

West Branch Township
Board Meeting
November 8, 2017 6:01 p.m.

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

Present: Veeder, Buhlman, Philbrick and Mollard (Hodgins absent- notified Veeder earlier in the day)

Public Present: Bruce Reetz and Ron Zarem

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

Motion by Philbrick, second by Buhlman to approve minutes of 10/11/17. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

WWTPA Minutes of 10/10/17 were provided.

Reports:

Commissioner Reetz provided a general update.

Mollard stated she was pleased with the MTA On The Road meeting she attended on 10/24/17 at Forward's Conference Center. Medical Marijuana and Effect Ordinances were discussed. She provided the 2017 Newsletter to the board. It will be mailed to all residents with their winter tax bill. She also presented monthly expenditures.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Mollard to approve bills as presented in the amounts of: (101) General Fund \$14,876.64, (592) Sewer/Water \$4,892.43, (600) Water #2 \$1,870.96. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Philbrick stated she had nothing to report.

Buhlman stated she reviewed the bank accounts and everything is in order.

Veeder stated there was some vandalism at the former West Branch Steel property; mainly windows broken. He will be boarding up the broken windows and making the building secure from further damages. He also provided an update on the 11/7/17 Planning Commission meeting. They approved ALDI Food Market Special Use Permit. He also noted Bader and Sons is progressing and hope to open the end of December.

Correspondence: Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs – this letter is sent annually concerning Filing a Video/Cable Complaints. COBRA Oil and Gas Notice of Hearing letter concerning a hearing about the potential drilling of a gas well.

New Business

Township Board Packets – Discussion of going paperless and purchasing Notebooks for board members. Veeder to look into cost.

Ogemaw Fire Department 2018 budget received. Our appropriation will be \$48,843.00. Increase in cost was \$1,217.00.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Veeder to accept the budget as presented and our appropriation of \$48,843.00. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

SLC Meter Quote: A quote was provided for Badger water meters with Cellular Endpoint for \$89,682.05. This will allow all parties (residents and businesses) to track usage on their cellphones. Veeder to do more research and discuss with DDA.

Silversmith Data: They made a presentation to Veeder concerning Remote Asset tracking for hydrants. This program will also allow for data/pictures via cell phones for all meter activity. Provides history and is paperless. An initial cost of \$4,800.00 (including one GPS Tablet) and an annual fee of \$2100.00. Veeder to discuss with DDA and at a later date have Veeder present to the full board.

DDA Projects and Maintenance Concerns: The township is paying for many expenses including utilities and road repair for the DDA District. Veeder to contact other DDA Districts to see how they handle maintenance and repair costs and will report back.

Unfinished Business:

Sewer Back Up: Claim submitted to Tokio Marine Public Risk Group (Municipal Underwriters of West MI) was denied due to lack of coverage.

Township Assessor Contract – Veeder will meet with Assessor before next board meeting.

Employee Evaluations were performed by Veeder with positive ratings for the two employees.

Ordinance Enforcement Procedures: nothing to report at this time.

911 Surcharge: letter from County Clerk's office referring back to the original letter sent on April 12, 2003 in reference to townships having option to 'opt out' out the 911 Service Plan and Service District. No townships opted out. We will not address the 911 Invoice from the County until after August Primary Election.

Zoning Administrator – we have not received any interest in the position. Veeder to run an ad in surrounding county newspapers.

Motion by Mollard, second by Philbrick to adjourn meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Draft Date: 11/14/17

Cheryl Mollard, West Branch Township Clerk

Approved Date

Ryan Veeder, West Branch Township Supervisor