

# DRAFT COPY

**Vergennes Township-** 10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331

## Regular Meeting of the Township Board

May 21, 2018

### MINUTES

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

Roll Call- Rasch, Hoffman, Wittenbach, and Gillett and Mork were all present. None absent

The agenda was approved with an addition of Guest speaker Betsy Davidson- LARA trail system discussion. Motion by Gillett to approve the agenda with the addition, Mork seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

The April 16, 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes were approved by Gillett and seconded by Rasch. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

The April 16, 2018 Closed Session Minutes were approved as presented by Hoffman and seconded by Gillett. All members voted yes on a roll call vote. Mork was absent at the 4/16/18 meeting and had no vote. **Motion carried.**

The treasurer's report was read. Gillett motioned to pay the bills as presented, Rasch seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

#### **Betsy Davidson- Guest Speaker- LARA trail system**

Betsy shared a lot of information about the Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) group. LARA is made up of representatives from Vergennes Township, Lowell City and Lowell Township. LARA is currently working on building the final link of the 125 mile rail trail system. Lowell is unique because it is the only area to have active railroads which causes the route to be more challenging to create. The proposed final connection would run down Bowes Rd, through the fairgrounds, over the Flat River then over the Grand River and connect off of Grand River Drive. A pedestrian bridge and a walking path attached to the current Grand River Bridge would be built. LARA has applied for a MDNR grant and a MDOT grant to help cover the 5.5 million dollar projected cost. LARA is working to secure 2 million of the 5.5 million dollars through large corporate funding or foundation donors. This is the proposed route. It is all dependent on securing funding.

#### **Public Comment-**

Sandi Miles spoke during public comment.

Janice Vanderbilt spoke during public comment.

#### **Old Business-**

1. Solar Energy Resolution/ Ordinance 2018-5- The Board discussed regulating Solar Energy. There was discussion about placing a moratorium on Solar Energy permits until an ordinance could be adopted. The Township Attorney was consulted to provide his opinion and language for a resolution and ordinance to place a moratorium. Gillett motioned to imposing a moratorium on the issuance of permits, licenses, approvals for

or for any construction of solar energy systems and to petition the planning commission to initiate zoning ordinance amendments. Mork seconded. A Roll Call Vote was taken. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

2. Township Hall Building Update- A new smaller similar design was presented. 5800 sf verses the original design of 8800 sf, The estimated per sf cost of the building is \$160 per square foot. . The Board is currently working on gathering figures for site work and office furnishings.
3. Wireless Communications Ordinance Amendment- Ordinance 2018-03 Wittenbach motioned to approve the Wireless Communications Ordinance Amendment as presented. Gillett seconded. There was a roll call vote and all members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
4. VOIP- Installation- This is anticipated to be done the first part of June.

#### **New Business-**

1. Bank Research update- Mork is looking to change banking institutions due to customer service and rising fees. She provided the board with a comparison chart of the six banks that have provided information to her. Further research is needed before bringing the decision to a Board vote
2. New Website Discussion- Hoffman is researching website design companies. The current township website is dated and not ADA compliant. Updating our township website important and necessary. Revize is a website design company and provided the township with a proposal. Further companies will be contacted and information will be brought to the Board.
3. Impact Church- Love week project- Bailey Cemetery Signage Placement- Impact Church has approached the township asking of any projects that need to be completed. They have agreed to place a new Bailey Cemetery Sign and move the existing sign to the east entrance of the cemetery. The Impact group will be volunteering to do this work as part of their "Love Week" June 25 - 29. Wittenbach is securing the supplies needed for this project.
4. Community Clean-Up Day September 29th 8am-11am- Volunteers are needed from each municipality. Wittenbach and Hoffman will attend. Wittenbach has secured the use of a Uni-Loader for the event.

#### **Zoning Administrator Update**

Jeanne Vandersloot discussed the 11441 Lally property neighbor complaint. The owner was sent a letter to remove structures that are in the setback. Jeanne said that the owner is aware he must remove the structures, but would like to speak to the Board first. The owner allowed the current building permit for a deck to expire. Wittenbach motioned that Jeanne Vandersloot send a letter to the property owner instructing that they are to remove the boat rack and shower stall that are in the setback and that they will need to appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals to ask for a variance on the deck in order to renew the building permit. Gillett seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.** The Planning Commission would like to work on the fence ordinance and look at lake structure language and setbacks.

Janice Vanderbilt spoke during the Zoning Administrator update and provided the Board with photos of her Lally neighbor's property.

#### **Public Comment**

Sandi Miles spoke during public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

