

Vassar Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – October 8, 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 September 10, 2013 minutes with no corrections.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Forbes welcomed Deputy Roland back to the township.

MTA Training:

Forbes and Stack went to MTA training on October 2 in Frankenmuth. Part of the training discussed how to make meetings run shorter and "Consent Agendas."

Forbes and Stack suggested the township set up some rules in the future, such as having the agenda complete by the Thursday before the meeting.

Motion by Clinesmith, supported by Forbes to authorize a check to be written for MTA training classes on October 29 and 30 for board members interested.
MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Treasurer's Report by John Stack:

Motion by Forbes, supported by Tester to approve the payables in the amount of \$18,008.73.
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Debby Valentine will be paid for land divisions next month.

Trustee's Report by Bill Gray filed with the clerk.

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. Fliers filed with clerk.

Supervisor's Report by Bob Forbes

Forbes discussed the Trailways meeting in Millington; the cost of the rail trail in Millington Township was 3.2 million, 80% paid by grants and 20% by a donor. Russ Fall suggested the trail needs to be further researched. Forbes continued that the Ambulance Response time last month was 6 minutes, 24 (*amend*) ~~seconds~~ ~~seconded~~ and discussed the MMR Membership Program to compensate for the costs of Ambulance service

Fire Run Report by Michael Clinesmith. Four fire runs received, two new runs in Millington service (*amend*) area. List of unpaid fire runs filed with clerk.

Guests:

Ben Stein: Forestry

Mr. Stein cancelled as he is being transferred.

Communications:

MMR Copay: Already done

Sheriff's Contract:

Sheriff Teschendorf was present and discussed a contract with the Township for 2014.

Resolution 21-2013 offered by Forbes, seconded by Gray to renew the Sheriff's Contract.

Roll Call: Stack-Yes, Gray-Yes, Clinesmith-No, Tester-Yes, Forbes-Yes

Vote 4-1, RESOLUTION CARRIED.

Survey Bid:

The township received a bid for surveying township property from Advance Surveying Inc. There was concern about the cost.

Russ Fall discussed a Township park and wanted the board to give direction if there was interest in a park on the NE corner of Caine and Saginaw intersection. Fred Welsh also talked about the plans for a park.

Motion by Clinesmith, supported by Gray to have the Recreation Committee research and develop a plan for a park on the NE corner of Caine and Saginaw and present it to the Planning Commission.

Vote 3-2, MOTION CARRIED.

Unfinished Business:

Unclaimed Property – Schnettler Check:

Motion by Forbes, supported by Clinesmith to send the Schnettler Check 15922 to the State for unclaimed property.

Vote 4-1, MOTION CARRIED.

Gray suggested a letter be sent to Schnettler.

Plans for Gravel Pit:

Forbes contacted Kip Kross who contacted Don Clinesmith who contacted Dick Worth about fencing on the Township property on Washburn.

Old Township Board Minutes:

Clinesmith presented a disclaimer taken from Interim Clerk Walleman to be put on the old unsigned minutes and March, April and May 2013 improperly corrected minutes. The disclaimer will be signed by the Supervisor and Clerk.

New Business:

PC Appointments:

Motion by Forbes, supported by Gray to reappoint Janice Zawol to the Planning Commission for term ending October 31, 2016.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Forbes, supported by Tester to appoint Donald Clinesmith to the Planning Commission for the term ending October 31, 2016 based on the decision of the attorney on legality.

Vote 3-1, with Clerk Clinesmith abstaining, MOTION CARRIED.

ZBA Alternate Appointment:

Motion by Forbes, supported by Stack to reappoint Gordon Markhart as ZBA alternate for term ending October 31, 2016.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Name Plates:

Motion by Forbes, supported by Tester to order plates for the Board and Planning Commission and authorize a check to pay for the plates.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Burnham & Flower Insurance:

Burnham & Flower Insurance contacted the clerk asking if the board is (*amend*) interested in a bid. Forbes stated the current township insurance company has done a lot for the township and wasn't really interested in switching companies. The rest of the board did not object to that statement.

Letter to Road Commission about Caine Rd. Bridge Suggestions:

Clinesmith presented a letter to the board to send to the Road Commission about interest in having a parking area or canoe launch investigated with plans to improve the Bridge.

Motion by Forbes, supported by Clinesmith to send the letter to the Road Commission including the language "based on grants available."

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Newsletter:

There was some discussion about what items to put in the newsletter to be sent out with the tax bills, and others groups that wanted to include information as well.

Motion by Forbes, supported by Tester to have the township newsletter be just for the township.
Vote 4-1, MOTION CARRIED.

Fire Protection Ordinance:

Clinesmith wanted to start discussion over changes to the ordinance due to issues seen over the last few years, such as partial payments, clarity on appeals process, dismissing fines, etc. There was discussion about doing things on a case by case basis or not, and about an avenue to protect fines.

Meeting recessed at 8:50pm.

Meeting called to order at 8:51pm.

Public Comment:

Ben Partridge thanked Ed Dankers for his service on the Planning Commission and welcomed the new members.

Rhonda Schultz asked for an explanation of the Millington Fire Run billing.

Ben Partridge added an explanation of how the Department Authority splits up the fire runs into service areas.

Bob Reil asked about the survey, and how many people were contacted for quotes, with a concern of the township taking multiple bids for services and spending taxpayer money wisely. He asked about how much research was done on the name plates, and why the township was not interested in an insurance bid. He would like to see the bids for gravel work and mentioned a resolution about bids.

Bob Forbes read a history of the bid process from MRA, how a State Law required sealed bids over \$20,000 for a few years after 1993, but that law had been repealed.

Motion by Gray, supported by Tester to adjourn.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm.

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

Vassar Township Clerk

Vassar Township Supervisor