

DRAFT

VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
AUGUST 27, 2009
MINUTES

The Vermontville Township Board met in regular session on Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Opera House.

Present: J Owens, B Miller, B Moore, J Nehmer and S Stewart. Public present: Dean Monroe, Jonnie Morris, Doug Kelsey, Darlene Hosey, Brian Ross, Joe and Virginia Harvey, Marcia and Don Grant, Rob Cook, Brian Peacock, Scott Peters, Judy Gardner, Kim and Duane Eldred.

Pledge to the flag.

Motion by Stewart, support by Moore to approve the August 27, 2009 agenda. All ayes. Carried.

Deputy Brian Peacock, Eaton County Sheriff's Dept, reported there were 74 calls for service from July 1, 2009 to date.

Fire Chief, Monte O'Dell, gave the monthly fire report (attached). He recommended the Board approve paying an outstanding invoice to Spartan Chassis for \$1,265.93, as they informed him the pump repair was not under warranty. He stated he didn't feel it would be worth the money to hire an attorney as the work was completed at the end of the warranty. Owens stated he spoke with a rep from KME and they said Spartan should have recommended the pump be sent to Hale Pump because Spartan is not an authorized repair facility for Hale.

Moore reported the F&A Committee felt the wireless internet hookup should be paid by general because the F&A departments do not need it. He stated they would like more clarification as to what the committee is supposed to do; pursue more emergency services or separate fire and ambulance. The committee would like to hold their meetings in the Opera House due to the lack of space at the fire station. Chief O'Dell stated him and his department officers were not consulted when the Fire and Ambulance Guidelines were written and they would like Section IX to be returned to the Committee and requested they be allowed input before Township Board approval.

Dan Sowles, Ambulance Director, reported they had seven calls for service. He said they are certified for electronic training and all EMT's will be trained. He stated the benefit dinner and auction, hosted by our Amish community, raised over \$7,000.00 for the Ambulance Department. Nehmer asked if all persons sent to EMT school have licensed. He replied one person did not take her final exam before the deadline.

Brian Ross, Eaton County Planning Commission, reported the county is in the process of adopting a new master plan for the county. He gave future land use maps to the Township, both current and new, and would like the Board to review them within the next couple of weeks and requested a Board member be present at the county meeting for approval.

There was one correction to the July 30 minutes; the motion by Moore, supported by Owens, to not pay Nehmer's phone bill should have said MOTION FAILED.

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

Owens announced he and Winans will be attending the Tax Tribunal on Sept 9th at 4:15 p.m. concerning the Village tax issue. Nehmer questioned Owen contacting an attorney at nearly \$200.00 an hour when it would only cost the township \$94.87 if the Tribunal ruled in favor of the village. Owens said he felt it was worth the money to defend ourselves. Stewart stated Winans said there was no way we were going to loose and that the village isn't going to be represented by an attorney. Owens stated he is the legal representative of the township and can make some decisions on his own, but will reference the Board in the future.

Moore stated there are odd jobs to be done around the Opera House and he is looking for volunteers. Miller volunteered to do some painting.

Owens stated the Fire and Ambulance Committee "By-Laws" have been changed to "Guidelines". The Board was asked to review the Guidelines and the Fire Department By-Laws and bring recommendations to the Sept meeting. Sections of the guidelines appear to overlap the By-Laws.

Miller stated the F&A Committee ruled they were not qualified to do a job appraisal on the Fire Chief or Ambulance Director, so he doesn't feel there is a need for Section IX of the Guidelines. Moore stated the committee was asked to bring forth guidelines as a committee. The Board will see where the two overlap and send it back to the committee.

According to Jason Orton, David Chapman Insurance Agency, the Township insurance policy covers its employees, but does not cover selling or renting the opera house to anyone with alcohol at a function. He stated most companies will not give a rider for having alcohol at a function; therefore, we can rent the opera house without an insurance binder as long as there is no alcohol at the function.\

Gene Fisher, representing the Maple Syrup Association, stated he has no problem paying a fee for the use of the Opera House during the Maple Syrup Festival. Nehmer will check rates around the county and see what others charge for a non-profit organization and bring the information to the Sept meeting.

Bids for the Opera House roof repair were received from Century Construction LLC, Lansing; Simon Siding and Windows, Lansing; Quality Roofing and Construction, Hastings; Goggins Construction, Caledonia; and Andy Shaver Construction & Remodeling, Charlotte. There was much discussion concerning each bid. Motion by Stewart, support by Owens to accept bid # 5. All ayes. Carried. (Bid # 5 is the bid from Andy Shaver Construction & Remodeling at a cost of \$9,675.00 for the Opera House roof and Station #2 roof). Moore will contact all bidders and thank them for their interest.

Owens stated he feels it's worth the time and effort to look at the possibility of constructing offices in Station 2. He talked to the County and they will send

someone out to look at the building. He didn't feel there is a need to form any kind of committee yet, as previously discussed.

Doug Kelsey stated he thought the discussion about a committee was to form a committee to market the Opera House. Gene Fisher stated it was Gary Goris that suggested a committee be formed and it was to help find a suitable space for township offices. Joe Harvey suggested starting a Friends of the Opera House committee. Moore will post a sign-up sheet.

Motion by Nehmer, support by Moore to publish a letter of thank you in the Maple Valley for the benefit dinner and auction. All ayes. Carried. Moore thanked the Fire and Ambulance members for helping with the dinner and auction.

A Conditional Use Permit was received from Eaton County for Rob Cook to continue his lime business; no changes. Motion by Miller, support by Moore to approve renewal as there have been so problems. All ayes. Carried. Rob thanked the board.

Joe Harvey stated the Opera House rental issue had already been discussed, why go through it all again. He recommended taking out one clause in the rental agreement.

Virginia Harvey suggested charging lower rates, possibly by the hour, for groups wanting to use the Opera House for a short time. She felt if Station 2 was cleaned out and painted it would be all right to store files and put the assessor office there.

Carla Rumsey reported the library will be closed for in-service when the roofers are working.

Sandy Haas requested dust control be re-instated.

Dean Monroe stated Castleton Township has different rate for residents and non-residents for the rental of their hall and that a homeowner's policy will cover a renter.

Gene Fisher stated he was impressed by the Firefighters present at the meeting tonight and that we don't appreciate our Fire and Ambulance personnel enough.

Dorothy Carpenter asked who to contact concerning the Opera House rental. Nehmer replied to contact her.

Virginia Harvey thanked the clerk for posting the minutes on the website in a timely manner.

Nehmer stated the next tax bill mailings will have a news letter included; to get information to her by mid September.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Sharon Stewart, Vermontville Township Clerk

