

VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP
JULY 31, 2008
MINUTES

The Vermontville Township Board met in regular session on Thursday, July 31, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Opera House.

Present: J Owens, B Moore, J Nehmer and S Stewart. Absent: Russ Laverty. Public present: Joe and Virginia Harvey, Shirley Harmon, Dean Monroe, Blair Miller, Mrs. Pool, Marcia Grant, Carla Rumsey, Dawn Conklin, Amy Parrish, Monte O'Dell, David Dehan, Joseph and Rose Petersheim and Sheri Reynolds.

In the absence of Supervisor Laverty, the Clerk called the meeting to order and motioned to appoint Owens as Acting Supervisor, supported by Nehmer. All ayes. Carried.

Owens took charge of the meeting and the pledge to the flag.

Nehmer requested to add ambulance service contracts to the agenda and Moore requested to add election workers. Motion by Owens, support by Nehmer to approve the agenda. All ayes. Carried.

Deputy Peacock, EC Sheriff's Department, gave the monthly report. (attached)

Monte O'Dell, Fire Chief, gave the monthly fire report. (attached)

Joseph and Rose Petersheim were present to ask for board approval for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a greenhouse at their residence to be able to sell flower and vegetable plants and vegetables in season. The Board had not received the information from the county at meeting time, but will discuss their request at a special meeting in time to make a recommendation to the county before the Board of Commissioners meeting.

David Dehan, from Walker, Fluke and Sheldon, reported the audit went well, thanked Nehmer, O'Dell and Stewart for their cooperation and stated if anyone had questions to call.

Virginia Harvey reported Sunfield has contracted with Charlotte EMS at a cost of \$3600.00 per year, the Lansing State Journal incorrectly printed ballot information (a correction was called in) and that Landmark Appraisal was taking pictures of their corn field.

Blair Miller stated the CPI for last year was 4.1 and that he is disappointed the Board didn't read the information presented to them about the CPI.

Carla Rumsey stated there are two different factors; CPI and COLA and said we were supposed to use COLA. Stewart disagreed with her, stating Laverty always uses the CPI when he does the Township budget.

Marcia Grant stated charges should be the same in the township as in the village because people who rent in the village don't pay. Blair Miller stated renters are covered by the property owners and agrees we should try to be friendly and neighborly, but we should not pay for other communities.

Nehmer requested to remove bills for approval from the consent agenda. She questioned a charge from Quill for fire office supplies; stated we did not authorize a charge, that we do not have a charge card with them.

Shirley Harmon explained it is not a "charge card" charge, but that it is an invoiced charge.

Owens motioned to approve the consent agenda, supported by Moore. All ayes. Carried.

Nehmer stated she is disappointed in the Chief Assessing Officer because the Board of Review meeting was not published in the paper; that it was posted 18 hours prior to and feels it was done that way so no one could attend.

Nehmer contacted Jeff Wilson in Washington DC concerning the CPI for 2007. He emailed her a chart and she noted she was not off-base when she presented the CPI for the Midwest at 4.1%. Wilson told her the only time the CPI has been 2.3% was in September 20

Carla Rumsey reported the summer reading and movies are going well and they are working on the audit recommendations from Walker, Fluke and Sheldon. The Revue is letting the library use their equipment for "movie night" and she stated there are Opera House scheduling problems.

Moore reported the Opera House repairs committee met and went through the fire chief's report. (attached) They presented a priority list of repairs and Owens suggested publishing for bids; calls to go to Moore. Moore stated the committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am at the library.

Motion by Nehmer, support by Owens to hold a special meeting on Wed, August 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station to discuss the ambulance service contract. All ayes. Carried.

Nehmer stated Sowles, Ambulance Director, should present a quarterly report to the board; that the board needs to let him know what is expected of him and if he is planning changes for the department, he needs to keep the board informed. He will be notified of the special meeting.

Moore asked why Vermontville Township Election Inspectors were not furnished meals while working the elections. Stewart explained it is not in the budget and feels it is not necessary to provide meals. After much discussion, Stewart stated if there is enough money left in the election budget after the Aug primary and Nov expenses are estimated, she will provide meals for the election workers with board approval.

Motion by Owens, supported by Moore to adopt the Fire Resolution. Roll call vote: Moore, aye; Nehmer, aye; Owens, aye; Stewart, aye; and Laverty, absent. Resolution adopted.

Blair Miller felt the \$799.00 spent on legal fees for the Burn Ordinance was not necessary as there is a State template we should have used.

Nehmer stated Vermontville Township receives less Revenue Sharing than most other townships and since the amount received is determined by census information; she feels when the 2000 census was done someone didn't do such a good job in Vermontville Township.

Blair Miller suggested setting up a committee to work on the 2010 census.

Joe Harvey asked if the township could levy the one mill they are authorized by law instead of the partial mill they levy due to the Headley Amendment. No one seemed to know the answer; whether the township could or couldn't levy the full mill. Stewart will check with equalization.

Motion by Moore, support by Owens to adjourn. All ayes. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Sharon Stewart
Vermontville Township Clerk