

# Vergennes Township

## Regular Meeting of the Township Board

September 18, 2017

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

Roll call - Rasch, J. Hoffman, H. Hoffman, Wittenbach, Gillett, were all present.

The agenda was approved as presented with a motion by Gillett, Rasch seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

The August minutes were accepted as presented with a motion from Gillett, seconded by J. Hoffman. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

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

### **Public Comment:**

#### **Jamie Cooper- Grand Haven**

She owns a marketing company in Grand Haven and is representing two clients who are seeking a license to sell medical marijuana. She is not asking the board for the license, but asked for a study session so she can go into detail about what this license would mean for the township.

#### **Cathleen Graham- Grand Rapids- Regional manager for hospice program**

Cathleen is a licensed nurse and a regional manager for a hospice program who works with patient pain relief during their end-of-life journey. She believes allowing the business would help control the purity of the cannabis, secure transportation, accurate labeling and help minimize the chance that this ends up on the streets.

#### **Dr. Dwayne Fitzgerald- 840 Montcalm- Veterinarian**

Dr. Fitzgerald has been a veterinarian in Lowell for 18 years. He has been exploring medical research on medical cannabis and its healing properties. The new MMFLA law allow for higher regulations. Obtaining this license would allow him to create a secure grow and research facility.

#### **Zachary Eldridge- Medical Cannabis Consultant**

MMMP- was approved by voters in 2008. The new MMFLA was signed by the governor in 2017 that will help regulate medical cannabis with a barcode system, armored truck transportation and manual testing for pesticides. Zachary asked the board for a study group or community survey.

### **Public Hearing-- Special Exception Permit- Accessory Dwelling- Dan and Jenean Hoffman:**

The public hearing was opened at 7:29 pm.

Public comment was taken.

Cathleen Graham- Grand Rapids resident- asked if members of the board normally excuse themselves from voting if the vote involves them. Wittenbach said that sometimes they do.

The public hearing was closed at 7:30 pm.

### **Old Business:**

1. **Special Exception Permit- Accessory Dwelling- Gillett motioned to excuse H. Hoffman and J. Hoffman from the vote, Wittenbach seconded. All members voted yes. Motioned carried.** H. Hoffman and J. Hoffman both excused themselves from the vote and entered the audience. There was board discussion. Gillett made a motion to

approve the request for a special exception permit for the accessory dwelling, Rasch seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.** H. Hoffman and J. Hoffman returned to the board table.

### **New Business:**

1. **Computer Security and Backup Option Discussion-**

The Board held discussion. J. Hoffman made a motion to table this discussion until next month's meeting so Betsy from Addorio Technologies can provide more information and answer questions, Gillett seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

2. **Township Hall Building- Preliminary Drawing discussion:**

**Bailey Drive- Reno/Addition Design vs. Lincoln Lake- New Building Design**

The Board discussed the preliminary designs for both buildings. The preliminary drawings were shown to the public. The rough per square footage costs were discussed. The new building would cost less per square foot to build compared to renovating and adding onto the existing building. The pros and cons of both buildings and sites were discussed. The existing building renovation/addition would cost less overall, but there are multiple restrictions that would still leaving no room for future growth. The Board agrees that it makes sense to focus on one design and location instead of using resources on both designs. Gillett would like public input on whether the township pursues a new building at the Lincoln Lake location or stays at the Bailey location. Everyone agreed that getting more public input was in the township's best interest. A tear and drop response card will be drafted and there will be future discussion.

3. **Jim Herb- Fire Authority Chairman -Fire Authority Update-**

Jim shared that he and Tim Wittenbach have been members of the fire authority since the first day the authority went into place in 2008. The authority is made up of Vergennes Township, The City of Lowell and Lowell Township. The fire department has a staff of 23 volunteer- paid fireman. The fire chief retired 2 1/2 years ago and a new chief was hired. The department averages between 600 and 700 calls per year. There is mutual aid with Grattan, Ada, and Saranac. The authority is supported by taxpayer dollars and grants from the community. This has allowed the authority to upgrade a lot of their equipment and they are very grateful. Jim shared the different equipment and vehicles the authority has purchased and replaced. Soon the authority will purchase a new brush truck – this comes with a UTV vehicle to aid in rescue. Jim shared that if the fund balance goes over the \$50,000 per municipality the overage is transferred into an equipment fund. Jim doesn't expect to see any increased payments in the next few years.

### **Public Comment:**

Jeannie Vandersloot looked at and commented on the road condition on Forest River Dr. Tim had contacted KCRC to look at this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2017.