

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

**Roll Call:**

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

Absent: None

**Minutes:**

Motion by Gray, seconded by Tester to approve the August 11, 2015 special meeting minutes as written.

Vote 4-0, with Stack abstaining. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Tester to approve the August 11, 2015 regular meeting minutes as written.

Vote 4-0, with Stack abstaining. MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Forbes thanked Deputy Roland for his service.

**Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:**

There was discussion about the Township Board pay raise, when that should appear in the paychecks. MTA sent a fax to the Township indicating that is it questionable, possibly illegal to pay employees or officials in advance of completion of their duties. Clinesmith indicated that he had asked the auditors to examine the situation in the upcoming audit.

**Approval of Assessing Software:**

Motion by Clinesmith, seconded by Forbes to approve the BS&A software update at the prices quoted- \$4,680 with \$750 yearly renewal cost.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

**Harper House Reimbursement:**

There was discussion about a request for mileage reimbursement for the Supervisor's travel to Caro to pick up a permit for the work being done on the Harper House. The Supervisor described the improvements being made on the house. The Clerk questioned if it was a township authorized expense. There were comments from multiple people on this. Tom Borcharding offered to compensate the supervisor for his mileage.

Motion by Stack, seconded by Gray to go ahead with a \$20 increase for lawn cutting and reimbursing Kennard from July to September 8, 2015.

Vote 4-1, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Stack, seconded by Clinesmith to postpone approval of the mileage check until the attorney is contacted by a trustee and reported at the October meeting.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Clinesmith, seconded by Tester to approve the September 2015 payables in the amount of \$29,419.09, adding a check for \$299 to MTA and \$4,680 to BS&A.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

**Trustee Report** by Bill Gray and filed with the Clerk.

**Zoning Administrator's Report** by Curtis Pennell, read by Forbes and filed with Clerk.

Assessor's Report by Debby Valentine, read by Forbes and filed with the Clerk.  
The Supervisor added that the Township won its case at the MI Tax Tribunal hearing.

Library Board Report by Tom Borcharding  
The Library is holding a dinner auction on November 7 at 5pm. There is a blood drive scheduled from 12pm to 4pm on September 15. There is a six week workshop on diabetes with classes held on Fridays, from 10:15am to 12:15pm. There are new hours for the library; next week the hours will be 10am to 8pm from Tuesday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm on Saturday. The bookmobile is being put out of service. Christian Dunham, the new librarian plans to be at the next Township Board meeting.

Fire Run Report by Nancy Zuzula filed with the Clerk.

Clerk Report by Michael Clinesmith filed with the Clerk.

The Supervisor requested his report be included in the minutes and are attached at the end.

Ben Partridge requested to see the April 2011 minutes during the meeting.

**Guests:**

Ed Canfield:

State Rep. Canfield called during the meeting apologizing that he had something come up and could not attend the meeting. He plans on coming to the next one.

**Communications:**

Tuscola County EDC – Tuscola County Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment:

Clinesmith read the letter from the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation concerning amendments being made to the County's Solid Waste Management Plan. The Plan is currently in a 90 day public review and comment period. A copy of the plan is in the Clerk's office.

MI Dept. of Environmental Quality – Oak Road Culvert Replacement:

The Township has gotten a notice from the Department of Environmental Quality indicating that the Tuscola County Road Commission has petitioned the DEQ to replace the culvert on Oak Road through a tributary to a Vassar Drain.

Road Commission – Crackseal:

The Supervisor read the letter from the Tuscola County Road Commission indicating the cost from the crack seal on Oak Road cost \$4,558.80 instead of the estimate of \$2,800 to fill the cracks. The work qualifies for the \$2500 Maintenance Allowance. The Supervisor recommended paying for the work.

The Township also received a letter from the Road Commission requesting to be notified on the roads the Township might pave next year. The Clerk suggested reviewing Hasco Road since its PASER rating is higher than most other roads.

Thumb Electric Cooperative:

The Township has gotten a notification that TEC is going to be removing trees in the right-of-way and other danger trees, and that free wood chips may be available. Fred Welsh offered to call TEC to see if the wood chips may be available for the park.

**Unfinished Business:**

Parks & Recreation 5-year Plan:

**RESOLUTION 22-2015  
RESOLUTION REGARDING ADOPTION  
OF THE VASSAR TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE  
2015 – 2019 PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Township of Vassar held on September 8, 2015, at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, Michigan 48768, County of Tuscola, at 7:00pm.

Present: Stack, Clinesmith, Forbes, Tester, Gray Absent: NONE

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Michael Clinesmith supported by Bill Gray.

**WHEREAS**, the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee with the Vassar Township Planning Commission has undertaken a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2015 and 2019, and

**WHEREAS**, the Vassar Township Planning Commission was presented, reviewed, and approved the Master Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, an open meeting for review was held on June 11, 2015, at 7:00pm at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, MI 48768, and

**WHEREAS**, a 30 day public review of the Park and Recreation Draft Plan was provided to the public at the Township of Vassar Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, Michigan and the Bullard Sanford Memorial Library, 520 West Huron, Vassar, MI 48768 to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Park and Recreation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the Vassar Township Park and Recreation Committee has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreational needs of the community, and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing session was held on August 11, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Vassar Township Hall, 4505 West Saginaw Road, Vassar, Michigan, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township of Vassar, hereby adopts the Vassar Township 2015 – 2019 Park and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving park and recreation for the residents of the Township of Vassar.

AYES: Stack, Clinesmith, Forbes, Tester, Gray NAYS: NONE ABSENT: NONE

RESOLUTION DECLARED  X  ADOPTED   UNADOPTED

518 Forms – Unemployment Agency

There was no update.

**New Business:**

Phone Contract:

The need for the Township to keep the same numbers was mentioned. The Clerk suggested that there should be a record in the minutes indicating the decision on the phone contracts.

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Stack to cancel the contract with AT&T and approve the contract with Air Advantage, switching the numbers from AT&T to Air Advantage.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Mowing Payment:

This was already approved.

**Public Comment:**

Onna Clinesmith asked if Kennard asked for a raise; she asked if he was an employee. Did he get a 50% raise increase?

John Stack stated that the increase was from \$40 to \$60 which was not much considering the cost of the gas and the length of time he was with the Township.

O. Clinesmith asked if he was an employee.

Bob Forbes stated he was not sure and to ask the Clerk.

Michael Clinesmith stated he was paid as a vendor.

O. Clinesmith asked, "Shouldn't we be consistent with our raises? Where is our consistency?" She mentioned that she was not asking for a raise and that people who were not asking for raises were getting raises.

Bill Gray stated that if the raise bothers you, why didn't you vote no?

O. Clinesmith stated maybe she didn't have a problem with that raise.

M. Clinesmith mentioned that the Board appeared to have difficulty discussing the pay rates, but it was a necessary discussion to have. He mentioned that the positions should be paid appropriately for the work they are doing.

Fred Welsh stated that the clerk said on one hand the numbers should be similar, but that they should also be based on performance or requirements. The public then voted on it; they made a decision based on the evidence they were presented.

Stack stated that no one wanted a raise but one.

Forbes commented on how the Clerk presented the resolutions.

Don Clinesmith mentioned about the raise situation, the Township is done with it for now. He thanked the Board for working together despite five different personalities. He stated the Board had done a fine job. There are minor problems compared with other boards. He said to keep up the good work.

Forbes stated he had heard from a man in Arbela Township that asked for the Vassar Township Board to run the Board there.

Ben Partridge mentioned the May 2011 minutes. He said we have to be accurate with the minutes: "How would you know the wording is corrected?" "How do you know the right comment was removed?" He agreed with Mike with the way the minutes were corrected, which was similar to the way the minutes were corrected under the previous clerk.

Forbes stated he asked that that his report would be put in the minutes, on Facebook, and the web site so people would know what the percentages mean.

Partridge asked when the minutes will be updated in the book.

Grace Proffer asked what the address was for the Harper House.

Forbes stated 6312 Maple Road.

Sam Tester mentioned he couldn't make the policy meeting.

Motion by Forbes, seconded by Tester to postpone the policy manual meeting until after the first of the year, 2016.

Vote 3-2, MOTION CARRIED.

Nancy Zuzula asked if the side of the hall could be cleaned; it is covered with bugs.

Forbes stated he could power wash it.

Deputy Roland thanked the Township for its service. "It was a pleasure working with you."

Motion by Tester, seconded by Gray to adjourn.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:02pm.

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

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Vassar Township Clerk

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Vassar Township Supervisor

### Supervisors report- Setting the record straight

The Clerk & I have been arguing since the last meeting over the misleading remarks creating a wrong impression for our residents. At the July meeting he made the misleading statement about the raises for Board members agreed upon by Residents at the Annual meeting held June 27th. Mr. Clinesmith requested by Resolution for a large increase of aprox.50% \$15,000 per year for himself & \$12,000 per year for Supervisor, & Treasurer The residents disagreed on offers but agreed to a salary of \$12,000 per year for Supervisor, Treasurer, & Clerk. A \$50 increase from \$128 per month to \$178 for the 2 Trustees. Mr. Clinesmith made the Statement that if he didn't get at least \$15,000 per year he would be going somewhere else, for employment he couldn't make a living on \$12,000 per year. As a result of that fact he made a statement at our July meeting and put his statement in the minutes , on our web site and on Facebook .( Quote) Michael Clinesmith stated that the board made a motion to tell the clerk to do more work, which would distract him from his other responsibility's such as taking care of the minutes which had been complained about before. He also mentioned that the trustees had been given a 40% raise as opposed to the 15% raise for the other board members and they should be considered for more responsibilities.

To set the record straight The 40% raise VS 15% raise is misleading to get sympathy. The truth is 40% of nothing is still nothing, the trustees were making \$128.00 per month, their salary was increased by \$50.00 to \$178.00 per month. Mikes salary was ~~\$1000.00~~ a month He now gets \$125.00 a month increase.

<sup>\$175.00</sup>  
I mistakenly thought we had a good working team here at Vassar Twp. We cannot be putting misleading information in the minutes, on the web page or on Facebook. This is very unprofessional. What has happened to your transparency you are always talking about? I mistakenly thought we had a good working team here in Vassar Twp.