

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2001

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:05 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present:	Tim Wittenbach	-	Supervisor
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Al Baird	-	Trustee
	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee

Wittenbach noted minutes of the March 12, 2001 regular meeting approved as written. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman to lock-in price of fuel oil for Township Hall at \$1.19 per gallon by payment of \$40.00 at present time. Motion carried. Motion by Baird, seconded by Hoffman, to approve bills as read. Motion approved.

Public Hearing – Tom Crawford, Special Use Permit – 7:10 p.m.

Tom Crawford was present and explained his request for a special use permit to temporarily allow double-wide manufactured home 600' off road on property for dwelling purposes during time of construction of home. Thirty-four acres – Section 13 – Fallasburg Park Drive. Same power, driveway, septic and well installed now for double-wide to also be used for eventual home. Moving from South Lyon in July 2001 for start of schools in August. To begin actual construction of home in Spring 2002 with digging of basement. Crawford has submitted \$5,000 bond for one year with one year extension. There was no public comment.

Public Hearing Closed – 7:15 p.m.

Unfinished Business:

Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Baird, to grant special use permit for 16 months allowing temporarily a double-wide manufactured home on Crawford property on Fallasburg Park Drive - \$5,000 bond needing one year extension - construction of home to not exceed two year period. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Special Use Permit – Lowell Area Schools Elementary School. Jim White, Larry Mikulski (traffic), Kerri Manley (site plan), Larry Halberstadt (engineer) present. Completion date for school scheduled for Fall 2003 – approximately 400 students. Thirty acre property at Corner of Lally and Alden Nash. Township engineer, Jim Hegarty present. Hegarty sent written opinion to Board, dated April 11, 2001 (attachment) with suggested alterations/additions/concerns; normal review issues – easement vs. ownership; need for new traffic study (old '97 study used); permits from county; water/state fire

marshal requirements; sanitary sewer; drainage issues; retention pond easement/run off direction. Resident Roger Odell questioned safety issue of only single access and general wisdom regarding an easement as opposed to actual ownership of land. Noted by Manley that research had been conducted on access from Lally only, Alden Nash only and both accesses. More traffic on Lally; wetland issue; steep grade. School's thought is that one access safer. School engineer believes curbing and gutter sufficient to handle runoff and route to ditching. Baird considers purchase of entrance property better than an easement. VanderSloot had determined the property to not be a corner lot, therefore ownership of 300' not required. White indicated that the school would be very happy to purchase 150' for the entrance.

Remaining Board concerns were in regard to parking, water runoff, one well as opposed to two, contaminated area on adjacent property. Stone noted desire for a safety exit. Discussion regarding the existing sewer easement to the North being used.

Motion by Baird, seconded by Stone, to table approval of Special Use Permit until 1.) Township Engineer's recommendations cleared up; 2.) submit engineering plans/figures to show sufficient drainage retention for entrance; 3.) receipt of revised site plan showing ownership of 150' on Alden Nash for entrance, easement for retention pond, and noting any second ingress/egress; and 4.) receipt of revised legal description. Motion carried .

2. Paula Wilbur – Invitation from West Michigan Chapter, North Country Trails Association to Participate in National Trails Day. National Trails Day – June 2, 2001 to be held in Lowell this year. Expect 300-500 attendees. Invitation to townships to set up a booth. Open Space Committee would like to be present, and would hand out brochure depicting currently available recreational opportunities in Vergennes – Stone to check with Lowell Township and City, and Community Recreation Group to see what all would like to do.
3. Designation of Township Attorney, Auditor, Planner. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta to designate Jim Doezema, Township Attorney; Phil Saurman of Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols and Carter as Township Auditor; and Jay Kilpatrick of Williams & Works as Township Planner. Motion carried.
4. Approval of Designated Depository Institutions. Motion by Baird, seconded by Stone, to approve the following designated depository institutions:

Fifth Third Bank (Old Kent Bank)
Huntington Bank
Kent County Money Max
Ionia County Bank

Motion approved.

5. Consideration of Resolution Regarding County Parks Millage. Dead issue – millage not being pursued.

6. Discussion Regarding Cemetery Issues – Sexton, Fallasburg Meeting. Township has been without a sexton for three years – have been getting by with Stone performing the duties with some assistance from volunteers/boy scouts. Sexton’s duties include corner stakes; placing and removal; remove vegetation; show sites; determine open sites. Township Clerk oversees Sexton. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman, to appoint Kerry Tap as sexton. Motion carried.

A meeting of the Board, Historical Commission and various entities will be held in early May at the Fallasburg Cemetery to examine the issues regarding the future use of the historic cemetery.

7. Discussion Regarding Planning Commission Vacancy. Colleen Lenihan has resigned from Planning Commission. Decision by Board to advertise for interest in the vacant spot on Planning Commission. Vacancy to be filled in May.

Citizens’ Comments:

Brian and Cheryl Kraft - discussion regarding driveways/private roads – Vergennes/Sudan. Krafts would like separate driveway with egress/ingress on Vergennes Road not Sudan. Board made decision at regular March meeting that private road (Sudan) must be used, not Vergennes Road. Kent County Road Commission had granted Kraft’s a permit for driveway off Vergennes, even though the property split was approved with a Sudan address. Nauta noted it is a safety issue; must not set a precedent. Stone mentioned the need to reduce driveway cuts onto public roads as township grows. Board reaffirmed March 2001 decision on use of private road for driveways when a property has access to a private road.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk