

Vassar Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – February 14, 2017

4505 W. Saginaw Rd
Vassar, MI 48768
Phone: (989)

823-3541

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

Roll Call:

Present: Tom Borcharding, Michael Clinesmith, Bruce Foether, John Stack, Bill Gray

Absent: None

Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting January 10, 2017:

Recess called at 7:05pm.

Meeting called back to order at 7:06pm.

There was a lengthy period of time discussing changes to the minutes and the language.

Motion by Borcharding, seconded by Foether to approve the January 10, 2017 regular meeting minutes with all the corrections.

Clinesmith requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Stack – No, Clinesmith – No, Gray – No, Foether – Yes, Borcharding – Yes

Vote 2-3, MOTION FAILED.

There was more discussion about the minutes.

Motion by Stack, seconded by Gray to approve the January 10, 2017 regular meeting minutes with new corrections.

Clinesmith requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Borcharding – Yes, Stack – Yes, Foether – Yes, Gray – Yes, Clinesmith – Yes

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes for Special Meeting January 21, 2017:

Motion by Foether, seconded by Gray to approve the January 21, 2017 special meeting minutes with changes.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report by John Stack:

Treasurer's report was presented and filed with the Clerk.

Stack requested new locks for the cabinets.

Motion by Foether seconded by Borcharding to approved the February 2017 payables in the amount of \$76,350.50.

Clinesmith requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Clinesmith – No, Foether – Yes, Gray – Yes, Borcharding – Yes, Stack – Yes

Vote 4-1, MOTION CARRIED.

Clinesmith was asked why he voted "No" on the payables, and Clinesmith stated he had issues with some of the payments but did not believe the Board was at a viewpoint to discuss them.

Motion by Foether, seconded by Gray to allow John to go to True Value Hardware and get padlocks for his filing cabinets.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee's Report by Bill Gray:

Gray had some items he wanted to bring to the Board. The Planning Commission is asking to extend the training session timeline. They are asking about the Board training sessions, if it could be a public training or a public hearing for training so it would not have to be noticed as a meeting for training. They are also asking about having alternates when there are excused absences.

Nancy Zuzula mentioned that the MTA is in the process of switching the people running the training service and the Township will get an extension on the MTA webcasts.

Clinesmith mentioned from the MTA training sessions he has attended that caution is usually advised so noticing the gathering as a meeting would be preferred. Ben Partridge read from an email he received from MTA legal counsel that mentioned that if the gathering was to be solely for training and no business was discussed, the gathering could be an "open training session" which would need to be posted but would not be a meeting that would need minutes taken.

There was some discussion on alternates for excused meetings.

Zoning Administrator's Report by Bruce Foether, Clerk's Report by Michael Clinesmith, Assessor's Report by Debby Valentine, and Vassar Area Ambulance Service Report by Bob Forbes were not discussed but were filed with the Clerk.

Correspondence:

There were letters from the Cass River Greenway, Tuscola County Sheriff Office, Department of State Police and Celebrating Tuscola's Stars in the meeting packet.

New Business:

Fire Runs Billing – Mike Loucks & (amend) Pauline Stange Paula Cavanaugh, Great Lakes Tree Service and 4440:

Mike Loucks speaking for (amend) Pauline Stange Paula Cavanaugh explained the situation with the fire department arriving after a call by (amend) Pauline Paula to 911 regarding gas. He said he wanted to resolve the situation regarding the fire run bill.

Meeting recessed at 8:24pm to get Board members the applicable fire run documents.

Meeting called to order at 8:35pm.

Tom Borcharding stated he would talk to the fire chief.

On the second fire run, there was consensus from the Board that Great Lakes Tree Service was responsible for the fire run and is the party to bill.

For the third fire run, Tom Borcharding will talk to the Vassar Fire Department about run mentioning smoke around 4440 Brown Rd.

2017 Goals for the Township Board:

The Clerk suggested the 2016 Goals for the Township which did not have action taken on it. The Supervisor suggested editing it, removing the parts that were already accomplished.

Phone – Land Line:

The phone lines do not work: some people cannot call the hall. Nancy Zuzula stated that she had contacted the company who said that there were lines from old carriers causing the problem and that people need to contact their carriers to correct the problem. Clinesmith suggested switching to AT&T or another phone carrier.

Zoning Administrator:

There was discussion about being able to be Zoning Administrator and on the Planning Commission at the same time. Kendall Woodruff stated he would like to help finish approval of the Township Master Plan.

Motion by Foether, seconded by Borcharding to accept Kendall Woodruff as Zoning Administrator as of March 15, 2017 and to post a notice on the Township window, web site and Facebook advertising for the Planning Commission.

Clinesmith requested a roll call.

Roll Call: Borcharding – Yes, Foether – Yes, Clinesmith – Yes, Gray – Yes, Stack – Yes

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Attorney:

A request was made to postpone approving an attorney so there would be time to review the documents.

Cass River Greenway Letter:

Motion by Clinesmith, seconded by Foether to send a letter to congratulate Cass River Greenway for their 10-year anniversary.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Tuscola County Road Commission Bids:

There were filled out Work Request Forms by the Supervisor for gravel work on Rupprecht, Hanes, Nottingham, Miller, Utter and Ash Roads. Ash Road already had work in previous year and pulling Miller was suggested as well.

Motion by Foether, seconded by Borcharding to send work request forms for the following roads: Rupprecht, Hanes, Nottingham and Utter to the Road Commission for 3 inches or more of crushed gravel.

Vote 4-0 with Gray abstaining. MOTION CARRIED.

A list of roads with the year maintained and PASER quality was included in the meeting packet.

Make Change from Vassar Township Park to Vassar Township Community Park:

Motion by Foether, seconded by Borcharding to change the name of the Vassar Township Park to Vassar Township Community Park.

Clinesmith requested a roll call.

Roll Call: Gray – Yes, Foether – Yes, Clinesmith – Yes, Stack – Yes, Borcharding – Yes.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Property next to the Park from the Park & Recreation Committee:

This matter was taken care of. There was a junk pile on the park property; Borcharding stated that the people who placed the pile there are to take care of it.

Date for Tire Collection:

Motion by Foether, seconded by Gray to approve the Tuscola County Tire Collection Site Agreement 2017 with May 12, 2017 and May 13, 2017 as the dates selected, times from 9am until 5pm.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Foether, seconded by Borcharding to contact Republic Services for 2 40 yarders or more dumpsters and set the Township cleanup days to be May 19, 2017 and May 20, 2017, times 9am to 5pm.

Vote 5-0, MOTION CARRIED.

Tree Cutting Between Hess and M-15 by KerKau Tree Service:

Jack Clark was present as asked about the cutting of trees on Hess Road. There was discussion about cutting trees out of the ditches including who is to pay for cutting trees out of the ditches, clearing the ditches, and needing signatures for his petition.

Motion by Clinesmith, seconded by Stack to postpone approval of the KerKau Tree Service bid and ditch cleanout until the March 2017 regular board meeting.
Vote 3-2, MOTION CARRIED.

MTA Annual Conference in April. Change April Meeting:

Clinesmith picked up a MTA magazine to determine the dates of the conference in April. After some discussion, there was a suggestion to postpone until next month with Board members being ready to express if they are interested.

Old Business:

East Line of Park Surveyed:

The survey was done and a copy was included with the meeting packet. The Supervisor thanked the people who helped with the survey.

Attorney Bill:

There were questions about the attorney bill not being paid and about the charges. Clinesmith presented a page to the Board with Forbes commenting on Facebook about the attorney letter and Clinesmith was interrupted by the public as he attempted to read it to the Board. Stack stated the attorney gave incorrect information regarding minutes to the Board.

Stack stated he would mail the attorney the check from October.

Motion by Foether, seconded by Borcharding to pay Taylor, Butterfield, Howell, Churchill & Garner \$3,961.50 and put it on the March 2017 payables.

Clinesmith requested a roll call vote.

Vote: Clinesmith – No, Borcharding – Yes, Foether – Yes, Stack – Yes, Gray – Yes

Vote 4-1, MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Clinesmith, seconded by Stack to contact an attorney about billing Bob Forbes \$225 for the election law letter that he stated was a personal letter on Facebook.

Foether requested a roll call vote.

Vote: Borcharding – No, Clinesmith – Yes, Stack – Yes, Gray – No, Foether – No

Vote 2-3, MOTION FAILED.

Digital Sign:

This was tabled.

Public Comment:

Erica Aymer said she was tired of hearing about Bob Forbes stuff. You want to talk about what was on Facebook and bringing it here could be considered slander.

Ben Partridge asked to make sure the question about why the Clerk voted no on the minutes and wanted the Clerk's comments in the minutes. He asked if the Social Security numbers were on the checks or pay stubs.

John Stack stated that it is on the stubs.

Ben Partridge asked why it was on the stubs.

There were comments about Social Security numbers on the checks.

Ben Partridge say it is a violation of law of the Social Security Privacy Act. He commented on the previous minutes that the Board should read the motion about the secretary. The motion was approved as it was read, but only one person noticed the change as it was read and made a comment about it.

Onna Clinesmith mentioned stated that the checks have been printed that way for years and it was done by the Township's payroll software. Maybe he'll have to check on it.

Bruce Foether asked the Board if they had the Policy & Procedures manual and encouraged them to start looking over it. He has questions about it.

Amber Hughey recommended the Clerk record the minutes on his own and start typing on a laptop.

Bruce Foether mentioned with his son's equipment the Township could record meetings.

John Stack asked if Amy had been trained.

Michael Clinesmith stated he spent one day of training Amy, and it felt like he was being watched while doing it. She was with Bruce and Nancy and the Clerk went over a general overview of Township government. He felt there was a need for more training. Clinesmith then read a section from 2 Chronicles asking the LORD to heal the land.

Motion by Foether, seconded by Borcharding to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:02pm.

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

Vassar Township Clerk

Vassar Township Supervisor