

West Branch Township
Board Meeting
January 11, 2017 6:00 p.m.

Veeder opened meeting with the pledge to the flag at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Veeder, Buhlman, Hodgins, Philbrick and Mollard

Public Present: Heather Grace, Ron Zarem, Dennis A. Stephens, Dave Ross and Eric Young

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

Motion by Hodgins, second by Buhlman to approve minutes of 12/14/16. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Reports:

Mollard reported on upcoming meetings she will attend: 1/24 for New Elected Official Training and 2/16 & 2/17 Election Training; and noted we are now utilizing Pontem Financial reports.

Philbrick presented monthly bills and noted new format for financial reports. Motion by Mollard, second by Hodgins to approve bills as presented in the amounts of: (101) G/F \$13,690.81 (592) Sewer and Water \$632.76 and (600) Water #2 \$947.36). Voice Vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Veeder to contact the County to have \$1381.40 removed from the tax roll for parcel #65-014-101-002-00. Voice Vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Buhlman reported on verification of DDA Financial Accounts, in the process of verifying the General Fund Accounts for November and December; reviewed audit and provided ZBA update - she was appointed secretary.

Veeder reported on Street light damage on 1/9/16 and due to damage, filed a police report.

Motion by Buhlman, second by Hodgins to contribute \$500.00 to City of West Branch on behalf of Patron's Program for Irons Park. Motion withdrawn by Hodgins and Buhlman due to discussion concerning Senior Center Contract under New Business.

Motion by Veeder, second by Philbrick to put Iron's Park motion on at the end of New Business. Voice Call –Ayes. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Senior Center Contract Discussion. Heather Grace, City Manager for City of West Branch was present to discuss concerns the Township has with the West Branch Senior Citizen's Center Contract between the City of West Branch and West Branch Township on 10/09/96. Concerns are specific to **Section 5: Agreement, Right to Use Center, payment to townships; B. In the event the City shall cease to operate the center as a facility for senior citizen activities before 12/31/20, then the City shall reimburse the Townships an amount equal to an amount which is derived by the multiplication of a fraction of which their respective total payment is the numerator and the total cost of the center is the denominator**

multiplied by the then value of the center building (less depreciation) as shall be determined by the City's Assessor in his sole discretion. WBT is requesting payment be calculated using the final date the Center provided senior services. Ballot language was for "services to older people". Grace referred to using final date when Center ceased to be used as a community center. Veeder stated that the amount collected by the millage was in excess of \$250,000.00 (approximately). Veeder also noted his concern on the Statute of Limitations running out. Discussion on meeting with CWB in 2 weeks for consideration of a settlement. Final date unresolved due to discrepancy of language usage of "seniors" or "community". On behalf of Township tax payers Veeder suggested we seek attorney opinion before proceeding to meet on settlement.

Motion by Veeder, second by Philbrick to accept engagement letter from Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes, PLC Attorneys at Law and request an opinion on how to proceed. Roll Call: Nays - Buhlman, Hodgins; Ayes - Philbrick, Mollard, Veeder. Motion Carried

Motion by Veeder, second by Buhlman to approve Board of Review Training including new books in the amount of \$450.00. Voice Vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Veeder discussed the budget for Ogemaw Fire Department. The township provides approximately 31% of the total cost. Increase this year was \$114.00.

Motion by Veeder, second by Philbrick to accept Ogemaw Fire Department FY 2017 budget in the amount of \$153,125.00 (WB Twp. portion \$47,626.00). Roll Call: Ayes – Buhlman, Hodgins, Philbrick, Mollard and Veeder. Motion Carried.

Motion by Veeder, second by Mollard to approve Resolution #1-11-2017A: Alternate dates for July and December Board of Review. Roll Call: Ayes – Buhlman, Hodgins, Philbrick, Mollard, and Veeder. Resolution Adopted.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Veeder to approve Resolution #1-11-2017B: Poverty Exemption Asset Guidelines. Roll Call: Nays: Buhlman; Ayes – Hodgins, Philbrick, Mollard and Veeder. Resolution Adopted.

Motion by Hodgins, second by Philbrick to approve Resolution #1-11-2017C: Allow Residents to Protest Assessments in Writing. Roll Call: Ayes – Buhlman, Hodgins, Philbrick, Mollard and Veeder. Resolution Adopted.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Hodgins to approve Resolution #1-11-2017D: Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines. Roll Call: Ayes – Buhlman, Hodgins, Philbrick, Mollard and Veeder. Resolution Adopted.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Veeder to approve Ordinance #43 changes in West Branch Township Zoning Ordinance. Roll Call: Nay – Buhlman; Ayes - Hodgins, Philbrick, Mollard, and Veeder. Motion Carried.

FY 2017/2018 Budget discussion concerning dates for board to meet. Hodgins suggested everyone review their calendars and provide several dates to Veeder.

Unfinished Business:

Veeder stated there is no update on Marge Noffsinger due to December readings from the City of West Branch have not been received. Tabled until next month.

Ron Zarem spoke with John Dantzer from the City on CRT disposal. The City is charging each entity for collections based on the percentage used for disposal of plastics. Our township is 25%.

Motion by Buhlman, second by Hodgins to contribute \$500.00 to City of West Branch on behalf of Patron's Program for Irons Park. Roll Call: Ayes – Buhlman, Hodgins, Philbrick, Mollard; Nay - Veeder. Motion Carried.

Public Comment – Dennis Stephens provided input on Election programs.

Motion by Veeder, second by Mollard the meeting be adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Cheryl Mollard, West Branch Township Clerk