

VERMONTVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
OCTOBER 29, 2009
MINUTES

The Vermontville Township Board met in regular session on Thursday, November 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Opera House.

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

Pledge to the flag.

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

Deputy Brian Peacock reported there were 49 calls for service between September 24, 2009 and October 29, 2009.

Jason Byington, on behalf of Fire Chief, Monte O'Dell, gave the monthly fire report (attached).

Dan Sowles, Ambulance Director, gave the monthly ambulance report; 12 calls, 9 transports, 2 refusals and 1 air-lift. He gave H1N1 flu information and explained the ambulance would be out of service for a couple of hours for "decontamination process" in Delta Township and Charlotte Ambulance will cover during that time.

During Public Comment, Joe Harvey asked if the non-profit rental rate was the same as others and if there had been an hourly rate set.

Virginia Harvey reminded everyone that Sunday, November 1 daylight savings begins.

Owens asked if the Opera House rental income could be listed separate on the treasurer's report. Nehmer explained the only income/receipts the Opera House has is from rentals. Motion by Nehmer, support by Moore to approve Consent Agenda. All ayes. Carried.

The Board received a letter from Pamela Dausman of Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith stating there was a favorable Judgment to the township from the Tax Tribunal regarding the Village and that they have 20 days to file an exception to the Judgement and in the event they do, the township has 14 days to respond to the exceptions.

Owens stated that thanks to Jason Orton of David Chapman Agency, we received an additional \$1637.00 for the Opera House roof repairs. Owens reported the December Board of Review will be held on December 15th; the time is tentatively 8:00 am-12:00 pm, but will confer with the assessor and Board of Review members concerning evening hours.

Nehmer stated she felt evening hours would be better for most of the residents and Russ Laverty stated although the Board of Review always met in the evening when he was supervisor, residents have the right to file a written appeal. Owens

stated the December Board of Review is for poverty exemptions and clerical errors.

Moore reported due to a lack of quorum, the F&A Committee did not have a meeting. However, Jason Byington was present and stated he obtained bids for 16 new coats, pants and helmets for the department. He explained the current turn-out gear they use is not up to code and need to be replaced. He received bids from West Shore Fire for a total of \$25,516.00 and for coats and pants, only, from C&R Fire Equipment Sales for \$22,780.92. He stated they did not bid helmets from C&R Equipment because they prefer to replace the current helmets with the same helmet from West Shore Fire. He said they plan to pay for the equipment with a Fire CD maturing in November 2009. Motion by Moore, support by Owens to purchase 16 coats and pants from C&R Equipment Sales for \$22,780.92 and 16 helmets from West Shore Fire for \$2,636.00 for a total cost of \$25,416.92. All ayes. Carried.

Nehmer reported the ambulance negative balance is "chipping" down thanks to a good job by Director Dan Sowles and billing clerk Shirley Harmon.

Shirley Harmon reported the library is applying for a \$25,000.00 grant for improvements to the library.

Moore reported he met with Russell Shelles, Eaton County Building Inspector, concerning a village office in Station 2. Shelles stated it would be too costly to convert the current restrooms to be handicapped accessible.

Owens reported Moore did three possible floor plans for office conversion and Owens priced material; approximately \$4,000.00. He stated the Building Trades class at the high school would not be able to do the labor until spring.

Discussing the Opera House rules, Moore stated it would not be worth renting the building hourly due to the high cost of heat, etc. No alcohol allowed will be added to the rules. He, also, stated Russell Shelles said the only real option we have to make the building handicapped accessible would be a wood style ramp as you can not use an elevator during a fire.

A Conditional Use Permit was submitted by Eaton County Community Development Department on behalf of Carrie Hopkins and Kristi Lincoln, owners of Peas in a Pod Preschool and Child Care. Hopkins and Lincoln are currently working out of the Congregational Church in Vermontville, but have outgrown the facility. They would like to rent a portion of the old Weatherwax building, currently owned by Mervin Hochstetler, and move their business to the N Ionia Road location but the building is too close to the Consumers Energy substation. They are requesting a 20' variance from the 50' minimum property line setback because the building is just 30' away. The Board of Appeals meeting is November 3, 2009.

Motion by Owens to approve request as presented and previously approved by Eaton County Community Development, support by Stewart. 3 ayes, 1 abstain (Nehmer). Carried.

Nehmer stated her reason for abstaining was she felt she did not have ample time to review the CUP before voting as she just received it before the meeting.

Another CUP was received on behalf of Johnny Miller. Miller is changing his current bakery and adding an ag building for greenhouse purposes. Motion by Owens, support by Moore to approve the CUP request. 3 ayes, 1 abstain (Nehmer) Carried. Nehmer sited her reason for abstaining same as previous CUP vote.

Laverty stated he was at the August 24 special meeting and not everyone that attended was listed in the minutes. Stewart explained there were too many to list so she went by the names on the sign sheet.

Scott Peters asked because the Opera House is a historical building, is it subject to the same rules as all other buildings as far as making it handicapped accessible. Laverty stated when he worked for the State of Michigan, they had a plan in place to meet the handicapped at stairwells and carry them down in an emergency.

Joe and Virginia Harvey mentioned some possibilities for the proposed office.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Sharon Stewart
Vermontville Township Clerk