

Vassar Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – August 13, 2013
Phone: (989) 823-3541

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

Supervisor Forbes called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
The pledge was led by Supervisor Forbes.

Roll Call:

Present: John Stack, Michael Clinesmith, Bob Forbes, Sam Tester, Bill Gray
Absent: None

Motion by Gray, supported by Tester, to approve the July 9, 2013 minutes with no corrections.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report by John Stack:

An unclaimed property check was received by the township for \$325.

Motion by Clinesmith, supported by Forbes, to pay alternate Kendall Woodruff for attending the July 2013 board of review meeting as part of his training.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Forbes, supported by Tester to approve the payables in the amount of \$20,932.58.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee's Report presented by Bill Gray filed with clerk. He additionally read the three motions of the Planning Commission concerning the Private Drive and Road Ordinance.

Zoning Administrator's Report presented by Curtis Pennell filed with clerk.

Assessor's Report by Debby Valentine read by Bob Forbes and filed with clerk.

Library Board Report read by Tom Borcharding and filed with clerk.

Fire Run Report by Michael Clinesmith. Nothing to report other than one fire run collected, and Clinesmith contacted Millington township and received a fuller report on the questioned billing.

Cass River Greenway Report read by Russ Fall and filed with clerk.

Guests:

Michele Deo – Website Request:

She was not present, but her husband was and he was asked to have her contact the board to provide more information.

Communications:

Ben Stein – Forestry Flier Request:

Motion by Forbes, supported by Tester to hold up on decision to include a forestry flier until Mr. Stein is present for a presentation.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Recreation Committee Recommendations:

Michael Clinesmith read the recommendation from the Recreation Committee that more mining on the township property on Washburn would destroy the property's usefulness as a park, and the committee wants to know if surveys had been done on the township properties and if there was liability coverage for them.

Forbes stated the Township properties were covered, Fred Welsh commented on the added liability on the property on Washburn Rd, and the usefulness of the property. Russ Fall wanted permission granted to the Planning Commission to investigate the property on the corner across from the Township Hall. Forbes stated permission was not necessary, that the Planning Commission could look into it.

City of Vassar – M-15 Bridge Replacement:

A letter was received from the City of Vassar about an informational meeting about construction on the M-15 bridge on August 28, 2013 from 4:30-6:30 at the Vassar City Hall. It was suggested someone should attend the meeting.

Continuing Education:

A couple people met with Clerk Clinesmith and dropped off some self-improvement books and other materials for the Township. Anyone interested can contact Clinesmith to view the materials.

Other Materials:

The Township received a letter from Republic Services mentioning a fee increase. Forbes contacted Gary Hicks, who stated that the fee increase does not apply to the township.

MTA sent an informational letter to the Township about renewing membership, the updated *Township Focus* magazine, and a sticker for the membership plaque.

The Township received a letter from International League of Cities with a cost of \$500 for being listed in the directory. The board showed no interest in this.

Old Business:

Zoning Maps:

The Planning Commission sent the Zoning Maps back to the Board. There was some discussion about what to do next. It was suggested the Board needs to find someone to create the maps, several names were suggested. Ben Partridge suggested contacting the attorney to determine the type of maps needed.

Road Commission:

Resolution 19-2013 offered by Forbes, supported by Tester to approve the Tuscola County Road Commission contracts to improve the Freewald Turnaround and Miller Road at a cost of \$1,442.50 and \$7,812.50 respectively and authorize a \$4,627.50 check for a first payment. Roll Call: Gray-Yes, Tester-Yes, Forbes-Yes, Clinesmith-Yes, Stack-Yes. Vote 5-0, RESOLUTION CARRIED.

New Business:

Lost Keys:

Forbes lost his keys.

Motion by Clinesmith to have Forbes pay for the keys.

Motion withdrawn.

Forbes stated that he would pay for the keys. Township board consensus was that that was sufficient.

ZBA Appointment:

Motion by Forbes, supported by Stack to reappoint Jim Schultz to the ZBA for a term expiring October 2016.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Private Road and Driveway Easement Ordinance:

Michael Clinesmith had a letter prepared that expressed a number of concerns about the ordinance. Bob Forbes had a letter stating the need for the ordinance to have passable roads. The Planning Commission has recommended several changes to the ordinance. Michael Clinesmith read the first two pages of the four page Private Road and Driveway Easement Ordinance passed by the Planning Commission in 2011. Michael Clinesmith, Bob Forbes, Jim Roskamp, Don Clinesmith, Russ Fall, Fred Welsh, Ben Partridge commented on numerous aspects of the ordinance such as emergency vehicles needing access, paving of driveways, property rights and liberty, personal responsibility, grandfathering, and two tracks.

Motion by Forbes, supported by Tester to send the Private Road and Driveway Easement Ordinance back to the Planning Commission.
Vote 4-1, MOTION CARRIED.

Garbage Assessment:

Clinesmith said the township attorney stated that the township could only increase the garbage assessment a total of 10%, not 10% every year. Otherwise there will need to be public hearings and notices sent out.

Motion by Clinesmith, supported by Stack to start the process of adjusting the garbage assessment rate by holding public hearings to be determined in the future.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Smart Meters:

Clinesmith provided the board with an informational page and a copy of the City of Vassar Smart Meter resolution. Some people have health, privacy and safety concerns. Don Clinesmith spoke with a meter reader who told him the meters weren't so "smart" but could still record which appliances turned on and off. Don thought that making the appliances compliant will increase their cost.

Michael Clinesmith offered to rewrite the Vassar City Resolution for the next meeting.

Parking Lot:

Motion by Forbes, supported by Stack to accept the bid from R Kern and Son Excavating to put *ground (amend 9-10-13)* asphalt on the parking lot with the removal of sales tax, for a total of \$2,664.00.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Abandoned Homes:

Forbes stated some of the burned out houses in the township have been purchased, and the properties will be improved.

Public Comment:

Fred Welsh spoke about websites. He looked at several local governmental websites. He stated that Vassar Township's web site was not as focused, and had some broken links. He would like to think more about the matter.

Ben Partridge asked why the audience members were having their pictures taken by the board.

Motion by Tester, supported by Gray to adjourn.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20pm.

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

Vassar Township Clerk

Vassar Township Supervisor