

Vergennes Township – 10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331

Regular Meeting of the Township Board

December 21, 2020

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Wittenbach at 7:04 p.m. Pledge followed.

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

Approval of the Agenda – Gillett motioned to accept the agenda. Rasch supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the November 16, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Township Board Minutes – Mork motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the December 8, 2020 Special Meeting of the Township Board Minutes – Gillett motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Rasch supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the December 14, 2020 Special Meeting of the Township Board Minutes – Gillett motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mork supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

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

Public Comment - Bobby Hughes - 1058 Parnell Ave – Voiced support for Juston Miller.

Old Business –

1. **New Township Hall Building Update** – Some demolition has begun in the existing building, but they are limited on construction of new addition until the electric pole is moved. Mork sent a request proposal for a loan to five banks.
2. **COVID – 19 Monthly Policy Review** –Due to the extension of the Governor’s orders, continuing with zoom public meetings.
3. **Assessor Job** – Wittenbach motioned to hire Cory Burns as the Assessor for the township. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

New Business –

1. **Appointments**
 - **Planning Commission** – One term open, two applicants – Jeff Hoffman (Incumbent) and Emma Palova. Wittenbach motioned to reappoint Jeff Hoffman

to the planning commission. Rasch supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

- **Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review, Construction Board of Appeals –** All incumbent positions with no additional applicants. Wittenbach motioned to reappoint all incumbents to a new term. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

- **Zoning Board of Appeals** – incumbent - Roger Odell
- **Board of Review** – Three incumbent applicants – Ken Ford, Steve Hanson, and Jim Herb.
- **Construction Board of Appeals** - incumbent - Nate Post.

2. **Approval needed for Collection of Summer Taxes for GRCC & KISD** – Mork motioned to approve the collection of summer taxes for GRCC & KISD. Ford supported the motion. All members voted yes, **motion carried.**
3. **2021 Calendar – Board Meetings and Office Hours – Roll Call Vote** – Ford – yes, Mork – yes, Wittenbach – yes, Rasch – yes, Gillett – yes, **Motion Carried.**
4. **697 Lincoln Lake – Partial Review Approval Request** – Tenant (Tenivus) is growing rapidly and requesting to expand. Bernie Peppin, BJP investments with 697 Lincoln Lake requested Partial Review Approval to begin building. The use is the same and there are no setback issues. Gillett motioned to grant the Partial Review Approval Request and allow them to lay the concrete and present building blueprints to the planning commission. Rasch supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
5. **ACA Training – 683 Lincoln Lake – Industrial District Changes** – Athletic Training center. Likes to be in industrial areas for the type of buildings. Signed the lease and began to operate but that use not allowed in Zoning Ordinance for Industrial District. In order for this location to be used for the training center an Ordinance Amendment request must be made.

- **Public Comment:**

- **Bobby Hughes** - 1050 Parnell Ave NE – Kids are involved with the program. Voiced support for ACA Training.
- **Kevin Lipke** – Representing the owner of the building working with ISG. Argues that they cannot go into other areas and this was the only opportunity to stay in the area.

Discussion included frustration that township ordinances were not followed. There is concern over having children in an industrial building. A change would require inspections by the Fire Chief and the Building Inspector. The Township Board just voted against this ordinance addition in September.

6. **Proposed Noise Ordinance Change** – township lawyer gave options on language changes to make ordinance more concrete and enforceable. Difficult because much of it is subjective. According to Michigan Township Association, cannot use decibel levels with target shooting.

- **Public Comment:**

- **Morgan Jarema** - 850 Montcalm - stopped calling the sheriff because the noise ordinance was not enforced. Voiced complaints that nothing has been done and

voiced frustration that they did not know the noise ordinance change was on the agenda.

- **Bobby Hughes** - 1050 Parnell Ave NE - voiced support for noise ordinance (does not live in neighborhood of gunshot noise issues)
- **Keegan Riordan** - 852 Montcalm - voiced support for noise ordinance and expressed desire to see the new language and have something that can be enforced.

Board agreed to table the discussion to give time to review the new language given by the attorney and to let the planning commission look at the new language at their next meeting.

Building Department Report – issuing building permits was slow for a few weeks but picked up within the past week.

Zoning Report – Jeanne Vandersloot presented her written report.

Fire Authority Board Update – No meeting this month. The truck for Chief Witherell should be here before the end of the month.

Public Comment – there was none

Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 8:39 pm

Next Regular Meeting – January 18, 2021.