

Vassar Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – February 12, 2013
Phone: (989) 823-3541

4505 W. Saginaw Rd
PO Box 1651
Vassar, MI 48768

Supervisor Forbes called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
The pledge was led by Supervisor Forbes.

Roll Call:

Present: Stack, Clinesmith, Forbes, Tester, Gray

Absent: None

Motion by Stack, supported by Gray, to approve the January 8, 2013 minutes as written.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion by Forbes, supported by Gray, to approve the payables in the amount of \$36,135.50.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Planning Commission Liaison Report presented by Bill Gray.

Zoning Administrator's Report presented by Curtis Pennell.

Assessor's Report by Debby Valentine read by Forbes.

Library Board Representative Report read by Onna Clinesmith

Fire Run Report read by Onna Clinesmith

There was some discussion over the billing for the fire runs. There were some questions about a cemetery fire runs, and other unpaid fire runs on a list provided to the township. There was also a page with questions that could be used as an example for people to dispute a fire run.

Guests:

Cass River Greenway Projects:

Bob Zeilinger presented some documents to the board about the project. The project is focusing on recreation, wildlife preservation, controlling phragmites and water quality. Peter Haake discussed Cass River clean up planned from the Vassar Dam to M-46 tentatively to be held Saturday, June 29, 2013. The project has meetings at the Vassar City office, the next proposed meeting is April 10, 2013 from 1 to 3pm.

Exede Internet:

Wayne Noel provided some documents to the board and spoke about the provider's satellite service and its various plans, answered some questions from the people present at the meeting.

Ed Smith:

Ed Smith is working for Candice Miller, the 10th District Representative, which covers much of Vassar Township. He provided some documents about Candice Miller and discussed her involvement with Homeland Security, border control, air bases and she has received a Harry S. Truman award.

Communications:

Road Commission Meeting:

Forbes has been in communication with the Tuscola County Road Commission about salting the township roads when icy. He read from an early proposal from the Road Commission; the township ship has received a bid from Michigan Chloride Sales as well. The township received a Special Township Agreement contract from the Road Commission for a Trial-Run Policy.

Motion by Forbes, supported by Clinesmith to postpone approval of the contract to get more information to be brought to the next board meeting.

Pipeline Safety Meeting:

The township has received a letter inviting township employees to a pipeline safety meeting on March 5. There is no cost for attending the meeting, but RSVP is requested

Grant Application Material and Workshop:

The township has received a letter about grant programs and workshops from the Michigan DNR. Grant applications must be submitted by April 1, 2013.

David Phillips – Fire Run:

David Phillips has written a letter to the township asking for the township to drop his fire run charge do to financial hardship. Forbes asked to get more information on the matter.

Old Business:

MTA Training:

Clinesmith discussed his three days of MTA training classes in January in Detroit. There were classes about the role and responsibility of townships, clerk training, a class on assessing your assessor, and making good use of time and having a broad vision for your township. MTA also has district, and county chapters; the Tuscola County one is trying to get reorganized. Ed Smith believes the MTA Training is a worthwhile service.

Cyberlink Backup and Web Page Bids

The board did not express interest in the bids from Cyberlink. Tester suggested the township write what is what is wanted for our website and give it to a person he knows to get a bid. Fred Welsh suggested that the backups for the township would be better on the “cloud” and not stored in the township.

Esri bid for ArcGIS:

Clinesmith did not get any new information about the Esri mapping software at the MTA classes. At the class about assessors, the instructor did not believe that creating zoning maps was part of the assessor’s job. There was some discussion about the township’s maps.

Facebook:

There was discussion about the township having a Facebook page, and the usefulness of it with different opinions such as the township not having a page, or taking over the Vassar Township Common Sense page, some thought it is best to meet face to face, and others thought it would get information out to people. The township needs to answer the questions on who would run the page and what information should be on it.

Key Policy:

Clinesmith read the Vassar Township Key Policy dated 2-5-2013. Changes were made to the last paragraph about charging for the cost. Clinesmith read Resolution 01-2013 on Approving the Vassar Township Key Policy, adding the words “as amended.”

Resolution 01-2013 offered by Clinesmith, seconded by Tester to Approve Vassar Township Key Policy

Roll Call: Forbes:Yes, Tester:Yes, Gray:Yes, Stack:Yes, Clinesmith:Yes

Vote 5-0, RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Purchase Orders:

Forbes presented a sample purchase order to the board. Tester spoke about using purchase orders from the shop. Michael Clinesmith asked who would write the policy. There were comments from residents about the clerk writing the policy or about how the policy would improve Vassar Township.

Motion by Forbes supported by Clinesmith that the township have a policy for purchase orders by the March meeting or that the board do away with purchase orders entirely. Motion rescinded after suggestion that the board had a similar motion in the January meeting.

New Business:

Annual Agenda:

One of the MTA classes mentioned the importance of Townships to have an "Annual Agenda" - a yearly goal for the township. Clinesmith presented to the board Annual Agenda Goals for 2013 with the goals "To evaluate the status of recreation in the township, come up with ways to improve it and update its Parks and Recreation Master Plan."

Motion by Clinesmith, supported by Tester to Approve Vassar Township Annual Goals for 2013. Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Assessor's Contract:

Forbes read the changes in the Assessor's Contract presented to the board. This will be a two year contract. Clinesmith read resolution 04-2013 in Approving Assessor Debby Valentine's Contract.

Resolution 04-2013 offered by Forbes, seconded by Stack in Approving Assessor Debby Valentine's Contract.

Roll Call: Stack:Yes, Gray:Yes, Clinesmith:Yes, Tester:Yes, Forbes:Yes
Vote 5-0, RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Approve Poverty Extension Guidelines:

A page with the current Federal Poverty Guidelines was presented to the board.

Resolution 03-2013 offered by Forbes, seconded by Gray in adopting the 2013 Poverty Guidelines.

Roll Call: Clinesmith:Yes, Tester:Yes, Forbes:Yes, Stack:Yes, Gray:Yes
Vote 5-0, RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Clinesmith read Resolution 05-2013 in the Adoption of Poverty Exemption Asset Test
Resolution 05-2013 offered by Clinesmith, seconded by Forbes in the Adoption of Poverty Exemption Asset Test

Roll Call: Gray:Yes, Tester:Yes, Forbes:Yes, Clinesmith:Yes, Stack:Yes
Vote 5-0, RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Meeting recessed at 10:17pm.

Meeting called to order at 10:18pm.

Set December 9, 2013 Board of Review Date:

Clinesmith read Resolution 02-2013 to set the date of the December Board of Review in 2013.

Resolution 02-2013 offered by Stack, seconded by Clinesmith to set the date of the December Board of Review in 2013.

Roll Call: Clinesmith:Yes, Forbes:Yes, Gray:Yes, Stack:Yes, Tester:Yes
Vote 5-0, RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Private Road and Driveway Easement Ordinance:

Attorney Howell sent the township a copy of the Private Road and Driveway Easement Ordinance. There was some discussion about the ordinance. Clinesmith had some concerns about some of the restrictions.

Motion by Forbes, supported by Clinesmith to have a trustee take the Private Road and Driveway Easement Ordinance to the Planning Commission to review it.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Finish Line Pizza – Vassar City Annexation Request

The township received a letter from Jay and Karen Hebert requesting to be annexed into the city. The city will not extend sewer and water to the property without it. Forbes contacted Howell who suggest the township and city agree to a 425 Agreement, which will be more favorable to the township.

Motion by Forbes, supported by Gray that we contact Gary Howell to negotiate the 425 contract with the city of Vassar.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Benches:

Motion by Forbes, supported by Tester that the township get rid of the wooden benches at \$5 a piece.

Vote 3-2, MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment:

Onna Clinesmith read from the fire run report for Dave Phillips, and discussed poverty and the fire run ordinance.

Ed Smith brought a map of the congressional district and mentioned a meeting at the Cass City VFW the first Monday in March at 10:00am.

Don Clinesmith suggested the Township look into grant writer training, that people could do damage to the building by using keys before security could come, said the assessor gets paid well.

Ben Partridge said the minute book is not up to date, and asked what the deadbolt was about in the minutes and stated that the comments in the minutes should be relevant.

Motion by Gray, supported by Tester to adjourn.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:02pm.

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

Vassar Township Clerk

Vassar Township Supervisor