



Vergennes Township
10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331
Regular Meeting of the Township Board
April 19, 2021

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:02 p.m. Pledge followed.

Roll Call – Rasch, Ford, Gillett, Wittenbach, Mork, present. No members absent.

Approval of the Agenda – Ford added two items to the agenda. Guest speakers from the Fallasburg Historical Society and New Business #5 Impacts' Love Week. Wittenbach moved New Business #2 - 13922 Thompson Drive to the end of the agenda. Wittenbach motioned to accept the agenda with the additions and changes. Gillett seconded the motion. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the March 15, 2021 Regular 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 March 29, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes - Gillett motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mork supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the March 31, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes - Gillett motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mork supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report & Approval of Invoices – Janine Mork, Treasurer, presented her report. Mork motioned to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills with the approval of the minute taker's pay along with the trustees signing approval of the bills. Gillett supported the motion. All present members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Guest Speakers from Fallasburg Historical Society – Craig Fonger & Alan Rumbaugh – They want to clean up the cemetery and want to do it in line with the township. They would like to clean up some of the overgrowth and maintain some of the old graves. Shantell Ford is going to be the township contact person for the FHS.

Public Comment -

-Dave Thompson - 14100 Thompson Dr. - Question for guests Craig and Alan regarding veteran graves in the Fallasburg Cemetery.

Old Business –

1. **New Township Hall Building Project Update** – Roof should be on by the end of the week. Jordan Hickel has helped with I.T. related part of the projects and aiding in advising with the various quotes provided. Phone quotes - Jordan Hickel advised going with a cloud-based phone system and showed the board the two main quotes to decide between. Wittenbach motioned to accept the bid for the cloud-based phone system through I.P. Consulting. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
 - a. Resolution #2021-05. Gillett motioned to pass resolution 2021-05. Rasch supported. Roll call vote. Mork, yes. Rasch, yes. Wittenbach, yes. Ford, yes. Gillett, yes. **Resolution passed.**
2. **(13922 Thompson Drive: Moved to end)**
3. **Lowell Area Fire Authority Cost Recovery Ordinance** – The format needs changed to ordinance format. Wittenbach motioned to send the document to Attorney James Doezeema to be reformatted into the language and structure of an ordinance. Gillett supported. All present members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
4. **Safety Millage Resolution #2021-04** – Gillett motioned to pass the resolution. Rasch supported. Roll call vote: Rasch, yes. Wittenbach, yes. Ford, yes. Mork, yes. Gillett, yes.

New Business –

1. **Planning Commission Recommendations**
 - a. **Harvest Meadows Phase #3:** First house won't be completed till May or June of 2022. Planning Commission recommends approving with the sidewalk clause. Gillett motioned to accept Harvest Meadows Phase III. Mork supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
 - b. **Flat River Vista** – Discussion regarding completion and maintenance of the private drive and concerns with past experiences. Thomas McIntire, a resident of Triple Oak drive voiced concern regarding the current drive and any possible financial burden for the current residents. Mork motioned to approve Flat River Vista on the conditions of the planning commission and with an escrow or bond for road completion, working with the township engineer. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
2. Wittenbach motioned to appoint James Doezeema from Foster Swift as Township Attorney, Michael Gruennert from Hungerford Nichols as Auditor, Williams & Works as Engineers, Andrew Moore as Planner. Gillett supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
3. **Approval of Designated Depository Institutions** – Mork motioned to designate the following institutions as the township's depository institutions; 5/3 Bank, Mercantile Bank, Michigan Class, and Kent County Money Max. Rasch supported. All members voted yes.
4. **Fee Schedules** – Township costs have risen for digging graves and facing a lack of space in Bailey Cemetery. Gillett motioned to increase fee to \$250 for residents and \$50 increase burial fees. Ford supported. Roll call vote: Ford, yes.

Wittenbach, yes. Rasch, yes. Gillett, yes. Mork, yes. **Motion carried.** Discussion to put in writing payment for minute takers. Wittenbach motioned to pay minute takers \$50 for the first two hours of the meeting and then an additional \$25/hr after. Gillett supported. Roll call vote: Ford, yes. Gillett, yes. Wittenbach, yes. Mork, yes. Rasch, yes. **Motion carried.**

5. **Impact Love Week** – Focuses on helping the community. They would like to help with cemeteries. Board agreed to supply paint and board for fences and remove the brush piles when they are finished. They offered to help as well when the time comes for moving to the new township.

Fire Authority Board Update – Still no word on whether damaged fire truck will be totaled. Complications with the new county fire truck.

Written Building Department Report submitted

Zoning Report – Jeanne VanderSloot's last meeting. Ryan Carrigan has been working with Jeanne and has been taking on her work. Ryan Carrigan also serves for Grattan township.

Public Comment -

-Dave Thompson - 14100 Thompson Dr. - Asked why the old business #2 13922 Thompson Drive was moved to the end of the meeting. Wittenbach answered that board knew it would be going into closed session.

Closed Session 9:02 p.m.– Ford motioned for board to move to closed session in order to discuss lawyer client confidentiality. Wittenbach supported. Roll call vote. Mork, yes. Rasch, yes. Wittenbach, yes. Gillett, yes. Ford, yes.

Board returned from closed session at 9:18 p.m.

Comments: Dave Thompson requested on behalf of Blair and his attorney that it is higher on the agenda.

Wittenbach motioned to table the discussion until next meeting so Blair's attorney can be present. Gillett supported. All members voted yes.

Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 9:21pm.

Next Regular Meeting – May 17, 2021.


Shantell Ford, Clerk


Date