

Supervisor Forbes called the meeting to order at 7:13pm due to parking issues.  
The pledge was led by Supervisor Forbes.

Roll Call:

Present: John Stack, Michael Clinesmith, Bob Forbes, Sam Tester, Bill Gray

Absent: None

Public Hearing opened for a Proposed Special Assessment District for Garbage Collection at 7:14pm.

Attorney Brian Garner opened by explaining the garbage assessment proposal and process being followed.

Supervisor Bob Forbes read a letter he prepared with expected costs of the garbage contract proposal per parcel from \$120.04 in 2013 to \$143.52 in 2019 and comparisons with other local jurisdictions.

Lou Ann Schultz stated that there was no house on the farmland, and asked about the purpose of the garbage pickup.

Brian Garner stated that the garbage contract was based on the number of residences.

Chris Wolff asked how much was paid for picking up the garbage for the entire year.

John Stack stated it was approximately \$188,000.

Chris Wolff stated he didn't get why the township needed to create another assessment area, and why wouldn't the township renegotiate the garbage contract.

Geneine Wolff asked "When the garbage cans came in, did the people get to vote on it?" She asked how much it was to replace the stolen cans, and would like to see the assessment on a ballot.

Gary Hicks of Republic Services stated he hasn't charged for cans.

Jim Caruthers asked "What does the recycling cost?" (*amend*) He thought the recycling should be chopped off, it was a waste of money and he is against the assessment.

Howard Partridge asked "What about the special assessment we are currently under?"

Bob Forbes stated the assessment is not covering enough of the cost and that Mike Clinesmith will check the archives for the old assessment.

Brian Garner stated that the assessment will not be imposed until after the second hearing.

Ben Partridge asked about the assessment replacing the old assessment, and the new one ending in 2019. He stated like it sounded like there were two assessments. He mentioned that the number of houses affects the cost. He said the township shouldn't tax more, since Forbes has stated that the township has had more money than before.

Norm Kern stated he has to gather up garbage papers after the truck goes by. He is tired of cleaning up other people's garbage. The tubs need to be covered and a tub was thrown in front of him once while driving.

Harold Deo (*amend*) claimed that his developer made the payments ~~had a question about the payment~~, and stated he doesn't pay for garbage.

Ben Partridge stated that the payment was on his taxes, and has nothing to do with selling the property.

Russ Kime asked "What is the legal amount the township can assess?" and "If we had to do garbage pickup on our own, how much would it cost?"

Gary Hicks estimated that it would be \$16-\$25 per month if each person did it on his own.

Ben Partridge asked if Tuscola Township is on the list (*amend*) of townships with garbage assessment prices.

Bob Forbes stated "No." Fostoria does its own.

Ben Partridge asked "Do they have to pay?"

Forbes stated they have to pay if they take it.

David Harris stated that about the 3% increase each year, that the retired doesn't get a 3% increase each year.

Chris Wolff complained about the 3% increase, that the township should fight to keep garbage affordable.

Bob Forbes stated the 3% was already negotiated in the contract.

Ben Partridge stated that (*amend*) for Supervisor Forbes to keep saying \$2.99 increase is not much, but it will be much more over time.

Howard Partridge stated the assessment was \$91 in 2002.

Brian Garner stated that the township is making up the difference.

Howard Partridge stated that the township is not cleaning out the ditches.

Bob Forbes stated the county is looking for grants to clean the ditches, and that the township is planning to look at cleaning the ditches.

Chris Wolff asked where he can find out how the increases are, and how they are administrated.

Michael Clinesmith stated the township has passed resolutions to increase the assessment.

Howard Partridge asked how the township knows that the assessment is legal.

Ben Partridge stated that (*amend*) if no one knows about the assessment, "How do you know it was legal?"

(Unknown) asked if the option has been looked at recycling every other week or once a month.

Michael Clinesmith stated the recycling was already every other week.

John Stack stated it's going to cost more for garbage pickup, and asked if there was the option to remove recycling. He also stated that Tuscola County has a millage for recycling. Bill Gray also asked about the garbage pickup every other week.

Chris Wolff stated his garbage isn't filled up every week.

Russell Kime stated he couldn't go every other week for garbage.

Howard Partridge stated that if recycling was eliminated, there would be more in the bin, and not much savings. He stated the costs of collecting garbage was "reasonable" because of mass pickup.

Howard Partridge, Ben Partridge and Bob Forbes discussed the garbage dump at the gravel pit.

Geneine Wolff stated that if the township can afford to buy printers and raises, it can afford to pay garbage.

(Unknown) stated it is not like a big city.

Rhonda Schultz stated it is not the township's responsibility to pay for my garbage. "Gary is listening. I have not had any problems. I hear of it and don't understand." She said it is a taxpayer issue and is still a good deal.

Howard Partridge stated that the money comes from the taxpayer.

Brian Garner mentioned that if the township is negotiating, it will get a better deal.

Bob Forbes stated that Michael will look for the assessment.

Howard Partridge stated that the township said it had a surplus of money.

Kendall Woodruff asked if it was possible to remove people who don't (*amend*) *want* was to pay for garbage.

Russell Kime asked if the assessment could be increased by 10%, it would be more than listed in the proposed assessment. He believed it could be done yearly.

Ben Partridge didn't know if it was currently legal to collect \$111.

Brian Garner stated he was trying to look and see if the 10% was only over the original, or yearly.

Howard Partridge asked about the estimated cost of a new special assessment district.

Ben Partridge asked if "You have to mail everybody?"

Brian Garner stated that the notice has to be mailed to all taxpayers.

Michael Clinesmith said that they were looking to send the notice out with the assessor's notices.

Russell Kime asked if the township continues to pay the garbage assessment, "What will get cut?"

Bob Forbes suggested fire service.

John Stack asked if everyone had a copy of the budget.

Ben Partridge asked what had happened significantly in the township over the last 6 years.

Don Clinesmith stated that at a county meeting the suggested cost of paving roads was \$66,000 per mile.

Brian Garner stated that the increase can't exceed 10% of the original assessment.

Chris Wolff asked who would negotiate the contract without a foundation.

Brian Garner stated that the township hopes to negotiate to save residents money.

Chris Wolff asked who made the decision about the assessment.

Brian Garner stated the decision was not made yet, it is not set in stone.

Ben Partridge suggested that the assessment could be raised 10% for the next few years, then raised 3% a year after that.

Brian Garner discussed some details about the assessment.

Michael Clinesmith asked if the assessment could be raised 10% each year, or only once.

Brian Garner commented more about the assessment.

Michael Clinesmith stated that the assessment has been raised twice.

Ben Partridge, Michael Clinesmith, Howard Partridge and John Stack discussed the cost of the assessment, that it has been \$111 for the last two years.

Public Hearing Closed at 8:33pm.

Meeting recessed at 8:33pm.

Meeting called to order at 8:38pm.

Garbage Assessment Resolution:

Clinesmith mentioned that Don Roberts called the township and left a message that he doesn't was the assessment to go up. Brian Garner mentioned that if the cost increases by 10% then there has to be a public hearing and that it is taxpayer money.

Resolution 03-2014 offered by Clinesmith, supported by Bob Forbes creating a special assessment district for garbage collection in township, determining boundaries, determining total levy, and directing the supervisor to spread the levy.

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

Motion by Gray, supported by Tester to approve the January 14, 2014 minutes.  
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report by John Stack:

There was some discussion about the Post Office PO Box and bringing the mailbox back to the township.

Motion by Gray, supported by Forbes to approve the payables in the amount of \$20,303.48.  
Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

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

Zoning Administrator's Report presented by Curtis Pennell filed with clerk.  
Curtis had a question for the board about a land split with an easement not in compliance with the Private Road and Drive Ordinance.

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

Library Board Report given orally by Onna Clinesmith.  
There are programs for children, and the contract was up for renewal at the next meeting in March.

Fire Run Report by Michael Clinesmith filed with the clerk.

Hazards Preparedness Report given by Bob Forbes.  
Don Clinesmith, Bob Forbes and Michael Clinesmith went to a hazards preparedness meeting in Caro. Forbes stated the need to get a hold of the Red Cross, Lifeline and the Ambulance base; he will keep calling. Michael Clinesmith stated that what happens over the first 24 hours during an emergency is very important and suggested having the Planning Commission look at the issue. Don Clinesmith suggested looking for other locations besides Lifeline to withstand a tornado, such as the Juniata Baptist School.

**Communications:**

MCS: Chloride Sales:

The township received a letter from MCS containing prices for dust control for 2014.

Tuscola County Planning Commission: Historical Resources

The township received a letter from the County Planning Commission is preparing a listing of historical resources and is asking for assistance in gathering information on cemeteries, museums and libraries, historical resources and other suggestions.

Tuscola County Road Commission: Limestone/Gravel Hauling:

The township received a letter from the County Road Commission requesting bid requests for limestone work be received back to the Commission by March 3, 2014.

Pipeline Safety:

The township received a letter about a meeting discussing pipeline safety on March 4, 2014 in Saginaw encouraging people to attend.

Heritage Route Committee:

The M-15 Heritage Route committee sent a letter to the township requesting \$100 dues to promote the M-15 Heritage Route. Clinesmith suggested the Recreation Committee further investigate the M-15 committee.

**Unfinished Business:**

Zoning Ordinance Amendment (Parcel 020-019-000-3200-00 AFR to C):

The township received a letter from the township attorneys stating that the notice in the paper was not sufficient to legally adopt the ordinance. Attorney Garner submitted a proposed resolution concerning the two properties rezoned since the approval of the 2011 Zoning Ordinances due to questions about the process. He explained procedures concerning Zoning Map changes. After some discussion, consensus was that the Planning Commission could take up the matter at its next meeting.

Zoning Maps:

Drafts of the Zoning Map were received by the township from Wade Trim. The Planning Commission should review the map. Clerk Clinesmith asked when the maps should be sent back for the final version and it was suggested to wait until after the zoning map changes are approved.

DNR Letter:

Russ Fall explained that in his discussions with the DNR representative, a direct letter from the township may create more red tape and delays than with working through the Cass River Greenway, and that it would be better to write a letter of support through the Cass River Greenway instead.

**New Business:**

Mailbox:

The township will continue to investigate the placement of a mailbox outside the hall due to construction on the M-15 bridge.

Web Page:

A person has shown interest in helping with the design of the web page; Clinesmith will get more information for the next meeting.

Recreation Survey:

Motion by Clinesmith, supported by Forbes to include the Vassar Township Opinion Survey with the assessment notices.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

**Public Comment:**

Don Clinesmith suggested that when putting in the mailbox a locking mailbox should be used due to past problems in the township.

Janice Zawol brought up interest in an internet tower on the township property, and that it would generate revenues for the township.

Curtis Pennell mentioned that he was asked for the procedure to be used for updating towers.

Janice Zawol suggested that Sprint be called.

Brian Garner mentioned that the township could contact companies for more information and make a request.

Russ Fall asked if Mr. Kross still had gravel stockpiled for the township and how much was in the fund.

John Stack responded "Yes", and there is \$362,000 currently in the fund.

Donald Clinesmith asked how much the interest was on the account.

John Stack responded with .25% to .5%.

Ben Partridge asked "Didn't you have approval to invest?"

Onna Clinesmith asked about renovation. She recommended a metal rail up the ramp and will get some info to proceed with that. She stated that the desk needed something done with it and asked is the desk should be curved or straight across; she wanted to know when she talks with a carpenter.

The board consensus was for the desk to be curved.

Ben Partridge stated that Bloomfield and Tuscola have curved desks.

John Stack asked if Onna still needed to come to the board with bids or just spend it in the budget.

Michael Clinesmith stated the board needs to approve spending in the township.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 10:28pm.

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

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Vassar Township Clerk

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Vassar Township Supervisor