

West Branch Township
Board Meeting
September 13, 2017 6:00 p.m.

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

Present: Veeder, Buhlman, Hodgins, Philbrick and Mollard

Public Present: Bruce Reetz, Ron Zarem and Paul Olson

Motion by Philbrick, second by Mollard to approve the Agenda with the addition of Paul Olson, Municipal Underwriters of West MI, Inc. under Reports. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Mollard to approve minutes of 8/9/17. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Reports:

Commissioner Reetz stated the County will be approving their budget by the end of the month.

Mollard presented Expenditures. Motion by Philbrick, second by Veeder to approve bills as presented in the amounts of: (101) General Fund \$109,268.81(592) Sewer/Water \$5,985.60 (600) Water #2 \$2,929.37. Voice vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Philbrick reported she has been collecting taxes.

Hodgins had nothing to report.

Buhlman stated she reviewed the bank accounts and everything is in order. She also stated the Citizen Planning/Zoning class provided by MSU Extension has been good training.

Veeder reported on the Chain Lakes Association meeting at the hall on September 30, 2017.

Paul Olson with Municipal Underwriters of West MI Inc. provided our new policy effective October 15, 2017 and stated there was no increase in cost. He addressed the Sewer backup issue with Forward Corporation. He stated under Public Act 222 the township is not required to carry insurance. He read the five points when the township would be required to pay damages and stated that did not apply in this case. He offered to send a letter to Forward Corporation's attorney stating the five points and how we are not liable. He noted we could obtain insurance for the cost of \$750.00/year with coverage of \$100,000.00 for legal fees and damages related to sewer issues. The board stated they will discuss this later in the meeting under Unfinished Business. Olson also discussed additional cemetery insurance which the board agreed should be added to our policy.

Correspondence: Chamber of Commerce sent letter on September 14, 2017 training date for their website.

New Business

MTA meeting at Quality Inn on October 24, 2017.

Senior Center – Settlement proposal from the City of West Branch.

Motion by Philbrick and second by Mollard to reject the City of West Branch's Settlement proposal and pursue a motion against the City for summary disposition, and pursue mediation in a manner that will keep its cost low. Roll Call: Hodgins – Abstain; Buhlman – No; Philbrick, Mollard and Veeder – Yes. Motion Carried.

Water Bill reimbursement to Michels Power for water charges of \$100.00 in reference to Rifkin Steel. Voice Vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Transfer Station – Ron Zarem discussed issues with disposal of box springs (they require too much space in dumpsters) so it was the consensus of the board to add them to the list of items NOT Acceptable at the transfer station.

Motion by Philbrick and second by Hodgins to accept, with regret, Zoning Administrator Veeder’s resignation letter effective September 30, 2017. Voice Vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Discussion on Economic Development Corporation’s (EDC) letter in reference to support of Project Rising Tide. (An initiative to provide at-risk communities with tools they need to design and build successful economic framework – West Branch and Cheboygan are the finalists).

Motion by Philbrick, second by Mollard to authorize Supervisor Veeder to sign EDC’s letter of support for Project Rising Tide. Voice Vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business:

Assessor Contract – Veeder discussed the State of Michigan’s AMAR report and addressed issues that did not meet the State’s requirement.

Sewer Back up:

Motion by Philbrick, second by Mollard to request Municipal Underwriters of West MI Inc. submit a letter of Denial of Claim to Shinners & Cook Inc. in reference to Forward Corporation’s sewer backup issue at a cost, not to exceed, \$500.00. Voice Vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Veeder to purchase sewer insurance coverage from Municipal Underwriters of West MI Inc. at a cost of \$750.00/year and add to Township policy effective October 15, 2017. Voice Vote: Ayes – all. Motion Carried.

Ordinance Enforcement Violation Letter was discussed and it was agreed to create a Two letter step: a less aggressive letter for the first notice and if no response after five days, the current letter would be sent. The Planning Commission will need to discuss this on September 19, 2017. It was also agreed since Veeder is resigning from the Zoning Administrator position a new job description be prepared outlining the violation letter procedure. This also goes to the Planning Commission for review and approval in their By Laws.

Motion by Philbrick, second by Mollard to adjourn meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Draft Date: 9/18/17

Cheryl Mollard, West Branch Township Clerk

Approved Date

Ryan Veeder, West Branch Township Supervisor