

VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009  
MINUTES

The Vermontville Township Board met in regular session on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at the Opera House.

Present: J Owens, B Miller, B Moore, J Nehmer and S Stewart.

Pledge to the flag.

Motion by Moore, support by Nehmer to approve the agenda with additions C. River Clean-up to Unfinished Business and C. Approval of Fire Department Application to New Business. All ayes. Carried.

Deputy Brian Peacock gave the Eaton County Sheriff's Department report for August 27 through September 24, 2009.

Fire Chief, Monte O'Dell reported the department runs for the month and that they are building a storage garage next to the fire barn.

Ambulance Director, Dan Sowles, gave the ambulance report for September and asked if there is an ambulance replacement program.

During public comment Joyce Rathburn asked the process to rent the Opera House. Virginia Harvey stated the Opera House should be able to be used for township projects at no charge.

Motion by Owens, support by Nehmer to approve the consent agenda. Miller questioned the amount for Andy Shaver Construction; clerk to check. All ayes. Carried.

Stewart read a letter from MML Risk Management stating the findings from the September 10, 2009 visit by David Sperry.

Owens reported he was told the new sheathing on the OH roof is not covered by insurance, but Jason Orton, David Chapman Agency, is going to try and get it covered because without it, the shingles loose their lifetime warranty.

Owens reported he is waiting for a Tax Tribunal decision regarding the Village tax refund request. He provided board members with copies of email responses from the attorney concerning the case.

Moore reported the F&A committee is waiting for the guidelines from the Board. Tim James provided different acts used to form authorities for the committee to use when working on an authority for Vermontville Township. He and Owens met with Russell Schelles from EC Construction Code regarding Station 2 being converted into Township offices. Moore will provide a sketch of the proposed offices, including electrical, to Schelles for approval.

Stewart reported her printer has stopped working. Motion by Owens, support by Nehmer for Stewart to purchase a new printer. All ayes. Carried.

Nehmer reported she met with Mark Schauer concerning available grants for the opera house handicap accessibility. She reported BC/BS is demanding direct deposit of ambulance payments. She will meet with Jeff Winans, Assessor and the Office of Equalization and County Treasurer.

Owens reported there was a change order for the bell tower at a cost of \$1,618.00. The "built-in" eaves were removed and the drain moved to the back of the tower.

There was much discussion concerning the F&A Guidelines. It was recommended to add to Section 2; "To pursue a fire authority". There was additional discussion concerning "guidelines" v "by-laws" and the committee not having power over the fire chief. Motion by Owens, support by Moore to approve the F&A Committee Guidelines with the addition in Section 2 to pursue a fire authority. 3 ayes, 2 nays (Nehmer and Miller). Carried.

Motion by Nehmer, support by Stewart for the Grounds Committee to obtain quotes and drawings to convert Station 2 to offices. All ayes. Carried.

Miller reported on the river clean-up project and thanked Duane Eldred and Greg Wendorff for their efforts. He stated there are DNR Grants available to benefit the quality of life in communities like Vermontville Township, but before we can apply for a grant we will need a parks plan. He stated he thought we could use another community's template. He will pursue and forward information to the board before the next meeting.

Owens reported the 2009 Taxable Value for Vermontville Township is 50,421,307. Motion by Owens, support by Stewart to approve levies of .8420 Township Allocated, 1.0000 Fire Department Extra Voted and .7500 Library Extra Voted. All ayes. Carried.

Nehmer reported she met with Mark Schauer and there is grant money available to make municipal buildings handicap accessible. Some possibilities are ramp, elevator and portable chair lift. Motion by Moore, support by Nehmer to go forth and apply for a grant. All ayes. Carried.

An application was received from Ryan Burns for membership on the Fire and Ambulance Departments. Burns is FF1, FF2 and EMS certified. Motion by Miller, support by Nehmer to approve application for membership. All ayes. Carried. Owens will send a welcome letter to Burns.

During public comment, Joe Harvey suggested installing a 42" door in the proposed office v a 36" door. Lois Gardner asked if the roofers put the crack in the sidewalk in front of the Opera House. Doug Kelsey suggested we look at other alternatives besides a ramp for handicap accessibility. He said possibly a "Tommy-Lift" because it could also be used for freight. Carla Rumsey stated that would increase the potential for renting the building. She also stated the F&A Committee declined to perform an evaluation on the fire chief because some of the questions pertained to job performance at fire scenes. Sandy Haas questioned why a price limit wasn't placed on the purchase of the new printer.

Nehmer stated an elevator can not be used during a fire; therefore, some type of ramp will still be needed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Sharon Stewart  
Vermontville Township Clerk