

Vassar Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – September 10, 2024

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call:

Tom Borcharding	Present
Deborah Pounds	Present
Bruce Foether	Present
John Stack	Present
Ben Partridge	Present

Motion by Tom Borcharding to approve agenda as written, seconded by Ben Partridge

(5) Ayes

(0) Nays

Motion Carried

Motion by Bruce Foether to approve August 13, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes, with Changes, seconded by Tom Borcharding

(4) Ayes

(1) Nays

Motion Carried

Payables:

Missing one receipt from Vassar True Hardware, Deb Pounds asked Vassar True Hardware for copy of receipt. Waiting on that receipt. \$18.32. Matches the statement.

Ben Partridge questioning check #033165, Charles Fabbro check is more than normal, questioning why \$100 for labor for changing oil on tractor. Questioning why oil got changed so soon.

Motion by Bruce Foether to pay payables, seconded by Tom Borcharding

(5) Ayes

(0) Nays

Motion Carried

Reports:

Financial Report: See above (payables)

Trustee Report: Had secondary meeting.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Not in attendance. Report Given.

Clerks Report: -

Marijuana Coordinator Report: Not in attendance. Report Given.

All Other Report: -

New Business

Solid Waste & Recycling Contracts:

In Attendance: Kevin Kendall: Republic, DJ Bourdow: GFL, and Brett Quitquit: Priority

-The Board questioned resident use of dumps.

-GFL: Dump is in Montrose, Priority: Dump is in Birch Run, Republic: Dump is in Grand Blanc

-All expressed that access to dump can be added into contract at a fee

-All agreed to change and pro-rate pay cycle to match Townships Fiscal Year

-John Stack asked about getting a dumpster for tires, all stated that they will give the dumpster but Township will need to pay disposal fee

-Question from Board about price for additional cans

-GFL: \$75 per can, Priority: \$110 per can plus \$15 delivery fee, Republic: No Fee

Motion by Ben Partridge to accept bid from Priority Waste, with prorating the first year to June 30, 2026, seconded by Tom Borcharding

Roll Call:

Tom Borcharding – Yes

Deb Pounds – Yes

Bruce Foether – Yes

John Stack – No

Ben Partridge – Yes

(4) Ayes

(1) Nay

Motion Carried

Vassar Police Contract:

In Attendance: Ben Guile (Police Chief) and Andrew Niedzinski (City Manager)

-Question from board about invoices not being sent

-Andrew Niedzinski states that they were sent to other board members.

-June, July, and August, invoice not given, Andrew Niedzinski states should be coming soon

-Deb Pounds states that she needs a breakdown for invoices

-Inquiry about having officer at Ambulance Base for election – Ben Guile states that Township will have coverage

- VPD has new officer that started 9/2/2024, should be ready within 4-5 weeks
- Ben Partridge questions how to get ahold of Township officer
- Ben Guile states that Township officer who is on duty will have a cell phone with them at all times

Attorney:

Wanting to send a letter to courts to get blight and zoning ordinances and regulations enforced. Asking all townships to send a letter.

Resolution 13-2024

Motion by Ben Partridge to approve Resolution 13-2024 regarding Zoning and Blight Enforcement, seconded by Tom Borcharding

- Tom Borcharding - Yes
- Deb Pounds – Yes
- Ben Partridge - Yes
- John Stack - Yes
- Bruce Foether – Yes

- (5) Ayes
- (0) Nays

Motion Carried

Ambulance Service Contract:

-Tabled till October 8, 2024

Assessor:

CAP has been accepted by State of Michigan

Resolution 14-2024

Motion by Bruce Foether to adopt the asset test and guidelines for use in the December Board of Review meeting, seconded by Deb Pounds

Roll Call:

- John Stack – Yes
- Deb Pounds- Yes
- Tom Borcharding - Yes
- Bruce Foether -Yes
- Ben Partridge -Yes

- (5) Ayes
- (0) Nays

Motion Carried

Motion by Bruce Foether to approve \$1 Mil. millage for Vassar Township, seconded by Tom Borcharding

(5) Ayes
(0) Nays

Motion Carried

Motion by Bruce Foether to waive the late fee for Property Transfer Affidavits for late paperwork, seconded by Deb Pounds

(5) Ayes
(0) Nays

Motion Carried

Will table other documents till clarification with assessor is made

Fire Runs on Winter Taxes:

Chase Campbell: Fire Run – Full Dismissal Denied.

Motion by Ben Partridge to give Chase Campbell 6 months, starting October 1, 2024, to pay Fire Run invoice #897, seconded by Tom Borcharding

(4) Ayes
(1) Nay

Motion Carried

Motion by Bruce Foether to accept \$250 as full payment for Fire Run Invoice #891, seconded by Ben Partridge

(4) Ayes
(1) Nay

Motion Carried

Motion by Deb Pounds to put the Fire Runs on Winter Tax bill that are delinquent, seconded by Tom Borcharding

(3) Ayes
(2) Nay

Motion Carried

Road Commission to trim Birch Rd & Rupprecht Rd:

Board asked Bob Reil for a quote to trim brush at that corner
John Stack made mention on adding trimming to roadside mowing bid

Motion by Ben Partridge to authorize R&R up to \$200 for a one-time brush cutting northeast corner of Rupprecht and Birch Road, seconded by Bruce Foether

(5) Ayes
(0) Nays

Motion Carried

Application for all the Boards. Appointments expire October 31, 2024:

Motion by Bruce Foether to appoint Monica Whitburn to Planning Commission, term ending October 31, 2025, seconded by Ben Partridge

(5) Ayes
(0) Nays

Motion Carried

New Hall/Park:

Deb Pounds mentioned abuse of porta potty at Township Park
Blocks for new hall has been laid

Motion by John Stack to form a subcommittee for the new hall interior and exterior design colors and allow them to make the final decision, seconded by Tom Borcharding

(5) Ayes
(0) Nays

Motion Carried

The subcommittee for Hall will be Sarah Osentoski, Bruce Foether, Tom Borcharding and Monica Whitburn.
Meeting will be 4:30pm on 9/11/2024 at Vassar Township Hall

Training:

Bruce Foether and Ben Partridge wanting to go to MTA conference
Need to know by Thursday to register

Admin Assistant to reach out to MTA to determine different package pricing and coverage

Public Comment (3 Minutes):

No public comment

Motion by Tom Borcharding to adjourn meeting at 9:37pm, seconded by Deb Pounds

(5) Ayes
(0) Nays

Motion Carried

Next Regular Meeting is October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM

X

Deb Pounds
Clerk

X

Bruce Foether
Supervisor

Resolution 13-2024
Vassar Township
County of Tuscola, State of Michigan
Resolution Regarding Zoning and Blight Enforcement

WHEREAS, Vassar Township (hereinafter the "Township") is a duly authorized general law township located within Tuscola County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Township has enacted ordinances regulating zoning and/or blight within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Law provides that a District Court has equitable jurisdiction to issue injunctive relief in municipal civil infraction matters; and

WHEREAS, the Township has experienced difficulties in obtaining compliance orders and injunctive relief through the Tuscola County court system related to its enforcement of zoning and/or blight, and has at best obtained only fines for violations; and

WHEREAS, the Township is of the opinion that a remedy of fines is insufficient to adequately address zoning and/or blight issues, and that compliance orders and injunctive relief are necessary to effectively regulate zoning and/or blight within the Township.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HERBY RESOLVED that the Township Board approves this resolution and agrees that it may be sent to the Tuscola County court system by either:

- A designated representative of the Township; or
- The law firm of Bauckham, Thal, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, P.C.

All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion was made by Ben Partridge and seconded by Tom Borcharding to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Upon roll call vote the following voted Aye: Tom Borcharding, Deb Pounds, Ben Partridge, John Stack, Bruce Foether

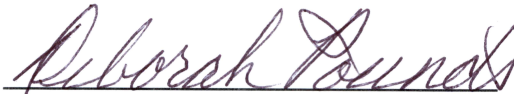
The following voted Nay:

The following were absent:

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Vassar Township Board held on September 10, 2024; that the meeting was conducted and public notice of the meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act; that a quorum of the Board was present and voted in favor of the resolution; and that the minutes of the meeting will be or have been made available as required by the Open Meetings Act.


Clerk

Resolution 14-2024

Vassar Township 2024 Income and Asset Guidelines for Poverty Exemption

Overview: Section 211.7u of the Michigan General Property Tax Act provides for a property tax exemption, in whole or part, for the principal residence of persons who, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges.

Vassar Township Board of Trustees adopts a policy which includes an asset and income test. The Board of Review shall follow the policy of the local assessing unit in granting or denying an exemption. If a person meets all eligibility requirements, then the Board of Review shall grant a full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value or a partial exemption equal to a 25%, 50%, or 75% reduction in taxable value.

A taxpayer who files for a poverty exemption at the March Board of Review is not prohibited from also filing an appeal on the assessment and/or taxable value at the March Board of Review. A taxpayer may also file a poverty exemption with the July or December Boards of Review. A taxpayer may appeal a poverty exemption denial to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Requirements to apply for Poverty:

1. The applicant must own and occupy as their principal residence the property for which the exemption is being claimed. The property cannot be owned by a business entity.
2. The applicant must file a fully complete application which includes Forms 5737 and 5739 and all required and requested tax returns and documentation – see attached list.
3. The applicant must meet the "Income Guidelines" which are the federal poverty guidelines updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
4. The applicant must meet the "Asset Guidelines" as approved by the Vassar Township Board of Trustees.

Income Guidelines:

The income guidelines shall include, but are not limited to, the specific income for the person claiming the exemption and should also include anyone else who is residing there. Meeting the income level of the Township policy does NOT guarantee the approval of a poverty exemption. Both income and assets are reviewed by the Board of Review in the decision-making process.

The applicant must meet the income eligibility guidelines as defined and determined by Public Act 390 of 1994. These guidelines are adjusted annually as established by said Act.

Following are the federal standards as of January 15, 2024 for household income deemed to be at the poverty threshold. For use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2024 assessments. In order to qualify for tax relief, the applicant's household income from all sources must be at or below the following amounts:

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280
7	\$45,520
8	\$50,560

For each additional person add \$5,140

➤ Meeting the income levels above, but failing the asset portion of the exemption, will result in a denial of the poverty exemption.

Income includes:

- Money, wages, salaries before deductions, and regular contributions from persons not living in the residence
- Net receipts from non-farm and farm self-employment (receipts from a person's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after business expense deductions)
- Regular payments from social security, railroad retirement, unemployment, worker's compensation, veteran's payments, public assistance, and supplemental security income (SSI)
- Alimony, child support, military family allotments
- Private and governmental retirement and disability pensions, regular insurance, annuity payments
- College or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, and assistantships
- Dividends, interest, and net income from rentals, royalties, estates, trusts, gambling or lottery winnings

Asset Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions for 2024

As required by PA 390 of 1994, all guidelines for poverty exemptions as established by the governing body of the local assessing unit SHALL include an asset level test.

The purpose of an asset test is to determine the resources available: Cash, fixed assets or other property that could be converted to cash and used to pay property taxes in the year the poverty exemption is filed. The value of the principal residence is not included in the asset test.

The following asset test shall apply to all applications for poverty exemption:

- The applicant's household shall not have "liquid" (cash) assets in excess of \$7,500,
AND

- The applicant's household shall not have total assets (cash and non-cash assets – see list below) in excess of \$20,000.

Household assets greater than what is stated above will result in a denial of the poverty exemption, even if the applicant meets the Income Guideline. The Board of Review may deny any application if the assets are not properly identified.

Cash and other non-cash assets considered may include but are not limited to:

- Bank Accounts
- Stocks and bonds, pensions, IRAs and other investment accounts
- Withdrawals of bank deposits and borrowed money
- Gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances and one-time insurance payments
- Money received from the sale of property such as stocks, bonds, a house or a car (unless a person is in the specific business of selling such property)
- Second home, rental property, or building/property other than the residence
- Excess or vacant land
- Extraordinary automobiles
- Recreational vehicles such as campers, motor-homes, boats and ATV's
- Equipment or other personal property of value
- Food or housing received in lieu of wages and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms

Applicants are asked to provide completed checklist with their completed application:

Please submit copies only, not originals. Anything submitted will not be returned.

If one of the items below does not apply, please write "N/A" (not applicable) to indicate the applicant does not have anything to provide for that item.

This checklist must be returned with the application forms.

- W-2 or 1099, or any final value statement used for income taxes for all income sources for the past year.
- Copy of both Federal and State income tax returns.
- If any of the applicants are not required to file a Federal or State Income Tax return, Form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit (attached) must be provided for ALL persons that are not required to file income tax.
- Receipts of current bills that you list on the application, including any bills that may be overdue.
- Any delinquent tax bills.
- Most recent mortgage verification showing balance of loan plus principal and interest payment amounts.
- Bank and/or credit union monthly statements for the prior 12 months (as of the date of application) of ALL checking and savings accounts.
- Most recent statement from SSI or any other form of government assistance (e.g. bridge card, FIA, etc.) if applicant or anyone in the household is receiving benefits.
- Copy of driver's license or State ID of anyone listed on the property as having ownership.
- Any stock and bond statements.
- Child Support payment statement.
- Alimony payment statement
- State of Michigan car registration for all vehicles.
- List of regular contributions OR gifts OR loans from persons not living in the residence (in the last 24 months).
- List of money received from the sale of property such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car (in the last 24 months).
- List and current value of other property currently owned by applicant (includes but not limited to vacant land, second home, rental property, building/property other than the residence)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the supervisor/assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy, asset test, and federal income guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

The foregoing resolution offered by City Council Member/Township Board Member Bruce Foether and supported by City Council Member/Township Board Member Deb Pounds.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

"Aye": John Stack, Deb Pounds, Tom Borcharding, Ben Partridge, Bruce Foether

"Nay": _____

The City/Township Clerk declared the resolution Sept, 10 2024.

Deborah Pounds 9-10-24
Vassar Township Clerk Date