



Vergennes Township
10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331
Regular Meeting of the Township Board
May 17, 2021

Minutes

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

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

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

Approval of the April 19, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Township Board Minutes – Gillett motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Rasch supported. All members present voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report & Approval of Invoices –Treasurer Janine Mork, presented a written treasurer's report. Shantell Ford, Clerk, added an invoice to the list- Williams & Works Flat River Vista invoice for \$500. Gillett motioned to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills. Rasch supported the motion. All present members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment –

Jerry Miller, Kent Co. Conservation District Chairman, stated that since 2009 they have received no state funding and they are currently working with state representatives to resume funding in the amount of \$3 million. Township members are asked to contact Representative Albert to encourage him to support this endeavor.

Mari Kutzli, 13736 Thompson Dr NE - wanted to make the board aware of deterioration of the Flat River Dam and subsequent water level fluctuations. Tim Wittenbach stated the State of Michigan and FERC have oversight of dam maintenance and that Eagle Creek Renewables currently owns the Flat River Dam. Zoning Administrator Ryan Carrigan recommended that residents reach out to their representatives and senators.

Michael and Misty VanTimmeren, 675 Montcalm Ave NE – expressed concern over the condition of the dam.

Guest Speakers Jessie Schulte from Kent County Conservation and Mike McEachron from Montcalm County Conservation District – Jesse Schulte presented

information on the Flat River's designation as a natural river. She provided an update on the Flat River's zoning mandate to maintain its ecological integrity. She encouraged the board to review the new zoning recommendations and to consider approving some or all of the proposed measures. **Mike McEachron** reported that Montcalm County Conservation District has received a water quality grant to help pay for educating people in the Natural River zoning district. Wittenbach motioned to send the Flat River Natural River zoning updates to the Planning Commission. Gillett seconded the motion and all members voted in the affirmative. **Motion carried.**

Old Business –

- 1. New Township Hall Building Project Update** – Wittenbach provided an update on how the project is moving forward. It is hoped that occupancy will be by the end of June 2021. Discussion about signage for the building ensued. Two bids were proposed, one for \$4,200 and the other for \$6,200. Gillett motioned acceptance of the United Sign bid for \$4,200. Rasch seconded. All members present voted yes. **Motion carried.**
Alarm Systems bids from Entrance Technologies and ADT were reviewed. Gillett motioned acceptance of Entrance Technologies camera and security package. Ford supported; all members present voted yes. **Motion carried.**
- 2. Lowell Area Fire Authority Cost Recovery Ordinance** – Discussion about the new ordinance resulted in concerns about procedural matters regarding residents being bill for services and the appeals process. Wittenbach suggested these issues be addressed with Attorney James Doezema.

New Business –

- 1. Murray Lake Dock Ordinance Changes:** Ordinance will bring Grattan and Vergennes Townships into agreement on dock configuration issues. Gillett motioned to adopt the updates to Murray Lake Ordinance 2003-0721. Rasch supported. Roll call vote: Ford, yes. Rasch, yes. Wittenbach, yes. Gillett, yes. **Motion carried.**
- 2. Lowell Youth Sports Foundation** – Lawrence Bennett submitted a Special Exception Use Permit Application for a baseball/softball complex at 12031 Foreman Street SE. Wittenbach motioned to send the SEU application to the Planning Commission. Gillett supported and all members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Fire Authority Board Update – Truck will be repaired.

Written Building Department Report submitted

Zoning Report – Ryan Carrigan submitted his written report.

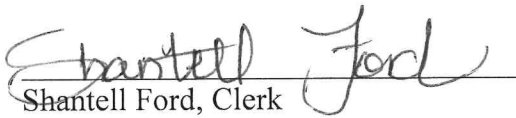
Public Comment –

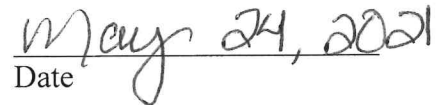
Jan Thompson - 14100 Thompson Dr. – commented that the Township flag needs to be replaced. She and Dave would like to purchase a new flag and give it to the township. Wittenbach thanked them for their kindness and support of the Township.

-Dave Thompson - Asked for an update on the 13922 Thompson Drive issue. Wittenbach responded that the attorneys were meeting to continue to work towards a resolution. Township Attorney asked to remove item from the agenda to give the board time to consider the implications of the state updates of the Natural River Conservation District.

Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Next Regular Meeting – June 21, 2021.


Shantell Ford, Clerk


Date