

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2010

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 pm in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present: Tim Wittenbach -Supervisor
Mari Stone -Clerk
Al Baird -Trustee
Rick Gillett -Trustee

Members Absent: Jean Hoffman -Treasurer

The agenda for the April 19, 2010 meeting was approved with the addition of the Road Funding Resolution by Wittenbach; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the March 15 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with a motion by Gillett; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

- 1. Group Child Care Application – Robin Eagle-** Robin Eagle has run a daycare program on Vergennes Road for the last year, and is looking to increase the number of children she can care for under her current license. She needs township approval in order to qualify for the upgrade from the state. She informed the board that her house, which is where the daycare operation will be conducting business, has plenty of room inside and has plenty of parking space. Baird motioned to set up a public hearing for next month's board meeting to address this request; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**
- 2. Nauta Request for Accessory Building –** The request is for issuance of an accessory building permit before the Nauta's begin construction on their house. Wittenbach asked if the Nauta's would be required to obtain a bond - Vandersloot commented that in the current economy, it is getting harder to obtain bonds. Stone presented the idea that the township try to find alternatives for performance guarantees. The board agreed, without a motion, that Stone research this further. The board also agreed, without a motion, that Jeanne Vandersloot should come up with some standards for applying the requirements of this Special Use in the ordinance. Stone motioned to grant Nauta's request based on their submitting a fiscal instrument and obtaining any necessary permits; seconded by Gillett. The board agreed to amend the motion by saying that the board should handle this request the same as did for Ed Rasch in 2008 or 09. **Motion Carried.**
- 3. LARA Board Appointment Approval Request-**Since December the LARA board has been trying to find a candidate to fill the vacant Community Member at Large seat. The board was informed that Lowell Township resident Gary Goff has agreed to fill the position. Stone motioned to approve Gary Goff; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

4. **Ag Preservation Board Request – Koning Farm** - Stone motioned to approve \$500 be sent to the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights Program for the Koning Farm that will be officially preserved in May; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**
5. **Designation of Township Attorney, Auditor, Engineer, Planner** - There are no proposed changes. Wittenbach motioned to stay with Jim Doezema with Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith as the Township’s attorney, Phil Saurman with Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols and Carter as the Auditor, Dave Austin with Williams & Works as the Engineer, and Bryan Wegenaar from Williams & Works as the Planner. There was some discussion about Wegenaar’s abilities to handle complicated issues, but it was noted that W&W has many planners at our disposal if needed. The motion was seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Approval of Designated Depository Institutions** - Stone motioned to stay with the current designated depository institutions, Huntington Bank and Kent County Money Max, along with First Bank, for the 10-11 Fiscal Year. The motion was seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**
7. **Discussion – Cemetery Policies** – The Cemetery Ordinance is not specific enough regarding who can purchase cemetery lots. Stone would like to see additions written that would specify who lots can be purchased and used for. The board expressed some concern on how the definition of extended family could be worded, and how lots are inherited. Stone will create some language and bring it back to the board next month for approval.
8. **Road Funding Resolution**-The state of Michigan is not willing to match federal funds this year. Ada Township has signed a resolution of protest to the state government stating that roads are a vital part of infrastructure and need to have proper funding to be properly maintained. The resolution specifically states that the funds for the roads should not be obtained by increased taxation, rather by a reallocation of funds. The subject of increasing tax rates was of particular concern to the board. Stone motioned to adopt the resolution; seconded by Gillett. Wittenbach said that he was not opposed to the resolution as long as it did not increase tax rates. **Motion Carried.**

Citizen’s Comments:

Wittenbach and Baird are planning on attending the Road Commission meeting in May. Stone will RSVP.

There were no citizen’s comments

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
