

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting of the Township Board

October 17, 2016

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

Roll Call – Rasch, Hoffman, Wittenbach, Stone, and Gillett were all present. Also present was Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator.

The agenda was approved as presented with a motion by Hoffman, supported by Stone. **Motion carried.** The Treasurer's Report was read. Hoffman motioned to approve the list of invoices – it was determined that the Fire Authority quarterly payment should be held until next month. Gillett supported, and the **Motion carried.**

Guests -

1. Kent District Library Report

Representatives of KDL, Chuck Meyers, Lindsey Dorfman, and Heather Wood-Gramza discussed how KDL is becoming more innovative and new. KDL has been focused on giving the citizens of Lowell the programs and amenities that they want. They added many new programs this year and now offer iPads and portable hotspots for check out with a library card.

2. Friends of Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trail

Robert Brown Jr (Chairperson) and Ron Gunderson (MidWest Michigan Trail Authority) came to talk about updates to the River Valley Rail Trail, and to ask for formal support from the Board. Formed in 2010, the trail is now 125 miles. The trail out in this area will be finished in 2018 from Greenville to Lowell and Lowell to Saranac. Motion by Stone to support, Gillett supports. **Motion carried.**

3. Cindy Covell, Murray Lake Resident—Goose Reduction Program

Cindy Covell was not present. The Board will address next month.

Unfinished Business --

1. Noise Ordinance Discussion—Concerns Regarding Target Shooting

Pat Brown was concerned about target practice and dirt bikes. He was worried that if they got a ticket he wouldn't be able to afford a ticket if there were complaints, although he has never gotten any complaints in the past.

Bryan Anderson suggested that we include a time period for when during the day residents should be allowed to shoot their guns.

Jim Jaworowicz wishes that there was an exception in the ordinance that could clarify all of the confusion about this particular section, to avoid leaving any interpretation room in the case of tickets.

James Sterling made a point to say that residents and the board should work together to facilitate an agreement. His son is a police officer who shoots with him for hours and he is concerned that his son will no longer be able to target shoot at his house.

Wittenbach made a motion to send the Noise Ordinance back to the Planning Commission for rewording. Gillett supported, and the **Motion carried.**

New Business --

1. Industrial Site Plan Review—IMMO US Corp – Bieri Industrial Drive

Andy Baer was present to represent the company. IMMO is a light manufacturing company that produces egg handling equipment. They have received recommendation for approval with conditions from the Planning Commission, and would like the board's approval to proceed. Gillett motioned to give conditional approval as outlined by the Planning Commission at their October 2016 meeting. Wittenbach supported, and the **Motion carried.**

2. Snow Plow Bids –

Woods and Scenic Expressions had both submitted proposals. Scenic was substantially lower. Hoffman motioned to go with Scenic Expressions, Gillett supported, and the **Motion carried.**

3. Data Gathering and Facilitation of Building Options/ Problem Solving Session --

The staff and officials have been discussing the present facilities, and whether to renovate, expand, or build a new building. It was suggested that a study be performed to evaluate all aspects of the question. PMc Consulting will conduct. Hoffman motioned to approve, Gillett supported, and the **Motion carried.**

4. Discussion Regarding the Township Clerk Position --

Stone told the Board she is moving out of the township. She is on the ballot and will be duly elected, but when her current term ends on Nov. 20th she will not be eligible to take the oath of office. The Board will need to fill the position within 45 days. Stone offered to stay as an employee for a transition period. The Board will hold a Special Meeting to discuss and plan the process.

Citizen's Comments

Breyound Haywood's father was killed at the intersection in front of the hall in October, and he was present to ask that the Board review the intersection with the Kent County Road Commission. He personally supported making it a four-way stop.

James Sterling wanted to say that he is very appreciative of the professionalism that was used in this meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 21st.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk
