budget

An updated proposed budget showing activity through March 31, 2016 was presented. There are no pay raises being given this year. Stone noted that there is no amount budgeted for the proposed Hall addition – the account will be amended when bids are accepted. The Fire Services account was amended based on the latest budget figures from the Fire Authority, which shows an amount of \$125,500 in annual contributions from Vergennes.

The Public Hearing was open at 7:13 pm.

Bob Rogers – 13700 Grindle, Lowell – Are there any road paving projects in the plan for this year? Wittenbach responded. There is no systematic plan for paving roads. There is a re-gravel project going on. McPherson and Grindle have been done.

The public hearing was closed at 7:16 pm.

New Business

1. Adoption of 2016-2017 Budget

A motion was made by Stone to adopt the 2016-2017 budget with the updated figures. Rasch supports. **Motion carried.**

2. Amendment to the 2015-16 Budget

A motion to amend the 2015-16 Budget in the following amounts was made by Stone, seconded by Rasch:

101-101-702 Board Trustees - Raise by \$1372.00

101-201-806 Admin Consulting Fees - Raise \$650.52

101-209-975 Assessing Admin - Raise by \$309.24

101-248-907 BS&A Programs - Raise \$3246

101-276-956 Cemetery Misc. - Raise \$1,169.52

1041-371-801 Building Inspector - Raise \$8,250.18

101-951-715 Social Security Admin - Raise \$1,982.87

Motion carried

2. Approval of Restated Joint Fire and Emergency Services Agreement

The biggest change to the Agreement was with conflict of interest language as outlined in the memo. Vergennes attorney, Jim Doezema, had looked at the agreement and proposed minor changes which were accepted. Stone asked about the fund balance – will there be mandatory additional payments? Where is the money held? Is it in a trust account? Wittenbach said there is currently about \$100,000 in contingency. There is nothing in the agreement that would require additional contributions above and beyond quarterly payments. The board agreed we do not need to budget for additional fund balance contributions. Wittenbach would still like to see the formula readdressed. Vergennes has the least use and pays the most in SEV. City of Lowell has stated it will not agree to change the formula if it adversely affects their payments.

Wittenbach motioned to accept the Restated Joint Fire and Emergency Services Agreement as written. Stone supports. **Motion carried.**

3. Fire Authority Updates

The Authority adopted their budget. The Fire Chief pay is going up from \$12,000 to \$23,000 per year . They are also going to pay members for Saturday morning trainings up to 4 hours. They approved a plaque for outgoing fire chief. The search for a new fire chief is ongoing. They have received two applications so far, one from Indiana.

4. Englehardt Fund / Grand Rapids Foundation -Appoint new Representative

The Township needs to appoint a new representative for a three year term. Jeff Bunn is our current representative. The Foundation is looking for three nominees. They will choose one from the list. The three names to be submitted are Tim Wittenbach, Mari Stone, and Janine Mork. Stone will submit the names. A motion was made by Stone to submit Wittenbach, Stone and Mork to the Englehardt Fund as representative suggestions. Rasch supports. **Motion carried.**

5. Township Hall Addition Proposals -

The Board officially received proposals from Owen Ames Kimball, Triangle Construction, Nugent Builders, and Dixon Architecture. These are not complete construction plans. They would like to have a full Board present to review submissions. A meeting will be scheduled prior to the April Board meeting to discuss.

6. Rockford Ambulance –

Roger Morgan and Matt McConnon represented Rockford Ambulance. They are not here to ask for money. They would like a letter of support for a matching grant from the Community Fund. They are switching to a modular ambulance. With all the required equipment and lack of room in current vehicle, it is necessary. The total cost is \$80,000, with the grant request being \$40,000. They are also asking for matching funds for a stretcher. A total of \$54,000 is being requested in grant money. Stone motioned to write a letter of support for the matching funds to the Community Foundation. Rasch supported.

Motion carried.

They also reviewed the year- end report for Vergennes Township. There were 192 total responses in 2015.

7. Mark Fleet – Inspection Services Agreement

Stone explained to the board that a formal agreement was never made regarding our relationship with Fleet. A draft agreement was reviewed, and suggested changes will be incorporated into a final copy for Fleet and the Township to sign.

Citizens Comments

Mark Fleet would like to note that one of our Township residents, Gabe Dean, just took 1st in the NCAA wrestling championship. This is the 2nd year in a row for him. It is a great achievement and it should be recognized.

Bob Rogers – He is a member of the Impact Church. They are once again doing a Love Project where volunteers go out in the community and make repairs, etc... This year it will be July 18 – 22. He is asking for project suggestions from Township.

Also, the Fire Department is holding their Pancake Breakfast Saturday March 26 between 7am and 11am. The Fire Truck will be at the Lowell Community Expo on Saturday, as well.

LARA Update – LARA is working with Lowell Township to extend the Gee/Alden Nash corner of the trail south to M-21 in order to provide access to the new Lowell Township Park going in behind Walgreens. Stone would like to give monetary support to the project. She believes the residents of Vergennes Township will benefit from this park. The Trail will cost approximately \$600,000 to complete.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

The next regular Township Board Meeting is April 18, 2016

Mari Stone, Clerk