

VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP
SEPTEMBER 25, 2008
MINUTES

The Vermontville Township Board met in regular session on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Opera House.

Present: R Lavery, J Owens, B Moore, J Nehmer and S Stewart. Public present: Joe and Virginia Harvey, Dean Monroe, Mark McDiarmid, Blair Miller, Mary Fisher, Rita Miller, Carla Rumsey, Pat Powers, Monte O'Dell, Shirley Harmon, Marcia Grant, Dorothy McDougal and Dawn Conklin.

Supervisor Lavery called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge to the flag.

Lavery opened the public hearing pertaining to the Open Burn Ordinance. He distributed copies of the ordinance to those present. The ordinance will become effective after board approval and publication. There was a question and answer period. Blair Miller questioned the public hearing not being published in the paper. Lavery explained it did not have to be published due to the fact it is a fire department ordinance. There were several sections of the ordinance in question. MTA will be contacted for an approved ordinance and then copies will be given to the fire department for their approval prior to board approval.

Public hearing was adjourned.

Item 11A, approval of Open Burn Ordinance, was removed from the agenda.

Deputy Peacock gave the monthly Sheriff's Dept report. There were 33 calls for service during August 2008.

Fire Chief, Monte O'Dell, gave the fire department report. (copy attached) Nehmer asked O'Dell who was responsible for monitoring the ambulance department. He replied Dan Sowles, Ambulance Director and himself.

Mark McDiarmid, Landmark Appraisal, reported the reappraisal is complete; the tax book is ready for the tax commission and stated everything they want will be provided to them as they request it. He stated the assessed values are set using a two year study and the multiplier is not out yet.

Pat Powers, Maple Valley Schools, explained the buildings trade class has applied for a Conditional Use Permit to build a 40x80 pole barn in back of the high school to be used for storage for their tools. Motion by Lavery, support by Owens, to approve the request. All ayes. Carried. Lavery will send a letter of advisement to Eaton County Planning Commission.

Nehmer requested a transfer of some Opera House bills to General Fund bills due to the shortage of funds in the Opera House fund.

Motion by Lavery, support by Moore to approve consent agenda items. All ayes. Carried.

Lavery reported the Fire and Ambulance Board recommended sending three ambulance members to Air Care Training at a cost of \$270.00. Nehmer stated there is no money available at this time. The Board will consider Air Care Training in the future.

Laverty reported Chris Rumsey and Shane Hickey applied for membership on the Fire Department. Motion by Laverty, support by Nehmer to approve Rumsey and Hickey for membership. All ayes. Carried.

It was reported Ann Trask is paying for EMT school and Jeff Winans, Assessor, is in need of another fire proof file cabinet.

Stewart recommended the following inspectors for the November 4, 2008 election: Patty Cooley, Chairperson, Carla Rumsey, Kim Eldred, Emily Eldred, Amy Parrish, Judy Mohler, Judy Gardner, Judy Terpening and Marie Venton. Motion by Laverty, support by Moore to approve inspectors. All ayes. Carried.

Nehmer reported she did some investigating into area cemeteries because there are questions pertaining to which cemeteries are owned by the Township. Her findings are the Township owns only one cemetery; Haner Cemetery on Gresham Hwy.

Moore reported the vents on the roof have been resealed and should prevent future leaks. It is expected to last at least five years. The drains around the bell tower look good, the windows are caulked and painted, but are sealed shut due to the age of the windows. Work on the bell tower will begin as soon as the materials arrive. The inside painting is complete except for the ticket room and kitchen. Volunteers are being sought to paint the fire escape. Moore painted the garage door on Station 2.

Motion by Laverty, support by Nehmer to approve purchasing a smoke detector for the basement, up to \$50.00. All ayes. Carried.

Nehmer stated she doesn't feel there is anything wrong with the library bookkeeping, but according to the handout she provided the board, MCL 397.210 states, "Library fund revenues must be deposited in the township treasury and are drawn by the township treasurer on library board vouchers". She stated the library millage is the same as the fire millage and we must abide by the law. She stated Evelyn Davids, MTA, said the township board has control of the money; not the decisions how to spend the money. Rumsey handed out Act 164 of 1877 to board members and said she disagrees with Nehmer. Nehmer stated she just wants to abide by the law. All board members were asked to read all handouts, research on their own and be prepared to discuss the matter at the October meeting.

During public comment, Blair Miller suggested removing the handles from the windows and install brackets so people will know they can't be opened. It was agreed that would be a good idea.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Sharon Stewart
Vermontville Township Clerk