

West Branch Township
Board Meeting
May 10, 2017 6:01 p.m.

Veeder opened regular meeting with the pledge to the flag at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Veeder, Buhlman, Hodgins, Philbrick and Mollard

Public Present: Mandi Chasey, Bruce Reetz, Bob Griffin Jr., Glenn Wilson, Kim Hendrickson, Dan Zettel, Ron Zarem and Heather Grace

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

Motion by Philbrick, second by Buhlman to approve minutes of 4/19/17. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Reports:

Commissioner Reetz provided an update on the County financial shortfall.

Mandi Chasey with EDC/Michigan Works updated the board on current programs and funding issues. It was suggested she attend the next West Branch Township DDA meeting to request funding.

Mollard presented Expenditures. Motion by Philbrick, second by Veeder to approved bills as presented in the amounts of: (101) General \$15,506.29 (592) Sewer/Water \$30,821.26 (600) Water #2 \$899.96. Voice Vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Mollard requested approval to purchase perennials and she would volunteer to create and maintain a perennial garden by the side entrance. Hodgins volunteered to donate dirt and mulch. Also noted the MTA Christmas party will be at the WB County Club on 12/14 and our audit begins 5/15.

Philbrick and Hodgins had nothing to report.

Buhlman provided update on ZBA and stated she verified all checking accounts. She will be discussing her role in verifying the DDA accounts with the auditor.

Veeder had nothing to report.

There were no minutes from other meetings and no correspondence.

New Business

Zoning Ordinance Violation (placement of a tower that does not fall under FCC “Otard Rule”). Bob Griffin Jr. made a request for a 180 day extension on the violation and as discussion progressed he changed the request to 720 days. Griffin asked the board to consider changing their initial zoning violation procedure/letter so it is not so threatening and to amend the Zoning Ordinance on tower placement for the growth of the community.

Glenn Wilson (owner of M33 Access) stated he thought he was covered under County Of Ogemaw 5/7/03 ruling “that Internet service was an essential service” and he need not follow Township Zoning regulations. The board informed him once the township approved their own Zoning Ordinance the County’s ruling was no longer applicable. Wilson had many questions and the board suggested he meet with Veeder to discuss them in greater detail.

Comments from the public were heard concerning the need for this tower and how many businesses benefit from the tower placed on Griffin’s property. It was the consensus of the public that the Township amend their Zoning Ordinance for placement of towers to transmit for the growth of the community, businesses and residents.

Veeder noted Bob Griffin Jr. attended the Planning Commission meeting the evening before and they are working on a resolution to this issue.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Hodgins to grant a 720 day extension to Bob Griffin Jr. Roll Call: Ayes – Buhlman, Hodgins, Philbrick, Mollard and Veeder. Motion Carried.

Budget reporting to the board will continue to be on a quarterly basis.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Buhlman to appoint Nancy Pearson as Deputy Clerk and Ron Zarem as Deputy Supervisor effective June 1, 2017. Voice vote – all. Motion Carried.

Simmons Road Public Meeting – Residents residing in this area would like to be informed and updated on the current status of Simmons Road. The board requested Veeder to contact the Road Commission to discuss a public meeting to update all parties involved. Tentative meeting date would be Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

EDC annual request for \$6000.00 was discussed and the township will not appropriate any funds until Chasey presents to the West Branch DDA Board.

Veeder stated he sent M-33 Access a METRO Act Application in reference to running fiber at Austin Way.

Philbrick (who is recovering from knee replacement) left at 7:58.

Sewer/Water Bill Adjustments on Noffsinger and Stone Mountain will be reviewed next quarter.

Transfer Station Township heavy refuse day is set for June 24th from 9am – 1pm and an ad will run in the newspaper on 6/15/17 and 6/22/17.

The Township Assessor contract has been tabled until next month.

No Public Comment.

Motion by Veeder, second by Buhlman meeting is adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

5-15-2017
Draft Date

Cheryl Mollard, West Branch Township Clerk

Approved Date

Ryan Veeder, West Branch Township Supervisor