



Vergennes Township
10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331
Regular Meeting of the Township Board
March 15, 2021

Minutes

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

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

Approval of the Agenda – Mork motioned to accept the agenda with the removal of New Business #1 – Budget Amendments. Gillett supported the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the February 15, 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 February 26, 2021 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. There were two bills added. Mork motioned to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills including the two new bills. Gillett supported the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Guest – Kent District Library Representatives - Katie Oliver - Board Trustee, Sandy Graham - Regional Director, Lance Werner - Executive Director. Each gave a brief report of the library's activities during 2020 including book bundles, wi-fi hot spots, curbside service, and virtual activities.

Public Hearing – 2021-22 Budget began at 7:14 p.m. No public comment. **Public Hearing closed at 7:14 p.m.**

Public Comment – None

Old Business –

- 1. New Township Hall Building Update** – Construction has begun! Footings are in and pouring walls has begun. Wittenbach motioned for the board to accept Resolution #2020-02 - *“Allow Township Attorney James Doezema to make arrangements to obtain financing for the township hall project up to \$700,000.00 upon terms approved by the Board, either as bond or any other legal means, such as an installment means of financing.”* Gillett supported. Roll call vote: Wittenbach – Yes. Gillett – Yes. Mork – Yes. Ford – Yes. Rasch – Yes. **Motion carried.**
- 2. 13922 Thompson Drive** - An accommodation request has been submitted. Rob Krueger, attorney representing James and Linda Blair was present. The Township had received a letter requesting an accommodation to the current ordinance based on James Blair’s disability, in order to retain the 6 foot concrete path to river that is already installed, so that Mr. Blair can enjoy his property. Township Attorney James Doezema submitted copies of the ADA and the Fair Housing Act to the board. Gillett motioned to table the discussion to allow the board members to read the information presented. Rasch supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
- 3. Lowell Area Fire Authority Cost Recovery Ordinance** – The board discussed some concerns with the ordinance. Attorney James Doezema to make additional recommendations.
- 4. Safety Millage Resolution Draft** – The board discussed options, hearing recommendations from Attorney James Doezema. Wittenbach motioned to have Attorney’s office create resolution and ballot language for .7 mill request for Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

New Business –

- 1. Adoption of 2021/22 Budget** – Wittenbach motioned to adopt the 2021/22 budget. Gillett supported. Roll call vote. Gillett – Yes. Mork – Yes. Ford – Yes. Wittenbach – Yes. Rasch – Yes. **Motion carried.**

Fire Authority Board Update – Tim Wittenbach and Kate Dernocoeur updated the board and audience.

Building Department - submitted written report

Zoning Report –Jeanne VanderSloot and Ryan Carrigan submitted a written report. Gillett motioned that the Board adopt resolution #2021-03 - *“Allow Township Attorney James Doezema to make arrangements for Vergennes Township to purchase the land that the Township has an easement on for the driveway at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, to include landscape and signage. Currently owned by - Elizabeth A. & William Lopez-Wagner, 47 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell MI 49331.”* Rasch supported the motion. Roll call vote: Rasch – Yes. Ford – Yes. Mork – Yes. Wittenbach – Yes. Gillett – Yes. **Resolution passed.**

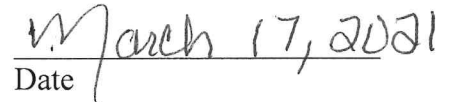
Public Comment

- Dave Thompson - 14100 Thompson Dr. asked a question concerning the millage and what was included in the emergency services. In the 13922 Thompson Drive situation Dave spoke hopeful that an agreement will be reached.

Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting – April 19, 2021


Shantell Ford, Clerk


Date