

DRAFT

VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP
FEBRUARY 26, 2009
MINUTES

The Vermontville Township Board met in regular session on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Opera House.

Present: J Owens, B Miller, B Moore, J Nehmer and S Stewart. Public present: Shirley Harmon, Joe and Virginia Harvey, Brett Ramey, Larry Stevens, Judy Owens, Carla Rumsey, Jonnie Morris, Lorraine Miller, Don and Marcia Grant, Michele James, Rita Miller, Monte O'Dell, Jason Orton, Dan Sowles, Dave Chase, Duane and Kim Eldred, Brian Peacock, Sheri Reynolds, Scott Peters, Mike Hosey, Roger Trowbridge and Jeff Winans.

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

Pledge to the flag.

Motion by Owens to approve the agenda; removing old business Fire Department bill for \$8,000.00, support by Nehmer. All ayes. Carried.

Deputy Peacock reported there were 38 calls for service during January 2009. The next MTA meeting will be March 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sheriff's Department.

Chief O'Dell presented the fire report and noted there remains two areas in the Opera House in need of cleaning; the furnace room and under the stage.

Dan Sowles gave the ambulance report.

Jason Orton from the David Chapman Agency presented insurance renewal forms to be signed and stated he needs a copy of the budget, when available, and reported there will not be any increase in the insurance premium this year.

Roger Trowbridge reported he, with the help of others, is trying to obtain a 21st Century Grant to set up a regional learning center to help families in our area with continuing education when school is not in session (evenings and summer break). This would include a pre-school and daycare center at lower rates and plans are to eventually have training for skilled trades, set up a store to help teach marketing, etc. He stated they would like the Township Board, as well as each board member, to send a letter of support so they may include them with the grant application. He will provide the board with the information needed to write the letters of support.

Mike Hosey, County Commissioner, congratulated each board member on being elected to the board and stated to let him know if he can help the board in any way.

Motion by Owens, support by Miller to approve the consent agenda items. All ayes. Carried.

Jeff Winans, Assessor, reported everything is good with the county and state and all figures balance.

Owens reported he attended the EC Planning meeting, and the EC Board of Commissioners meeting where they plan to teach businesses how to become totally smoke free. April 2, from 2:30 – 4:30 FEMA will hold a meeting. This is the department that provides flood maps. He, also, attended the MTA meeting at the EC Road Commission on Feb 23 and reported the county will be sealing Nashville Hwy from Ionia Road to Curtis Road. Property assessments were sent and the Board of Review postings are out; they will be meeting at the Opera House.

Miller reported the F&A Board continue to work on the By-Laws and Burn Ordinance.

Stewart reported there will be an Eaton Intermediate School District election on May 5th. They are asking for 1 mill to support special education.

Nehmer reported she will be finishing winter taxes soon.

Shirley Harmon, Library Board, reported on March 17th at 6:00 p.m. they will host a Cat in the Hat night; wear pajamas and bring special stuffed animal. On April 19 at 2:00 p.m. they will be hosting a visiting author at the Methodist Church. They have applied for a Library Foundation Grant, but need to raise \$350.00 matching funds. The matching funds must be from donations; not the library budget.

Moore reported the Buildings & Grounds Committee did not hold a meeting. He requested an inventory list for the Opera House to make sure everything is there that is supposed to be there since The Revue moved out.

Winans reported we need to renew the APEX Contract and asked if the board wants to purchase maps from the county that are broken down by parcels and the village parcels are broken down into sections at a cost of \$230.00. He stated total parcels for Vermontville Township, after this year's splits, will be 1360-1370. Winans said he works approximately 20-30 hours per week and it will probably take another year or two before everything is correct. There was much discussion concerning the assessor's contract for the next fiscal year and the number of parcels in the township because that number is used to determine the assessor's salary. Motion by Nehmer, support by Moore to pay Winan's \$10.00 per parcel, for 1331 parcels for the April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010 contract and to award him \$2,000.00 for the splits not included in the 2008-09 contract. All ayes. Carried.

Owens reported he sent a letter to John Truba regarding the ambulance boundary extension and he will provide the township with a contract.

Nehmer reported she is revising the Opera House rental agreement. The Board discussed additions and Nehmer will include them in the agreement and present to the board for approval.

Owens reported the Jan 24 special meeting closed session was held in error and stated the minutes of the closed session were made available to the public. Miller stated the meeting was not illegal; just the closed session.

Nehmer requested the board and each board member write a letter in support of the 21st Century Grant as explained by Roger Trowbridge.

A letter was received from Doug Kelsey, Village President, concerning paid property taxes they are requesting a refund for. Nehmer will contact the county and report back to the board at the March meeting.

F&A Board Member's six year staggered terms will be incorporated into the new by-laws.

Nehmer presented Medical Management reports; will give to Sowles.

The Board did not have to approve the "Gaming License" for the Fire Association because the event will be held inside the Village. They are the approving jurisdiction.

There was much discussion concerning the F&A Service Contracts for Kalamo and Chester Townships.

Motion by Owens to offer 4.4% until March 2010, support by Moore. Roll call vote: Miller, nay; Moore, aye; Owens, aye; Stewart, nay; and Nehmer, nay. Motion failed.

After more discussion, Stewart made a motion to offer Kalamo and Chester 5.8% for the fire and ambulance service contracts. Due to lack of support, the motion failed.

Nehmer suggested eliminating dust control and use the money for our ambulance.

Motion by Miller, support by Nehmer to review the MTA guidelines for fire contracts. 4 ayes. 1 nay (Moore). Carried.

After input from Kalamo Supervisor, Brett Ramey, Moore made a motion to offer ambulance contract at 4.4% (CPI) plus \$110.00 for each non-transport each time Vermontville ambulance crosses Kinsel Hwy, support by Owens. 4 ayes. 1 nay (Miller). Motion carried.

Motion by Owens to offer 4.4% to Kalamo Township for fire contract, plus \$600.00 for each alarm dispatch, \$125.00 for each additional hour after the first hour, and \$150.00 for each response when no fire charges are incurred, support by Moore. 3 ayes, 2 nays (Nehmer and Miller) Carried.

Motion by Owens, support by Moore to duplicate fire contract offered to Kalamo Township to Chester Township, support by Moore. 4 ayes. 1 nay (Miller). Carried.

Owens reported he will provide the board with copies of the contract presented to Vermontville Township regarding the expansion of the ambulance border to Charlotte from Shaytown Rd to the Barry County line.

Motion by Nehmer to cancel dust control and put the money toward the ambulance; those wanting dust control can obtain from the county for \$75.00 for 200 feet for two applications, support by Miller.

Motion rescinded by Nehmer and Miller

In response to the letter received from Dotty McDougal, Library Board Secretary, Stewart stated the Board will continue to pay all water and sewer charges for the Opera House and Library because there is no way of determining how much water is used by the Opera House or Library. However, the Board will not pay for gas and electric charges for the Library because they are metered separately and exact charges can be determined. Stewart will send a letter to the Library Board.

Duane Eldred asked about spot dust control. Owens will look into it.

Joe Harvey stated in regards to letting non-profits organizations use the Opera House rent free; he is not in favor of that; he will hire an attorney; can't give tax dollars away like that.

Harmon questioned whether or not paying renters would come before non-paying non-profits. The board replied yes.

Marcia Grant presented the board with a FOIA request for minutes of a meeting where by-laws were discussed.

Scott Peters stated the township is wasting money; he challenges why the ambulance is losing money and suggested investing into certifications for our service.

Tony Fayner stated there was no ambulance response time study done; Miller lied. Owens asked Fayner to use the word "misled" in place of "lied". Fayner stated he does not appreciate being misled.

Virginia Harvey reminded everyone March 8 we return to daylight savings time, that on May 11 postage goes up two cents and Mulberry Gardens restaurant in Nashville closed their doors.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Sharon Stewart
Vermontville Township Clerk