

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting of the Township Hall

October 16, 2017

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

Roll Call - Wittenbach, J. Hoffman, Rasch, Gillett, H. Hoffman were present. None absent

The agenda was approved with the addition: *Old Business - Bailey Cemetery signage*. There was a motion by Wittenbach to approve the agenda with the addition, Gillett seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

The September minutes were accepted with a change: *Old Business: Special Exception Permit- Gillett motioned to excuse J. Hoffman and H. Hoffman from the vote, Wittenbach seconded. All members voted yes, Motion carried.* J. Hoffman made a motion to accept the September minutes with the change, Gillett seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

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

Public Comment

None

Guest

1. Kent District Library (KDL) Report-

Representatives of KDL: Lindsey Dorfman, Chuck Myers, and Heather Wood-Gramza gave an overview of KDL's new programs and offerings including automatic renewals-saving users from late fees, a new mobile friendly website, Go Packs that provide materials with STEM concepts for families to check out and a grant funded revival of the Bookmobile –to reach areas of the county who don't have access to a library. The Englehardt branch of KDL celebrated their 20th Anniversary earlier this year. KDL is very passionate about their work and they are thankful to be a part of this community.

Old Business:

1. Computer Security (Untangled)-and Backup Option (Veritas System Recovery (VSR) Discussion -Betsy Davidson – Addorio Technologies, LLC

Betsy explained the various benefits of the Untangled computer security program and the Veritas System Recovery back up software These options would provide much greater network security and data recovery. The board discussed the options and the costs. Gillett made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the Untangled appliance for \$1850.00, the annual upgrades and fees of \$540.00 and the VSR back up software for \$1480, two eternal hard drives for \$300 and a \$200 annual maintenance fee. H. Hoffman seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

2. Hall Building Update- Open House / Public Input consideration/ December Newsletter

The Board discussed the proposed Township Hall and finance options. It was decided the Board will host a community Open House on November 20, 2017 from 5 pm to 7 pm for Vergennes Township residents to have the opportunity to see the preliminary design of the proposed New Township Hall, ask questions and give input. The Township Board, design architect, and office staff will be available to answer questions on the proposed building, give tours of the current building, answer questions about township administration and listen to ideas from the community. There will be comment cards available for residents to give their input and ideas. The Board agreed that information/comment response cards was a good idea to send with the Winter Tax mailing to gather public input and further reach residents about the proposed new township hall.

3. Bailey Cemetery Sign

Wittenbach received a proposal to replace the Bailey Cemetery from United Signs (the same designer as other Vergennes Township signage). The sign design will match the design at Fox's Corner and Fallasburg cemetery signs and cost \$750. J. Hoffman made a motion to purchase the cemetery sign from United Sign, H. Hoffman seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

New Business:

1. Charles Myers –seeking board approval for re-appointment to Kent District Library's Board of Trustees

Chuck Myers gave information about his many years and accomplishments as an appointed KDL board member. Gillett motioned to support Mr. Myers re-appointment to the KDL Board of Trustees, J. Hoffman seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

2. Public Comment Policy consideration

The board discussed Public Comment. There was discussion about reasonable regulations, and time and manner restrictions that are deemed constitutional in the interest of having efficient business meetings. There was discussion about limiting the time period per speaker and putting a limit on total public comment time. An example is three minutes per speaker for a total Public Comment time of thirty minutes. During public comment, the right to speak is protected by the First Amendment. There was discussion about members of the public should not yell out or interrupt the meeting from their seats while the Board is conducting business. (a possible consequence includes removal from the meeting.) This policy consideration is backed by MTA and Citizen Advocacy Center. The Clerk's office will gather get copies of Public Comment Policies from other municipalities.

3. Snow Plow Bid Approval

Vergennes Township Noticed bidders for snow plowing services for the 2017-2018 winter season. One bid was received from Scenic Expressions. The Board discussed the quality work that this company has done for the township. J. Hoffman motioned to select Scenic Expressions' agreement for the Season Rate in a one-time payment to get the 4% discount- totaling: \$1817.28. Gillett seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

4. Formal Request: Medical Cannabis Facility Study Session –Duane Fitzgerald DVM

There was board discussion regarding the formal request sent from Mr. Fitzgerald requesting the Board consider creating a study session with his group so they can go into more detail about His request to cultivate medical-grade cannabis in Vergennes Township and to address any concerns the Board may have. The Board discussed the MTA's information about the new MMFLA regulations and the many unknowns with the currently purposed regulations. The Board feels that at this time there are too many unknowns and concerns with the law that will take effect in December 2017.

During Board discussion, a member of the audience asked to give public comment before the board makes any decisions. His request was approved by Wittenbach. **Connor Baker-Medical Marijuana Caregiver-** Connor is a caregiver who has seen the benefits of medical marijuana on his patients. He is hoping to create a cultivation center in Vergennes Township to grow Medical-Grade cannabis legally so that patients can get regulated and safe medicine for themselves. He is in discussions with the City of Lowell to allow a provisioning center.

Wittenbach motioned to sign the opt-out resolution *-which tells any Medical Marijuana groups that Vergennes Township is opting to take a definitive position declaring at this time the township is not going to "opt in",* and put this information on the Vergennes Township Website. Gillett seconded. There was further Board discussion and the Board agreed to continue to gather information about the new regulations and MMFLA law. They Board agreed to hold a study session with Mr. Fitzgerald's group. The tentative date for this meeting is November 27, 2017. All members voted yes, **Motion carried.**

5. Blair vs. Township- October 31st- Mediation discussion

The Board discussed the mediation discussion between Blair and the Township. Wittenbach and the zoning administrator Jeanne Vandersloot will attend the mediation discussion along with the Township Attorney on October 31, 2017.

Public Comment

See- Old Business #4 –Conner Baker

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2017.