



Vergennes Township
69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331
Regular Meeting of the Township Board
August 16, 2021

Minutes

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

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

Approval of the Agenda –Wittenbach motioned to accept the agenda with two additions to New Business - Orb Aero Space SEUP application and Annual Roth Fireworks permit application. Mork seconded. All members present voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the July 19, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Township Board Minutes – Rasch motioned to approve the minutes. Ford seconded. All members present voted yes. **Motion carried.**

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

Public Comment – none

Public Hearing opened at 7:07 p.m.

1. **Orb Aero Space SEUP application-** Alexander Taylor from Orb asked to be allowed to keep his current sign on the Airport parcel. Carrigan reminded the board that regardless of the parcel zoning, only one sign is allowed per parcel. A two foot directional sign attached to the existing Airport sign would be allowed.

-Dale Fegel-12752 Vergennes-asked how it was possible to have industry in a R2 zoning area, asked if the purpose of the sign ordinance was to benefit the township as a whole or just individuals and why do we need signs in a residential area of the township.

Public Hearing closed at 7:15 p.m.

Old Business –

1. **New Township Hall Building Project Progress** –planned move-in date will be August 25th. Mork motioned to allow Supervisor Wittenbach and Township attorney Jim Doezema to negotiate the details regarding the easement. Rasch supported. All members present voted yes. **Motion carried.**

New Business –

1. **Orb SEUP application** - Discussion was heard after the public hearing for a second sign to be allowed to remain on the Lowell Airport Property. Carrigan stated the Airport is a legal non-conforming business in a R2 zone. If the airport ever ceased to exist, the land parcel would revert back to residential. Signs in residential areas are allowed for home based businesses and some commercial businesses, like the Airport. The Zoning Ordinance allows only one sign per parcel but does allow small 2 ft. directional signs to be attached to existing signage. Wittenbach motioned that Zoning Administrator Carrigan and Alexander Taylor work on a compliant sign to be placed with the existing airport sign and that Orb be given 30 days to remove the current non-compliant sign. Rasch supported. All members present voted yes. **Motion carried.**
2. **Noise Ordinance** - Discussion was heard about the current Noise Ordinance and the possibility of making it stricter or doing away with it altogether. Wittenbach motioned that the Noise Ordinance be placed on the agenda next month for discussion to rescind it. Rasch supported. All present members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
3. **Lowell Youth Sports Foundation-** Mike Minier and Chris Markum presented their amended plans to the board and answered questions. Mork moved to accept the Planning Commission Recommendation with the Williams & Works recommendations 1-6 and 8. Rasch supported and all present members voted yes. **Motion carried.**
4. **Flat River Natural River Ordinance #2017-01 update-** Carrigan presented the Planning Commission's recommendations for amendments to Ordinance 2017-01. The amendment will change the overlay from 300 feet to 400 feet and clarify bluff setbacks and siting septic systems. Mork motioned to accept the update (Ordinance 2021-03) as submitted. Rasch seconded. Roll call vote: Ford, yes; Wittenbach, yes; Mork, yes; Rasch, yes. **Motion carried.**
5. **Shipping Container Storage Ordinance-**Carrigan discussed the Planning Commission's recommendation to amend Zoning Ordinance 201.402. The amendment will allow shipping containers to be included as an accessory building in commercial and industrial zoned parcels. Rasch motioned to adopt the ordinance changes (Ordinance 2021-04) as the Planning Commission recommended. Ford seconded. Roll call vote: Mork, yes; Ford, yes; Wittenbach, yes; Rasch, yes. **Motion carried.**
6. **Annual Roth fireworks permit** - Rasch motioned to approve the fireworks permit. Ford seconded. All members present voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Election-went well, good team of election inspectors

Fire Authority Board Update –no meeting due to Kent County Fair

Written Building Department Report- submitted

Zoning and Planning Report –Carrigan submitted the written report.

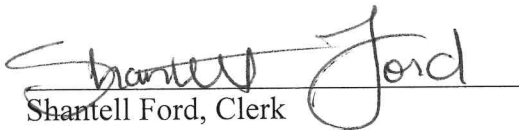
Public Comment –

-**Andrew Mateskon** - lawyer representing William Lopez-Wagner - 47 Lincoln Lake Ave NE - comments about easement and Township signage, lighting at new township parking area is out of compliance

-**Dale Fegel** - 12752 Vergennes-comments about noise ordinance, question about stand alone noise ordinance for jake braking

Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Next Regular Meeting – September 20, 2021.


Shantell Ford, Clerk

August 23, 2021
Date