

# **Vergennes Township – 10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331**

## **Regular Meeting of the Township Board**

**February 15, 2021**

### **Minutes**

The meeting was conducted remotely over Zoom and called to order by Tim Wittenbach pm at 7:03 Pledge followed.

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

**Approval of the Agenda** – Wittenbach motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Rasch supported the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of the January 18, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Township Board Minutes** – Rasch motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of the January 26, 2021 Budget Workshop Special Board Meeting Minutes** - Gillett motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Rasch supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

**Treasurer’s Report & Approval of Invoices** – Janine Mork, Treasurer, presented her report. Gillett motioned to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Rasch supported the motion. All present members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

**Guest – Lisa Plank, Lowell Area Historical Museum Executive Director:** Lisa Plank presented the museum’s report for the 2020 year. With the changes due to Covid, the museum focused on online experiences and resources. The museum adjusted and presented virtually for as many programs as possible. The museum was very successful in reaching out to community through the virtual programs.

### **Public Comment:**

1. Bill Makuski – 11535 Lally St NE – Zoning Board of Appeals member – Reported on ZBA meeting regarding the Fallasburg Historical Village – ZBA received application for variance to create a non-conforming parcel. Currently zoned as RA and requires at least three acres to split. ZBA did not allow variance per Ordinance but requested the Planning Commission examine zoning in the Fallasburg Historical Village.
2. Leslie Grohman- 13850 Covered Bridge Road – Spoke in favor of splitting the discussed area.

### **Old Business –**

1. **New Township Hall Building Update** – No update on progress. The pole still has not been moved.

2. **Loan Proposals for Construction and Remodel at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE** – Mork presented numbers from various proposals collected from local banks. Discussion centered around the pros and cons of the different proposals. Wittenbach motioned to accept Old National Bank’s loan proposal if the deal provided is still valid. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
3. **Lowell Area Fire Authority Cost Recovery Ordinance** – Jim Doezema, the township lawyer, looked over the ordinance proposal. Jim advised against passing the ordinance as presented, concerned with the language and organization of the ordinance. The board tabled discussion.

**New Business –**

1. **Salary Resolution – 2021 – 01** – Wittenbach motioned to pass Salary Resolution – 2021 – 01. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Resolution passed.**
2. **Safety Millage Resolution – 2021 – 02** – The board discussed the current language of the resolution.
3. **Zoning Administrator/Planning Coordinator Job** – The board reviewed the job descriptions for the Zoning Administrator & Planning Coordinator Job. The job posting will be in this week’s paper with resume and application deadline of February 24, 2021. The board planned a special meeting for February 26, 2021 at 9:00 am to review the applications.

**Fire Authority Board Update** – Chief Shannon Witherell and Deputy Chief Cory Velzen were present. Chief Witherell presented the annual report of the LAFD for 2020. Report will be available digitally on the LAFD website and available to local clerks to post on township websites. The LAFD is hopeful the website will be launched in March. The chief’s truck arrived this week, still waiting on one feature to be installed to be medically certified but otherwise it is ready for duty.

**Building Department Report** – There was only one building permit in the past month. However, there has been an increase just today.

**Zoning and Planning Report** – Jeanne Vandersloot presented her report. The next Planning Commission meeting is April 5<sup>th</sup>. The board agreed to send the Fallasburg Historical Village area to the planning commission for their next meeting, following the voiced concerns from public comment earlier in the meeting.

**Public Comment** - none

**Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm**

**Next Regular Meeting – March 15, 2021.**