

VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP
MINUTES
APRIL 30, 2009

The Vermontville Township Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Opera House.

Present: J Owens, B Miller, B Moore, J Nehmer and S Stewart. Public present: Larry Stevens, Rita Miller, Darlene Hosey, Don Grant, Michele and Tim James, Sue Villanueva, Steve Pifer, Joe and Virginia Harvey, Lorraine Miller, Jeff Winans, Brian Peacock, Shirley Harmon, Jonnie Morris, and Judy Owens.

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

Nehmer requested adding C. Office space for the assessor under New Business. Motion by Owens, support by Nehmer. All ayes. Carried.

Deputy Brian Peacock reported there were 36 calls for service during March 2009.

Capt Steve Pifer gave the monthly fire report..

Jeff Winans, Assessors, reported everything is going well. The state is satisfied with our reassessment.

Joe Harvey asked about a meeting Winans was going to have with area farmers. When the weather gets better, Winans plans to go visit some agricultural property and evaluate their assessments.

Virginia Harvey asked how much money was left in the 2008-09 budget year and was any of it going for ambulance. Nehmer stated she completed a report breaking down how the balance of money was being spent and a CD would be purchased to repay ambulance the money general borrowed.

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

Stewart read a letter from the Village of Vermontville stating because the township did not renew the assessor's office space lease in December, rent will increase to \$55.00 per month and a statement would be sent to the township for \$20.00; the additional \$5.00 per month for Jan – April 2009.

Owens reported a letter was received from the State Tax Commission stating they will release the 2007 tax roll when they receive payment of \$4,356.83. He stated the 2007 Assessed Value for the Township is \$73,053,400 and the Taxable Value is \$46,733,000. The 2009 Assessed Value is \$89,925,248 and the Taxable Value is \$51,421,307. Assessor Winans stated the change is due to omitted properties.

Owens provided the board with copies of the 3 year ambulance contract with Charlotte Ambulance.

Miller reported the F&A Board did not evaluate the fire chief because he was hired by the Township Board and felt they should do the evaluating.

Fire & Ambulance Board By-Laws will be discussed at the May meeting.

Stewart reported Tues, May 5, 2009 is the Eaton Intermediate School District special education millage election.

Nehmer reported she attended the Eaton County Farm Bureau legislative breakfast and the Eaton County Citizen's Academy; all tax money has been distributed and she filed three personal property tax bills in small claim's court. She provided the board with a quarterly ambulance report.

Motion by Miller, support by Owens to invest money in a CD for ambulance. All ayes. Carried. (The money general borrowed from ambulance)

Moore reported the Little Miss Maple Syrup Pageant was held in the Opera House and they left the building clean; the B&G Committee is meeting on May 13th at 10:00 am in the library and asked about advertising for roof repairs and someone to clean the opera house.

It was suggested, since Dan recommended, to talk to Dan and Monte regarding daytime EMT's cleaning the opera house. Nehmer stated it is our responsibility to keep the steps clear of snow and ice. Nehmer questions whether or not the restrooms were open and stocked during festival.

It was reported there were three people on the roof of the opera house during the festival parade and they gained access through an upstairs door to the roof. It was suggested to put a lock on the door. It was also decided to put new locks on the opera house and keep a log of who has keys.

Winans reported the Village has a case pending at the tax tribunal. They are asking the township for an \$876.00 refund of 2005 taxes they don't feel they should have paid. Winans said the township is not obligated to give the money to the township and that the township would win at the tax tribunal. No action was taken.

Owens reported he contacted Michigan Chloride Sales and they will spot dust control but it has to go through the township; the township buys the chloride and sells it to the residents. There is a 9500 gallon minimum purchase required. Owens will contact the county garage in Vermontville to see about getting brine from them.

Stewart asked Tim James about the establishment of the Fire Department. He said there were several different Public Acts that the department could have been established under. Stewart will check the old minutes and the board will share copies of the On-Call Fire Fighters book by MTA; to be discussed in May.

The Open Burn Regulations and burn permits were discussed. It was suggested a log with sequential numbers be kept, and added to Section 5, as well as writing them on the board. Pifer said they are currently doing that. Stewart recommended changing the word "encouraged" to

“required” in Section 2. Motion by Owens, support by Moore to approve the Open Burn and Burn Permits Rules & Regulations, with one change. All ayes. Carried.

There was much discussion concerning the cost for FOIA copies. Owens moved to not charge for FOIA requests unless a fee is incurred for copies outside the office; then passes the charges to the requester. After more discussion Owens rescinded his motion.

Motion by Nehmer to charge 25 cents per copy, support by Owens. All ayes. Carried.

Nehmer recommended the Assessor’s office be moved from the village office to the fire barn. Owens questioned the cost of internet service and a phone. Nehmer stated we already pay for a phone and wireless internet is in the fire barn. Miller felt that would be \$600.00 a year we don’t have to pay. Moore stated it is allocated in the budget, but Nehmer said the \$4,300.00 to the State Tax Commission is not. Stewart stated we would save \$660.00 and the assessor is only in the office four hours a week and we need to cut our budget where we can. Motion by Miller, support by Nehmer to relocate the assessor’s office to the fire barn. 3 ayes, 2 nays (Owens and Moore). Carried.

Larry Stevens asked for a copy of the Burn Ordinance for Kalamo Township. He invited the board to the Eaton County MTA meeting at Kalamo on Monday, 25, 2009.

Virginia Harvey reported on the upcoming millage election, interest at the local bank, Don Benjamin of Sunfield working with the homeless and the website; February minutes are under March.

Shirley Harmon reported Eaton County Housing Services will be at the village office on Thursday, May 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Owens, support by Nehmer to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Sharon Stewart
Vermontville Township Clerk