

West Branch Township
Board Meeting
July 12, 2017 6:03 p.m.

Veeder opened regular meeting with the pledge to the flag at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Veeder, Hodgins, Philbrick and Mollard (Buhlman Absent with advanced notice)

Public Present: Bruce Reetz, Ron Zarem and Cindy Scott

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

Motion by Philbrick, second by Veeder to approve minutes of 6/14/17. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Reports:

Commissioner Reetz provided an update on the County's 2017/2018 Budget, Veterans Levy and the hiring of a new Equalization Director.

Mollard presented Expenditures. Motion by Veeder, second by Philbrick to approve bills as presented in the amounts of: (101) General Fund \$153,425.60 (592) Sewer/Water \$29,059.60 (600) Water #2 \$2,031.76. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Philbrick reported she has started collecting taxes.

Hodgins had nothing to report

Veeder informed the board the City of West Branch will be performing a smoke test in the sewer lines next week which has potential to affect our township. He also stated he will be placing an ad in the newspaper seeking assistance for Ordinance and Blight Enforcement.

Correspondence: An unsigned letter concerning Blight at Flowage Lake was sent to Ogemaw Township and forwarded here via email. Veeder drove through the area and did not see Blight concerns, however did see one area with potential health concerns.

New Business

Cindy Scott of Stephenson & Company, P.C. presented the Audit for Fiscal Year 2016/2017. She stated new this year under GASB 77 is a tax abatement that only affects our Brownfield (a loss of revenue of \$3685.00). The amount is insufficient to be disclosed in the audit. Expenditures were much higher this audit due to major road projects.

Veeder discussed the sewage leak last Thursday, July 6, 2017 in the business loop. The only business that had damage was the Quality Inn Basement. The City of West Branch cleaned everything out; however Quality Inn had damage to stored items, odor, etc. Under 2001 Public Act 222 the township is not required to carry insurance. Quality Inn's insurance will not cover the total cost and they asked Veeder what the township could do. Veeder will look into our responsibility and report back at our August meeting.

MSU Extension is putting on a Citizen Planner Classroom Series from 8/2 – 9/26/2017 for community land use decision makers at a cost of \$295/person. (Potential for our insurance company Par Plan to reimburse at 100%). Veeder stated Buhlman is interested in attending. Motion by Veeder, second by Mollard to approve the cost of three individuals to attend Citizen Planner Classroom Series on behalf of the township. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Annual Drinking Water Report – Veeder stated he prepares this report and there are no changes this year.

Unfinished Business

Sewer Water Bill adjustments for Quarter ending 6/30/17. Philbrick and Veeder will review Wolfgang, Stone Mountain and Noffsinger bills on sprinkler meter and report back in August. Philbrick stated Home Depot had not been billed for the past year. Veeder stated he has concerns with meters and battery pack failure. He would like to continue to bill on a quarterly basis but monitor monthly.

Assessor Contract - Veeder waiting for AMAR Report before proceeding with recommendation.

Ordinance Enforcement Procedures – This was tabled due to absence of board member Buhlman.

Public Comment – Zarem stated the Township’s Large Refuse cleanup day on 6/24/17 was not the volume we anticipated. It appears most residents were unaware, despite the fact an ad ran in the newspaper for 2 weeks and it was posted on the township website for the past month. Discussion on informing our residents possibly through a newsletter sent with their taxes.

Motion by Veeder, second by Mollard to adjourn meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Draft Date: 7/17/17

Cheryl Mollard, West Branch Township Clerk

Approved Date

Ryan Veeder, West Branch Township Supervisor