

Vergennes Township – 10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331
Regular Meeting of the Township Board
October 21, 2019

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:01 p.m. Pledge followed.

Roll Call – Gillett, Wittenbach, Hoffman, Mork and Rasch were all present, none were absent.

Approval of the Agenda – Agenda was amended to; 1. Move New Business #4 to #9. 2. Add New Business #10 – a discussion of the Township owned property to be sold. 3. Add Pro Cut to New Business #6 as an additional bid received for Snow Plowing. Motion was made by Gillett to accept the agenda as amended. Hoffman seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the 9/19/19 Regular Board Meeting minutes – Changes were made to New Business #2 : addition: ‘the cost of the proposal would be divided amongst Lowell Charter Township, Lowell City and Vergennes Township equally’. Hoffman motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Gillett seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the 9/26/19 Special Meeting Minutes – Gillett motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented. Mork seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer’s report was read and the bills were presented - Gillett motioned to accept the Treasurer’s report as read and to approve paying the bills as presented. Rasch seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment – None

Guest – Catie Oliver, the area representative to the Kent District Library board gave a KDL update to the board, highlighting that the last time they were here someone made a suggestion that she began work on while here and is now implemented. Randy Goble, KDL Director of Engagement then spoke on the increased attendance for programming. Sandy Graham concluded the update by giving specifics regarding ways the Lowell KDL branch is serving the community, from sending volunteers to read in nursing homes, to staying open past scheduled hours during power outages in order to offer relief for those without power.

Guest – Michael Gruennert, Senior Accountant from Hungerford Nichols presented the Board with the audit results for the 2018/19 fiscal year. He presented the financial highlights. He noted the township was given the highest positive rating it can get. The Net Position is positive and our Fund Balance continues to increase. It is township expenditures were down \$40,000. They recommend a fund Balance kept at least 100% of next year’s expenditures and the township has a fund balance over this which is positive and a figure the Board will want to keep in mind when working on financing for the new township hall building.

Old Business

1. **New Hall Building Update** – Hoffman updated the board. The Architect is meeting with a mechanical engineer to see costs related to moving mechanicals verses the expensive roof needed if mechanicals left where they are. Board to set a special meeting within the next week to meet with Spitzley and review results and plans.

New Business

1. **PUD – Alden Woods** – The planning commission recommended approval of the concept PUD site plan. Mr. Roosien from Roosien and Associates presented the plans to the board and answered questions. The board all noted the desire for a name change to ease confusion with so many currently using the ‘Alden’ name. Gillett motioned to accept the recommendation of the planning commission and approve the concept PUD site plan. Hoffman seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
2. **New Township Hall Building** – See old business
3. **Fire Authority Discussion** – Consultant for Authority Board discussion – Wittenbach updated the board regarding the last Fire Authority Board Meeting. Fire Authority Board Secretary Mike DeVore was to send a proposal to the Township for the services and fee of Consultant Lew Bender. No proposal was received providing a cost or services provided.
4. **Draft Ordinance Discussion** - as the draft had been printed and distributed, the board discussed this ordinance instead of waiting until #9. Board was in agreement that this should be looked over in detail and be presented to the planning commission for their consideration and recommendation.
5. **Eagle Scout Project - Cemetery benches** - Steven Moore is a Boy Scout who is pursuing his Eagle Scout achievement. He would like to set up benches at a Vergennes Township Cemetery for the community’s use. Wittenbach met with him and looked at Bailey Cemetery but did not feel there was room. Alton Cemetery has raised funds for a Veteran Memorial and has the space to combine these projects for a beneficial place to honor the veterans in our community.
6. **Snowplow bids** - Proposals from Scenic Expressions and Pro Cut were examined and discussed. Wittenbach motioned to hire Scenic Expressions for snowplowing this winter based on their pricing and the relationship we have built with this company. Gillette seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
7. **October 2019 - Budget amendments for 69 Lincoln Lake Avenue Township Hall accounts** – As there had been nothing budgeted for the new building, and budget needs are now becoming clear, amendments were proposed for the following – Utilities, Insurance, Communications. After discussion on how specific the amendments need to be and what should be line items, Board was in agreement to table this for further discussion and research on the future needs.
8. **Community clean up recap** –The count was 278 vehicles bringing trash, and many people expressed their appreciation for the opportunity.
9. **Draft Ordinance Discussion** – see New Business #4
10. **Discussion on selling Lincoln Lake acreage** – The board is in agreement to keep 3 acres and sell the rest. Tabled for further discussion and to consult the advice of Township attorney.

Public Comment –

- Audience member asked procedure for selling property. Wittenbach answered that it would be noticed to the public at least in the newspaper and on Township Hall Information board.
- Sandy Graham recommended Disabilities Advocates for any help needed with Ordinances regarding disability accommodations.

Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Next regular meeting will be November 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.