

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2009

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
Members Absent: Vern Nauta - Trustee
Jean Hoffman - Treasurer

The agenda for the April 20, 2009 meeting was approved as presented by Witenbach; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the March 10 meeting were approved. There was no treasurer's report – Stone noted that the 2008-2009 fiscal year has not been finalized, and she and Hoffman will have a full report at the May meeting. The bills were read and approved with a motion by Baird; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

Unfinished Business:

1. Ordinance to Reconfirm Planning Commission Establishment- Discussion on resident requirement to be on the planning commission – according to the ordinance, one person may be a non-resident and the board has the final say on any appointment to the planning commission. Baird motioned to adopt the Ordinance to Reconfirm Planning Commission Establishment; seconded by Stone. There was a roll call vote: Wittenbach, Stone, and Baird were all in favor. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Alden Nash, Bailey to 4-Mile-Repair Recommendation - There was brief discussion on where and what this proposal entails. Patching and seal coating from Bailey to 2-Mile; tear out and rebuild from 2-Mile to Lally. Township participation at 55% comes to \$200,000.00. Road Commission will cover the entire cost of Lally to 4-Mile. Wittenbach made a motion to proceed with the repairs, and to pay the township share after the Fallasburg project is paid off as agreed to by the KCRC. Stone seconded, and the **Motion Carried.**

2. Designation of Township Attorney, Auditor, Engineer, Planner - The board discussed the individuals currently occupy the positions and decided that they did not need to make any changes at this time. These include Jim Doezema of Foster Swift Collins and Smith, Attorney; Phil Saurman with Hungerford Aldrin Nichols and Carter, Auditor; Dave Austin of Williams & Works, Engineer; and Brian Wegenaar of Williams & Works (with Jay Kilpatrick), Planner. Baird motioned to allow those individuals/firms who currently fill these positions for the township to continue doing so; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

3. Approval of Designated Depository Institutions -The board discussed who the current depository institutions are. Huntington and Kent County Money Max is where funds are currently deposited. Stone motioned to approve Huntington, Kent County Money Max, and First

Bank as the designated depository institutions for the 09-10 fiscal year; seconded by Wittenbach.
Motion Carried.

4. Discussion- Cemetery Driveway - Wittenbach told the Board that the driveway loop around the cemetery is about 647 ft. He also found that it will cost the township \$5 per ft for crushed concrete. The board expressed concern about crushed concrete being able to support vehicles during the months that are wet and muddy – Wittenbach noted that it would not likely support the vault trucks. Instead, they would need to park out on the road if crushed concrete was used. The estimate of \$1,000 for this project is not firm, and the board decided to discuss this issue more at the next meeting.

5. Grattan/Vergennes Sewer Insurance-This issue was brought to the board’s attention so that they may be prepared to discuss it more in the upcoming months. The board was informed that the current insurance policy for sewer facilities only covers equipment above ground. To have insurance that covers below the ground as well would cause an increase from less than \$100 a year to about \$1,500. The township has a 10% participation in the Grattan and Vergennes Sewer System, and, as outlined in the agreement, currently insures equipment located on the Vergennes side. A question was posed regarding the legality and liability if, as Grattan has proposed, insurance coverage for the entire system is moved to their policy. Either way, the sewer fund (administered by Grattan) reimburses for the coverage. It was decided to consult the township’s attorney on this issue.

The Citizen’s comments were as follows:

Marsha Roth wanted to inform the board that she and her husband, Brian, dispute the township’s assessment that their property at the corner of Vergennes and Cumberland is less than 51% agriculture. She stated that the assessor told her that if the wooded area is being managed, that it would qualify for Ag. The board inquired about programs the woodlot might be enrolled in. She was not aware of any. She asked the board what she needs to do to have their property classified Agriculture. The board told her that since the Board of Review has already made their decision, the next step is an appeal to the Tax Tribunal to have it appealed. Roth said that she had sent the paperwork in already and was waiting for a date to be scheduled. Roth was given the contact information for several land management programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

Respectfully Submitted,
