

Supervisor Foether called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.
The pledge was led by Supervisor Foether.

Members Present: Bruce Foether, Mike Clinesmith, John Stack, Tom Borcharding, Bill Gray, Kendall Woodruff, Ken Hartung, Rhonda Schultz, Sally Hartung, Michelle Hartung, Merle Sayles, Devin Foether, Daryse Foether, Ron Maurer, Don Clinesmith, Onna Clinesmith, Gary Smith, Donald Duvernois, Cathy Partridge, Ben Partridge, Lynette Kennard, Orville Hartung, Bob Forbes

Others Present: Tom Gilchrist

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Bruce Foether, seconded by Don Clinesmith to approve the June 25, 2016 annual meeting minutes.
MOTION CARRIED.

State of the Township Address read by Bruce Foether and included with minutes.

There was some clapping after the address.

New Business:

Approval of Salary Resolutions:

Motion by Ben Partridge, seconded by Bob Forbes to keep the elected official wages the same as the previous year.

There was some discussion about this motion.

Motion by Don Clinesmith, seconded by Onna Clinesmith to call for a vote.
MOTION CARRIED WITH 2 OPPOSED.

Motion by Ben Partridge, seconded by Bob Forbes to keep the elected official wages the same as the previous year.
MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment:

Ken Hartung asked when was the last time the Supervisor got a raise.

Michael Clinesmith mentioned it was two years ago.

Lynette Kennard mentioned about the salaries of the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer being \$12,000.

Orville Hartung mentioned he was on the Planning Commission. A couple of meetings ago the Board has fought about a pay raise for the deputy clerk. The Board dropped the wages to \$0. And now the Board is adding an extra thousand dollars. He would like to bring it back to where it was when the meeting started.

Motion by Orville Hartung, seconded by Ben Partridge to return the deputy clerk's budget to \$2,200 and not be piecemeal added on here during the year.

Onna Clinesmith wanted to remind the people that certain people have an opinion. But they are holding up government.

Bill Gray stated that he was obligated to vote the way the Board votes.

Motion by Orville Hartung, seconded by Ben Partridge to return the deputy clerk's budget to \$2,200 and not be piecemeal added on here during the year.

Hand Count 14 yea, 5 nay, 3 abstain.

MOTION CARRIED.

John Stack said that since we have a reporter here, I never said we got an extra \$20,000 one month. Michael was offered \$7,200 for the secretary position and you turned it down. You wanted secretaries here. The Township had two secretaries. I asked you to talk with Bruce about responsibilities, you never did. You did not train them. Don't say you weren't being treated equal. You said at the last meeting you would take the secretary position. You assumed the Board would fire the secretary.

Don Clinesmith said when the secretary job came up, John looked at Mike and asked do you want that? John, Mike was writing notes from what had been discussed, just as he is doing now. You're making accusations that aren't quite true. There is contention here.

Ron Maurer said you claim I said that if you couldn't do the job you should resign which gets you in trouble as it is a twisting of words. I apologize for using GM as I am talking salary. You know what the job was. Why do you need more money?

Bob Forbes said Mike made a comment about Forbes and the 40% raise.

Don Clinesmith said he heard that. He said Mike asked for \$13,000, he did not ask for \$30,000. It was his comment. There is a Township that pays \$30,000. Bob's "compromise" was to give the Township Board a raise. So there was a raise to three people. This way, Bob ensured he got a raise. Mike is a mathematician. He sees the percentages. Mike looked at it differently because of the percentages.

Bob Forbes said if you look at the minutes, Mike asked for \$15,000.

Michael Clinesmith encouraged people to look back at the August 9, 2016 minutes and see the environment created and the behavior exhibited.

Rhonda Schultz said she agreed with Kendall. You created the havoc here. You are spinning your wheels here. Why do you need a Deputy Clerk? I don't like it; you are costing the Township money.

Bob Forbes said you created the environment here.

Motion by Bob Forbes, seconded by Orville Hartung to have the clerk step down.

Don Clinesmith said Bob is very divisive. Bob was on the committee to recall the Clerk and he was willing to do anything, unethical to get rid of the Clerk. Bob wanted Mike out of office. He made it as miserable as he could for him to stay in office.

Ben Partridge said in his opinion this motion should be rescinded.

Motion by Bob Forbes, seconded by Orville Hartung to have the Clerk step down.
Hand Count: 11 yea, 4 nay, 7 abstain MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Michael Clinesmith, Cathy Partridge and Orville Hartung, seconded by Bill Gray to adjourn.
MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 1:12PM.

Minutes prepared by Clerk Clinesmith.

Vassar Township Clerk

Vassar Township Supervisor

Thank you all for coming to attend the Township budget and annual review meeting. As Supervisor, part of my job is to give a State of the Township address. I can only speak to my experiences over the last 7 months. Over that time, I have encountered many hurdles and road blocks. While the road has been bumpy, myself and the rest of the township has found the best ways to move forward as smoothly as possible. We had to take baby steps in solving many of these problems we encountered so we could properly address them with the knowledge and tools we had at our disposal. I would like to thank current and past members of the Board of Trustees and the other Township boards for helping guide me through the transition these last 7 months.

I would like to thank the progress that the Planning Board has made on reviewing and updating the Township's Master Plan. After just over a year of hard work, they are close to having a newly revised Master Plan to bring to the Board of Trustees for final approval. They are also working hard on developing policies to regulate the growth and sale of medical marijuana. This is a huge step toward falling in line with the current Michigan laws regarding medical marijuana use, and making sure we have laws to protect all residents.

During the transition into this role, the previous Board of Trustees moved to transition the Parks and Recreation group into a fully recognized board. They have since fully organized the current members of the board, got final approval for full usage of the park property, applied for a DNR grant, and installed new equipment on the park site. I would like to personal thank them for their hard work and dedication to making public grounds accessible to all residents.

In a move to become more social media forward and open, the Board decided to assemble a voluntary committee to oversee how the Vassar Township Facebook page will be managed. They have developed an early version of a proposed policy they hope to get approved by the Board of Trustees. They are also looking ways to gain more visibility for the township on social media.

As we move forward over the next few months, there are many goals I hope to accomplish by this time next year. Here are just a few high-level goals.

First I want to establish an official audio and visual record of all board meetings that take place in the township hall. We still encourage members of the public to make their own personal recordings, but too often, these personal recordings are cherry picked and posted online to promote a very specific view point and without all the discussions before and after. My hope is to purchase the needed equipment to record township meetings and post them on Facebook and YouTube unedited. This will not only allow township residents to see what we are doing as their elected officials, but will promote a more open and clear account of all board meetings. I would like to have the option to live stream the meetings as well, but just having the ability to have an official recording is a good step in the right direction.

Secondly, I want to move to establishing a complete ethics policy for all township board members and employees. As part of this policy, there may need to be the creation of an independent committee that would review any reported violations of this policy. The addition of this policy is a huge step forward in making sure all township board members and employees are working in the interest of the people and have a baseline for what is expected of them when doing their job. It is my hope that this policy will help move the township towards smoother functioning and that it will have clear cut and fully enforceable punishments when a violation is found. These punishments could be as little as simple fines all the way to formally submitting a request to the Governor of the state for removal of the township official.

Lastly, I hope to start reviewing current township policies as time allows and cleaning up those that are obsolete, contradicting, or lack clarity. This will help streamline the rules, make them easier to

enforce, and make it easier for township officials to give direct answers instead of individual interpretations of what they think the policy is stating.

Again, Thanks for the patience and understanding. While adjust to my new role as Vassar Township Supervisor role.