

West Branch Township
Special Board Meeting
January 23, 2017

Veeder opened meeting with the pledge to the flag at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Veeder, Buhlman, Hodgins, Philbrick and Mollard

Public Present: Heather Grace and Ron Zarem

Motion by Veeder, second by Mollard to approve the Agenda. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Motion by Veeder, second by Philbrick to authorize Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes, PLC Attorneys at Law, to commence with legal action against the City of West Branch in conjunction with Edwards Township.

Discussion:

Buhlman stated she feels the townships are two separate battles. She stated the board of West Branch Township has a fiduciary duty to their tax payers per MTA. She recommended following the West Branch Senior Citizens Center Contract the Township signed with the City of West Branch on 10/9/96, specifically Section 5. B. and attempt to settle with the City without attorney involvement. Hodgins noted his concern with the Statute of Limitations that appear to run out in 2017. Veeder stated Commission on Aging Director said the date the center was no longer used for senior citizens was August 2011. Philbrick agreed with this date per verification with newspaper article. Veeder stated the township taxpayers contributed (through millage funds) approximately \$258,000.00. Buhlman concerned with lack of signature from Edwards Township on the contract and our interest could be denied. Veeder stated that is for the attorney to decide. Attorney cost was discussed as to whether each township will be billed 50% or will it be based on attorney/client contact.

Roll Call: Ayes – Hodgins, Philbrick, Mollard, Veeder; Nays – Buhlman. Motion Carried.

Public Comment – Heather Grace, West Branch City Manager asked several questions of Veeder concerning his original meeting request in April 2016 and follow up email January 2017. Both parties discussed the lack of action during this time frame. It was noted, many of the original staff at the time the contract was signed in 1996 are no longer employed. Grace stated the City arrived at a figure for current value, minus depreciation, of \$220,700.00. Figures were discussed per Section 5. B.

Motion by Veeder, second by Philbrick the meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Approved by Township board on 2/8/17

Cheryl A. Mollard
Ryan Veeder