

VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP
JANUARY 29, 2009
MINUTES

The Vermontville Township Board met in regular session on Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station.

Present: J Owens, B Miller, B Moore, J Nehmer and S Stewart. Public present: (see attached sign-in sheet)

Pledge to the flag.

Motion by Owens to approve agenda items, support by Nehmer. All ayes. Carried.

Fire Chief O'Dell presented the fire report.

Jeff Winans, Assessor, reported the tax roll has been turned over to the county and our records match the county records. The field staff for the State Tax Commission has indicated our 14 point review is in compliance. He stated changes this year will be up and down because of the old records being so bad. Everyone will have a taxable increase of 4.4%; the township has no control over it.

Deputy Peacock, EC Sheriff's Department, reported there were 28 calls for service during December 2008.

Doug Kelsey, Vermontville Lion's Club, requested the township adopt a policy to not loan the 164 chairs they purchased for the Opera House.

Public comment: Joe Harvey stated he understands the board wants an office and suggested to use the 5.8% COLA towards possibly fixing up the old garage; he will make a donation, also.

Don Grant stated with unemployment being so high, the board has a lot of "gall" asking for a raise.

Terri Elliott stated on the State website, Granholm has stated for government entities sharing and consolidating services, the state will increase Revenue Sharing by 2.5%.

Scott Peters stated his support for the library.

Mary Fisher said the library is so important to families and kids; they can use the computers.

Anthony Faynor stated he is in support of the library; it is an asset to the community and he would expect the board to support them. He said he heard about the ambulance issues and doesn't feel it is a good idea to wait for Charlotte over Nashville.

Terri Elliott stated she thought we already had a fully equipped agency. She asked if Nashville was better; higher certificate?

Dotty McDougal said she was dumbfounded to hear, after receiving the letter, that the township has money for a house.

Doug McDougal stated if the library has to pay their utilities, they will not have money to purchase books, etc.

Motion by Owens, support by Miller to approve the consent agenda with one correction to the December minutes: **THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION AS TO WHAT THE REVUE WOULD HAVE TO DO TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FIRE REGULATIONS.....All ayes. Carried.**

The Library is hosting an Open House on February 14th; everyone is invited.

Owens apologized to those attending the special meeting on Sat, regarding the closed session, and stated because of his lack of experience thought 3 was adequate to call a closed session when it actually is 4. He will check with MTA concerning the closed session minutes.

Owens reported in order to expand the borderline for Charlotte ambulance service; John Truba said we need a contract. He will send a contract to the F&A Board. Owens has retrieved all Board of Review manuals for past board members and has sent a letter to Bill Reynolds and The Revue thanking them for their years at the Opera House. Jane McCloud met with Winans on January 21, went through records, filing system, maps, etc and reported everything is satisfactory. On January 13, EC Planning and Zoning met regarding home occupation and home based businesses; no decisions made. JoeAnn Nehmer was named to the Eaton County Historical Commission.

Miller reported there were two members of the F&A Board absent at the last meeting; all business was tabled until February meeting. He stated the burn ordinance is still too lengthy and there was no action taken on the list of board expectations.

Stewart requested permission to place an ad in the Maple Valley News for persons interested in serving as election inspectors. Motion by Miller, support by Owens to place the ad. All ayes. Carried.

Nehmer reported tax collection on December 31st was slow; next all day collection session at the fire barn on February 17th. She presented an inspector's contract from Bill Reynolds; all items were completed before the final play. She met with Mark Schauer concerning the stimulus package and is expecting his office to send information. She stated the Women's club has a microphone system they would like to donate to the Opera House. She read a letter to the board concerning misuse of the library credit card.

Miller questioned whether or not the library board has a credit card policy. Nehmer replied they do; Section C states "may be used only by the head librarian or treasurer for official use of the library".

Motion by Miller, support by Nehmer to send a letter to the library board requesting they address the issue with their employees. 3 ayes, 2 nays (Owens and Moore). Carried.

Moore reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee did not meet. He called Quality Roofing to check the roof leak. It was recommended we allow \$20,000.00 in the budget for re-roofing. Moore stated when Hansbarger Heating was doing furnace repair at the library; he noticed the Opera House furnace was not working properly. He contacted Moore; stated the orphice was dirty and not lighting; Moore authorized the cleaning.

Owens stated the Poverty Exemption and Assessor's contract will be discussed at the Feb meeting.

There was one bid received for the fire barn furnace for \$9,850.00 from Jordan's Hearing in Middleville.

The fire department bill referenced in the audit's "due to/due from" accounts has not been able to be verified whether it was a loan or gift. Miller made a motion, support by Stewart due to the years gone by; forgive the "due to/due from" amount referenced in the audit. 4 ayes, 1 nay (Owens). Carried.

Miller read a letter he would like to send to the County, with board support, concerning home occupation. There was much discussion concerning the square footage that should be allowed, etc. He made a motion to forward the letter to the County Planning Commission, but the motion died due to lack of support.

Nehmer presented an Opera House rules update; tabled until February.

Gene Fisher questioned why the township board wanted to buy a house for meetings.

Joe Harvey stated one application for dust control would be effective if done in the middle of summer; possibly late June.

Owens explained about wanting a township hall for some time, but the board understands they can't afford it at this time; no action taken on a purchase, just looking.

Darlene Hosey stated she supports the library.

Terri Elliott stated she heard the board was going to purchase a building for \$20,000.00 and called an emergency meeting. She asked how many people in the audience attended meetings on a regular basis; encouraged them to show up at more meetings.

Dean Monroe reported there will be a legislative coffee at Mulberry Garden's on Feb 9 at 8:00 am.

Virginia Harvey stated Home Occupation at the county used to be 4,000 sq ft and people seemed to take advantage of that; businesses were more like factories instead of home businesses.

Don Grant stated the rep to the F&A Board was taking false information from one board to the other. He questioned a study being done concerning ambulance response time and stated the only place information was coming from was Dan Sowles and he wants to take business to where he works.

Marcia Grant stated EC Zoning Ordinances allows for exclusions for home businesses; a husband and wife can both have a business in their home.

Anthony Faynor stated over 1,000 sq ft should move to an industrial area. He said it's hard to believe Charlotte can make it in just one minute more than Nashville and what about the train issue in Charlotte. He stated he was glad the board is not going to spend money on a township hall now that would need to be staffed.

Motion by Miller, support by Nehmer to adjourn. All ayes. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Sharon Stewart
Vermontville Township Clerk