

Vergennes Township – 10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331

Regular Meeting of the Township Board

November 16, 2020

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 p.m. and pledge followed.

Roll Call – Rasch, Gillett, Wittenbach, Ford, and Mork, present.

Approval of the Agenda –Mork motioned to accept the agenda with the addition of ZBA Minutes under the Zoning Report. Rasch supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the October 19, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Township Board Minutes – Gillett motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Ford supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the October 21, 2020 Bid Opening Minutes – Gillett motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Rasch supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the October 28, 2020 Special Meeting of the Township Board Minutes – Ford motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report – Treasure's report was presented. Gillett motioned to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills. Mork supported the motion. All present members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Guest – Michael Gruennert – Hungerford Nichols: Presentation via Zoom of the yearly audit. Michael walked everyone through the audit information. Strong fund balance percentages. Michael offered his future assistance as the Board moves forward toward with the building.

Public Comment - None

Public Hearing – Wittenbach opened at 7:35 p.m. - Special Exception Use Permit Application for 14791 Grindle

Barb Montgomery - 13815 Rolling Creek Dr. - Barb expressed two concerns. 1. The animals that would be there. 2. Where on his property the animals would be in reference to where the resident houses in the cul-de-sac. Questions were answered.

The following were submitted in writing –

Bruce St. Pierre – 13935 Rolling Creek Dr – concerned about the number of animals.

Bill and Brenda Schreur – 538 Flat River Drive – requested that specific pasture area be identified to prevent river erosion and contamination.

Connie Jo See – 815 Rolling Creek Ct – concerned about number of animals and pollution of creek.

S. Nelson – 835 Rolling Creek Ct – concerned noise, smell and property value.

Public Hearing was closed by Wittenbach at 7:35 p.m.

Old Business –

1. **SEUP Application – 14791 Grindle.** Gillett motioned to accept the special exception use permit with the following conditions: to not exceed more than 4 equestrian, 2 swine, 25 poultry, 4 goats, 5 rabbits, no roosters, to not exceed 5 acres of pasture. Mork supported. All members present voted yes. **Motion carried.**
2. **New Township Hall Building Update** – Board discussed utility pole to be moved, permits and the need for additional bonds. Decided to accept bid from VanderKodde Construction. Gillett motioned to accept the contract and move forward with the condition that the lawyer and architect agree on the bond. Rasch supported the motion. **Roll call vote: Gillett – yes. Ford – yes. Mork – yes. Rasch – yes. Wittenbach – yes. Motion carried.**
3. **COVID – 19 Monthly Policy Review** – Decided to close office for walk ins and going appointment only for the 3 weeks shut down so staff can work from home when possible.
4. **Assessor Discussion** – Assessor needed. Stephanie Boerman MAAO joined via zoom to answer any questions. Stephanie helped draft a job description for the vacancy to submit to the Michigan Assessors Association for publishing in their magazine and on the website.

New Business –

1. **Oaths of Office** – Tim Wittenbach administered the oath of office to Shantell Ford for the office of Clerk. Shantell Ford administered the oath of office to Tim Wittenbach for the office of Township Supervisor, to Rick Gillett for the office of Trustee, to Janine Mork for the office of Treasurer, and to Duane Rasch for the office of Trustee.
2. **One Ethanol Site Plan Amendment** – Amending the site plan. Gordy Sible was present to represent the owner. Interim Fire Chief Shannon Witherell was present to address safety issues. Gillett motioned to approve the amended site plan. Wittenbach supported. All present members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Building Department Report – written report presented.

Election Update – 86% of registered voters voted, about 50/50 between absentee and in person.

Zoning Report – Jeanne Vandersloot presented a written report. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommended that the Board accepts their recommendation to have the Planning Commission review setbacks in the Lake Residential District. Board agreed.

Fire Authority Board Update – Shannon Witherell, Interim Fire Chief and Fire Authority Board Representative Kate Dernocoeur were present. The Fire Authority Board recommended to the municipalities to approve the proposal to offer Shannon Witherell the fulltime Fire Chief

position. Gillett motioned to accept the Fire Authority Board recommendation. Wittenbach supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment - None.

Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting – December 21, 2020.