

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2015

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
	Duane Rasch	-Trustee
	Rick Gillett	-Trustee
	Mari Stone	-Clerk
	Jean Hoffman	-Treasurer

The agenda for the meeting was approved with the addition of Fire Board and Private Road Ordinance discussions with a motion made by Hoffman, seconded Stone. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the March 16, 2014 Regular meeting was approved as presented. The Treasurer's report was read and approved as presented. The invoices were approved with a motion by Hoffman, seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

1. Aivars Sturis, Request for Private Road Waiver – Sturis needs three waivers to be able to sell a lot he split from his property on River Pine Dr, Pvt. In November of 2006, he was told that the lot would be buildable once several items were brought up to specifications. He presented invoices to show the work has been done, a letter from Fire Chief Frank Martin regarding the width and turn around radius and the road maintenance agreement. Neighbors were present and spoke in support. The Board noted that several more parcels on the road would be eligible to split at some time in the future, and each request will be addressed in the same manner. Motion by Stone, seconded by Gillett, to grant waivers of the Private Road Ordinance to Aivars Sturis for lack of ditches, required width, and 80 foot diameter turn around. **Motion Carried.**

2. Community Alliance Request for Grant Support – Stone explained that the Alliance had sponsored a community clean-up day last fall that was very well attended. They are asking the LACF for a matching grant to repeat it for four more years. The three governmental units are being asked to participate at \$1000 a year for four years. It was noted that Vergennes could not offer our own residents such a service for that amount. Gillett motioned to approve participation in the project as described. Hoffman seconded, and the **Motion Carried.**

3. Loughlin Request for Local Approval – License for Hard Cider Production – Bob Loughlin was present to explain the shift in their business. They will no longer bottle and sell cherry juice concentrate as Cherry Ridge, but are planning to produce hard cider under a new label. This requires a permit from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, and local approval is needed as part of that process. The Zoning Administrator has also reviewed and approved the

proposed business. Stone motioned to grant local approval, Gillett seconded, and the **Motion Carried**.

4. Designation of Township Attorney, Auditor, Engineer, and Planner – Wittenbach motioned to designate Jim Doezema, Attorney; Phil Saurman of Hungerford et.al., Auditor; Dave Austin of Williams & Works, Engineer; and the firm of Williams & Works for Planning services. Stone seconded, and the **motion carried**.

5. Approval of Designated Depository Institutions – Stone motioned to designate Kent County Money Max, Huntington Bank, and Mercantile Bank as approved depository institutions for the township. Hoffman seconded, and the **motion carried**.

6. Lowell Area Fire Authority Discussion - Wittenbach reported that the Authority has reviewed a Bidding and Purchasing Policy. Gillett suggested adding a reference to the Kent County Purchasing Department's reverse auction process. They are also adding a schedule of equipment replacement. The Authority is waiting to hear from the LACF about the air pack grant, and will hold off purchase until funding is secured. Also, the cost of administrative services currently provided by the city is being reviewed - this could be transferred to another entity or private service depending on the outcome.

Wittenbach also relayed to the board that a special meeting was held to discuss an anonymous letter sent to the Authority Board members alleging a misconduct of duties by Chief Martin. He said that it was determined that most of it was untrue. They spoke with Martin in Closed Session and Wittenbach shared that the Authority Board felt satisfied with his performance.

7. Planner Review – Private Road Ordinance Amendments – Discussion resulted in favor of amending the ordinance to remove the 50 home limit on Private Roads, and to provide more flexible standards to allow creativity in design. Regarding the current proposed development, it was felt that conditioning it to be private was a good option, as a private road could create more natural controls within the development. The Board desired to have a workshop meeting with the Planning Commission and Williams & Works to discuss desired outcomes. A tentative date was set for April 27th at 6pm, prior to the scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

Citizens Comments:

Pete Gustafson asked for a review of the proposed development and its history – a short discussion was held. Wittenbach also noted that the city is holding a workshop with the LCTV Advisory Board regarding the LCTV funds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
