

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Wittenbach.

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

Nauta, seconded by Stone made a motion to accept the agenda as amended with the addition of no. 10, Zoning Administrator Recommendations. **Motion approved.** The minutes of the regular Township Board meeting held March 10, 2003 were accepted as presented. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta, to approve bills as presented. **Motion carried.**

Guest Presentation: Fallasburg Historical Society – Mill Project. Society President Kerry Schubach spoke to the Board regarding funds allocated in the Spring of 2002 for an archeological study of the Fallasburg mill site ("wet dig") to discover any archeological artifacts in and around the mill site, determine what was housed on the site in the past and the potential for future use. The Society received three proposals: University of Massachusetts - \$26,000; Grand Valley State University - \$18,000; and Michigan Tech - \$16,000. The Society accepted the \$16,000 proposal of Michigan Tech. May 13 or May 14 will be an initial walk through and evaluation of the site with a beginning date of July 1, 2003 and finish date of December 2003. Mill at Saranac is nearly an identical match to the original Fallasburg mill. Feasibility of moving Saranac mill and relocating on the Fallasburg site is yet to be determined. The Board thanked Schubach for the current status and update on the Fallasburg mill project.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Fee Schedule Revisions.** Motion by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman to adopt revised fee schedule as presented, and to amend escrow fee policy as presented. **Motion approved.**

New Business:

1. **Special Use Permit, signs/Dock Ordinance Request - Murray Lake Association.** Motion by Baird, seconded by Nauta, to approve the special use permit for Murray Lake Association for the erection of two five foot signs and one 6 foot sign. **Motion carried.**

The Murray Lake Association would like a common dock ordinance for Vergennes Township and Grattan Township in an attempt to bring uniformity to the erection of docks around the lake, determination of number of docks allowed on each piece of frontage, and to avoid future conflicts. Township attorney had no problem with such an ordinance as long as it articulates it is only for Murray Lake and a determination is made regarding who is the enforcing body of such ordinance. Motion by Nauta, seconded by

Wittenbach, to table dock ordinance issue for further research and discussion. **Motion approved.**

2. **Special Use Permit, sign – Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witness Church.** Because of the topography of land slope church needs variance for a sign two feet higher than permitted by the ordinance. Motion by Stone, seconded by Hoffman, to allow special use permit regarding sign for Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witness Church as presented in application. **Motion carried.**
3. **Special Use Permit – Dean Alger, Communications Tower.** It was noted that the capacity of the WODJ tower on 3 mile had never been conclusively determined. Tower will not have strobe lights. Township attorney recommended granting special use permit application if approved site plan review provided. It was noted that there are three environmental studies required by FCC. Planning Commission recommended approval of special use permit as long as Alger had obtained soil bore results; work with Township Attorney Doezema regarding an antenna removal agreement; notarized removal agreement, deed, and survey of the tower location with easement; prepare footings and FAA permit renewal in place. All items accomplished except the FAA permit renewal and that will be accomplished shortly. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Stone, to approve special use permit application as submitted by Dean Alger to erect cell/communication tower based on FAA renewal of structure and two additional antennas. **Motion approved.**
4. **Open Space Citizens Committee – Progress Report and Request for Support.** Glen Hendricks presented a progress report for the Open Space Citizens Committee. Committee has held workshops on estate planning; water quality protection/habitats; solicited citizen input; received grant to develop open space ordinance; lobbied for improved public access to the river at Fallasburg; and held workshop on open space ordinance for citizens and developers. The Open Space Citizens Committee requests support from the Vergennes Township Board for its filing for a grant application to Englehart Fund for dollars to conduct a natural features inventory of property within Vergennes Township (all at discretion of property owner). Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta, that Vergennes Township Board supports the Open Space Citizens Committee grant application to the Englehart Fund for monies to conduct a features inventory of property within Vergennes Township, and also distribute literature at community events. **Motion carried.**
5. **Fallasburg and Downes Intersection Work Estimate.** Received engineering study for Fallasburg and Downes Intersection work – 1200 feet of pavement/curb & gutter – Township cost = \$25,000. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Baird, to authorize Tim Wittenbach to sign Kent County work order for road work on Fallasburg and Downes as designated in engineering study to be constructed in 2003. **Motion approved.**
6. **Telecom Right-of-Way Act.** Public Act 48 of 2002/Metro Act. Tabled matter until 5/3/03 meeting for further discussion and research.

7. **Approval of Designated Depository Institutions.** Formality which is necessary annually. Motion by Baird, seconded by Stone, to approve the following as designated depository institutions for Vergennes Township: Fifth Third Bank; Huntington Bank; Kent County Money Max; Ionia County Bank. **Motion carried.**
8. **Designation of Township Attorney, Auditor, Engineer, Planner.** Motion by Baird, seconded by Nauta, to redesignate all the same individuals in their respective positions of Township Attorney (Jim Doezema), Township Auditor (Phil Saurman), Township Engineer (Dave Austin) and Township Planner (Jay Kilpatrick). **Motion approved.**
9. **Historical Commission.** Some discussion regarding Tom Medendorp and his term ending for service on Historical Commission. Board has not heard from Medendorp. There are six members on commission now – maximum of seven and a minimum of five.
10. **Zoning Administrator Recommendations.** Language problems in ordinance – should say "Township Board" instead of "Zoning Board of Appeals". Wittenbach made a motion, seconded by Stone, to send matter to Planning Commission recommending language changes requesting Planning Commission takes this matter up at time of another public hearing. **Motion carried.**

Citizens Comments:

There was discussion regarding the Historical Ordinance, and it was decided that the Board will undertake some research and discuss issue at next month's regular township board meeting. Question regarding Grindle Road at Rolling Creek and Kent County Road Commission orange survey stakes marking all right of ways. Boy Scout Troop No. 104 requested to use Township Hall on Tuesday 4/24/03. Remove real estate for sale signs posted in front of Township Hall. Tony Assalta representing American Cancer Society informed Township of a 5/8/03 fashion show fundraiser to be held at Meadow View Farm. Johnson's of Meadow View Farm can accommodate all parking off highway. No approval from Township is necessary - Kent County Sheriff Department has been informed. Discussion regarding land owned by Brian Mooney and AT&T application for 195' cell tower – justification study will be needed. A neighboring resident in attendance noted his extreme displeasure for this cell tower – obstruction of view from his home.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Township Clerk