



69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell

## **Regular Meeting of the Township Board November 21, 2022**

### **Minutes**

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

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

**Approval of the Agenda** – Gillett motioned to approve the agenda. Mork seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda–**

- **Minutes** – October 17, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Township Board
- **Invoices and Payroll**
- **Treasurer’s Report**

Gillett moved to accept the consent agenda with the addition of the Foster & Swift bill. Rasch supported. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

**Public Comment-** none

**Unfinished Business** –none

### **New Business –**

1. **Fire Authority-International Fire Code-**Fire Chief Witherell said the recent ISO audit recommended changing from the NFPA code to the IFC. The IFC system is designed to work with the IBC (International Building Code) which Cascade Township uses and will streamline the building inspections. Action will be taken once the ordinance language is received from the township lawyer.
2. **Resolution 2022-14- Resolution of Support for Law Enforcement and to Protect the Health, Safety and Welfare of Vergennes Township Children-**  
Public Comment-Nicole Lintemuth- Lowell Twp resident, Shannon Hanley-Lowell City, Carrie M- Ionia County resident, Teresa Beachum- Lowell city- Kathryn Mork - 11755 2 Mile Rd all spoke in opposition to the resolution. Wittenbach moved to accept the resolution. Ford supported the motion.  
**Roll Call-** Mork, no; Wittenbach, yes; Gillett, yes; Ford, yes; Rasch, yes. **Motion carried.**

**Updates – Election, Fire Authority Board, LARA, Building Department-** reports submitted

**Zoning and Planning** – Amanda Conley has submitted an SEU application for a dog boarding facility at 12583 McPherson. Dog boarding will be done in two phases. Gillett moved to send the application to the Planning Commission. Mork supported the motion. All members voted yes; **motion carried.**

**Public Comment** – none

**Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p. m.**

**Next Regular Meeting – December 19, 2022**

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Shantell Ford, Clerk

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Date

**TOWNSHIP OF VERGENNES**  
**COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Vergennes, held at the Vergennes Township Hall, 69 Lincoln Lake Ave., N.E., in said Township, on the 21st day of November 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Members: Mork, Ford, Wittenbach, Rasch and Gillett

ABSENT: Members: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Wittenbach and seconded by Member Ford:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP CHILDREN**

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2022, the people of the State of Michigan adopted Proposal 3, the Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative (“Proposal 3”) as an amendment to the Michigan Constitution which will supersede existing contrary statutes and legal precedent; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 3 does not limit the rights it purports to create to adults, potentially invalidating numerous existing laws protecting children in matters falling under the broad and undefined term “reproductive freedom” and

WHEREAS, numerous county prosecutors throughout Michigan, including the Kent County Prosecutor, have issued a statement expressing grave concern that the broad language of Proposal 3 “arguably invalidates age of consent laws (relating to ‘reproductive freedom’)” currently protecting minors; and

WHEREAS, the Township exists for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and it is appropriate for it to join in expressing grave concern for the consequences of Proposal 3 on the Township’s citizens, particularly its children; and

WHEREAS, as written, it is the viewpoint of these experienced prosecutors that Proposal 3 makes it virtually impossible to enforce or enact a statute prohibiting certain sexual activity, including pedophilia, as

long as the child “consents,” or is pressured into saying they gave their consent; giving reason for legitimate concern that Proposal 3 may prevent prosecutors from enforcing criminal statutes against, for example, statutory rape, child sexual abuse (MCL 750.520), and female child sexual abuse (MCL 750.136), if the child “consents”.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board expresses its official disagreement with such an application of the provisions of Proposal 3 and affirms our support for law enforcement in the protection of its children from what were serious criminal offenses prior to November 8, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that working closely with law enforcement, the Vergennes Township Board will exercise its powers to protect the children and vulnerable adults of Vergennes Township from those predators, pedophiles and groomers who would prey upon them under the color of law afforded by Proposal 3.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Vergennes Township board calls on Kent County, all other like- minded townships, municipalities, school districts and all other governmental units to adopt this resolution.

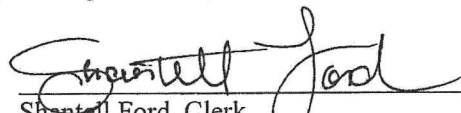
AYES: Members: Wittenbach, Gillett, Ford and Rasch

NAYS: Members: Mork

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

  
Shantell Ford, Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Vergennes Township Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

  
Shantell Ford, Clerk

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To Interested Parties:

As elected Michigan Prosecutors sworn to uphold the law, we believe it essential that statements made about the law be truthful. **As prosecutors we daily analyze and apply the Michigan Constitution, statutes, and case law to real life situations.**

Allow us to weigh in on two important aspects of this disturbing Proposal 3---A major erosion of parental consent rights and disturbing roadblocks when it comes to prosecuting statutory rape.

**A. EXPECT PROP 3 TO ELIMINATE PARENTAL CONSENT**

Of extreme concern, some are saying that **Proposal 3** would not erode parental consent.

*We find such claims to be simply wrong.*

**The proposed amendment to Michigan's Constitution:**

Creates new sexuality rights based on "reproductive freedom" – elevated over all other fundamental constitutional rights like freedom of speech, the freedom to exercise one's religious conscience, and the fundamental right of parents to control and direct the upbringing of their children.

**As result of the proposed amendment to Michigan's Constitution:**

Expect a minor child to be able to have an abortion without the knowledge or consent of the child's parents.

Because of the all-encompassing exceptions, we, as Chief Law Enforcement Officials who daily apply law and statute submit that the Proposal arguably guarantees the right of a child to procure an abortion at any time right up to the moment of birth.

*It is our analysis that those saying otherwise are wrong.*

**As a result of the proposed amendment to Michigan's Constitution:**

Expect that to see a considerable erosion of a parent's rights in directing their children's upbringing and education (MCL 38.10), including the area of sex education (MCL 380.1507, 1507b).

Expect public schools to legally refuse to inform parents on issues relating to "reproductive freedom" and sexuality.

Expect prohibitions on parents excusing their children from sex education classes (MCL 380.1507a)--- because minors now hold a fundamental right to "reproductive freedom" separate and distinct from his/her parents.

*It is our analysis that those saying otherwise are wrong.*

**As a result of the proposed amendment to Michigan's Constitution:**

Expect a minor child to be able to procure a sex change via permanent and irreversible sterilization without the knowledge or consent of the child's parents.

*It is our analysis that those saying otherwise are wrong.*

**B. EXPECT PROP 3 TO MAKE IT FAR TOUGHER TO PROSECUTE CHILD SEXUAL PREDATORS**

The proposed amendment arguably invalidates age of consent laws (relating to “reproductive freedom”) currently protecting minors. Disturbingly, no age limitation exists in Prop 3. The proposed amendment will, therefore, prevent prosecutors from enforcing criminal statutes against statutory rape, child sexual abuse (MCL 750.520), female genital mutilation (MCL 750.136), and other similar statutes if the child “consents.” In other words, sex between a 12-year-old girl and a 45-year-old man will now be protected as a new right, so long as the child “consents.” As written, the new “super right” makes it virtually impossible to enforce or enact a statute prohibiting certain sexual activity, including pedophilia as long as the child “consents”.

In sum, as elected Michigan Prosecutors who are sworn to uphold the law, we believe it is important that statements about the law be reasonable, accurate and truthful. Corporately, we have been interpreting and applying Michigan statute and Constitution for well over a century. It is our opinion, based on many decades of hands-on analysis and application of the law, that Prop 3 can be expected to eliminate large swaths of parental consent as well as make it far more difficult to protect children and prosecute those who sexually prey on them.

We hope this letter provides assistance regarding this critically important issue for Michigan voters and the future of our state.

Sincerely,

Chris Becker, Kent County Prosecutor  
Neal Brady, Hillsdale County Prosecutor  
Victor Fitz, Cass County Prosecutor  
Joe Hubbell, Leelanau County Prosecutor  
Jerry Jarzynka, Jackson County Prosecutor  
Andrea Krause, Montcalm County Prosecutor  
Dave Marvin, St. Joseph County Prosecutor  
John Miller, Lapeer County Prosecutor  
Lisa Richards, Dickinson County Prosecutor  
Jim Rossiter, Antrim County Prosecutor  
Tim Rutkowski, Huron County Prosecutor