

Vergennes Township – 10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331

Regular Meeting of the Township Board

September 16, 2019

Minutes

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

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

Approval of the Agenda - Hoffman amended the agenda to include approval of the August 19, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and added a New Business item #5, Discussion regarding the Township owned vacant Land at 1120 Lincoln Lake Ave NE. Gillett motioned to accept the amended minutes and Rasch seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the August 19, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – Gillett motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Rasch seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the August 26, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes – Gillett motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Mork seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the August 29, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes – Hoffman motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Rasch seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Treasure’s report was given and the bills were presented. Gillett motioned to accept the Treasurer’s report and approve the bills. Mork seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment –

- **Patrick Adams**, 1065 Lincoln Lake Ave SE stated his concern that there were no changes to the Enwork design for expansion parking lot. His understanding at the public hearing was that it would be altered.

Public Hearing – Gardner Klaasen – RV temporary dwelling on vacant land – opened at 7:07 p.m.

- **Gardner Klaasen** explained that he was going to wait to build a house as his old house was no longer on the market and he would be moving there after he cleared storm damage at house. He wants approval to stay in RV until the end of October.
- **Scott Stephens**, residing at 11651 Lally and also owns 22 acres at 10554 Bennett St SE, doesn’t think this use of temporary dwelling in an RV should be allowed.

Public Hearing closed 7:12 p. m.

Old Business

1. **Gardner Klaasen – RV temporary dwelling on vacant land discussion** – Board discussed with Klaasen the time table and what is expected with a special exemption to live in an RV including applying for a building permit and submitting blueprints. Carl Herron of 960 Parnell spoke that he does not hear noise from Klaasen and as a neighbor does not mind the RV. Motion by Gillett to allow Klaasen 45 days to get the RV out and to table the special exemption until the spring when Klaasen will need to submit a building permit and blueprints. Rasch seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
2. **New Township Hall Building overview** – skipped, as will be covered in New Business #4
3. **Draft Ordinance discussion tabled from August meeting** – Handicap Accessibility – Hoffman motioned to table this until the October 21, 2019 meeting. Wittenbach seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

New Business

1. **Enwork Expansion** – Board discussed with Enwork Representatives the plans and the parking lot situation. Parking lot is needed for code compliance but they can give up some parking spaces to not encroach on neighboring residential homeowner. Gillette motioned to approve the site plan & amendment to the SEUP for the Enwork expansion as recommended from the Planning Commission, conditional on the removal of 11 parking spots from the deferred parking lot and with the 7 conditions outlined in the Planner's memo. Hoffman seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
2. **Fire Board Authority motion** – The Board held discussion about the proposal for McGrath Consulting Group Inc. to perform an Audit Assessment of the Lowell Area Fire Authority through extensive research and analysis, provide the Authority with an independent, non-biased assessment of the current fire/rescue services as well as address any future needs. Gillette motioned that Vergennes Township **approve the McGrath Consulting Group Inc. proposal that was presented to the Fire Authority Board** to perform an Audit Assessment and Future Staffing Methodology of the Lowell Area Fire Authority. **The cost of the proposal \$20,250 would be split equally between Vergennes Township, Lowell Township and The City of Lowell, if passed.** Hoffman seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
3. **Cemetery Lawn Care** – Board discussed how long it has been since previous bid on cemetery lawn care and all came to the consensus to accept bids this fall for the Township Cemeteries' lawn care.
4. **New Township Hall Building** – Board discussed options of continuing with architect or going with design build option. Spent time examining previous Spitzley drawings and the Wolverine proposal, discussing what is needed at new building. Board reached consensus to have a special meeting with Tim Spitzley, Architect, next week in order for him to hear everyone's perspective and recommendations.

5. **Township vacant land at 1120 Lincoln Lake Ave NE discussion** – Board discussed splitting land and selling 19 acres and retaining 3 acres for any future needs. Gillett motioned to move forward on selling 19 acres with a reserve or minimum, pending guidelines and parameters advised by legal counsel Jim Dozema. The motion was seconded by Mork. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment – Carl Herron, 960 Parnell SE asked if the Township had a drain on his property. Township does not have anything recorded, recommended he speak with the Kent County Road Commission.

Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Next regular meeting will be October 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.