

Vergennes Township  
Regular Meeting Township Board  
August 15, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call – Rasch, Hoffman, Wittenbach, Stone, and Gillett were all present. None were absent.  
Also present was Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator.

The agenda was approved as presented with a motion by Gillett, support by Rasch.

The minutes were accepted as presented. The Treasurer's report was read. The bills were approved with a motion by Hoffman, support by Gillett. Motion passed.

Zoning Administrator's report – Jeanne Vandersloot went over some points in her monthly report to the Board. Two items in her report are on tonight's agenda. There were no further questions from the Board members.

**Unfinished Business –**

**1. Concrete Pathway in Flat River Setback – 13922 Thompson Drive**

As a follow up to previous Board discussions regarding a 6' wide concrete path down the bluff from the home at 13922 Thompson Dr. to the river, Vandersloot has discussed options with the township attorney. It was suggested a committee from the Township meet with the homeowner and his attorney to investigate a solution. Mari Stone, Clerk, disclosed she is a neighbor, and member of the same homeowner's association as Mr. Blair. She would like to be excused from any discussion or voting on this matter. Hoffman motions to excuse and remove Stone from any deliberations and decisions in this matter, Gillett supports. Motion Passed.

Wittenbach made a motion to have a committee, including Wittenbach, Gillett, and Vandersloot, meet with Mr. Blair and his attorney in this matter. Hoffman supports. Motion passed.

**2. Accessory Building Prior to Home – 11435 Lally**

Adam and Kimberly Page are property owners. They have owned property about 5 years. They put the shed up to store boat items. There was a house on the property but it was demolished before the shed was installed. They checked ordinances regarding setbacks, etc... but were not aware of the one that required a house first. They do have house plans for a cottage but were concerned about taxes and upkeep. They live 6 miles from lake and are close enough to go home every day. There is no timeframe to build the house. They bought the property more as an investment. They have cleared a lot of junk from the property and lake front. Mr. Page was on the Murray Lake Association Board last year. There have been no comments about the shed

from anyone. They are not aware of any properties on the Grattan Township side of lake with accessory buildings without houses.

Stone – Vergennes Township’s ordinance mirrors Grattan Township’s. If we ok the building from our side, we are setting a precedent. We would need to talk to Grattan Township to see what their opinion is.

Vandersloot – Looking at our ordinance, an agreement could be used allowing an Accessory Building prior to construction of a residence could be drawn up, but we would need a definitive timeline for building the house. A yearly review would then be needed. We would also need some type of escrow in case the building needed to be removed.

The owners are not against the escrow and would be willing to deposit money.

Stone made a motion to table decision in this matter until we could talk to Grattan Township. Gillett supports. **Motion passes.**

### **3. Planning Commission Vacancy**

Wittenbach has reviewed three applications received. He nominated Bob Rogers to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Gillett supported. He feels Bob would do his homework and in genuinely interested in township matters. **Motion Passes.**

The other applicants would be good candidates as well. Stone will keep their applications on file in case any other openings arise.

## **New Business**

### **1. Envision Engineering – Site Plan Review**

Representative from Envision was present. He had preliminary plans for the building that he drew. Regular commercial drawings will be done for the permit process. The building will be used to store packaging materials, skids, etc... They are asking for a waiver of the materials on front of building. The siding will match current building and it is not visible from the road. Stormwater calculations need to be approved by the Township Engineer prior to building.

Gillett made a motion to approve site plan with a condition that the storm water calculations meet the Township Engineer’s approval and that the waiver of building front materials be granted by the Board. Stone supported. **Motion passed.**

Jeanne Vandersloot indicated she received an email from our Engineer and stormwater calculations were approved.

### **2. Envision Engineering – PA 198 Request**

Envision is applying for PA 198. In order to approve the request, the property needs to be in an industrial district. A public hearing will be set for the September 19, 2016 Township Board meeting to create the district. Once that is done, the application for PA198 can be approved at the same meeting. A motion was made by Gillett to set a public hearing for September 19, 2016. Hoffman Supported. **Motion passed.**

**3. Budget Amendment/Addition – Fire and Rescue Equipment Fund**

Board members reviewed the memo from Stone and Hoffman regarding a separate account for fire equipment purchases. It was a suggestion from the auditor to help budget for a large expense like this. \$10,000 from each state revenue sharing check will be deposited in this account up to \$50,000 per fiscal year. Wittenbach motioned to set up a fund for fire equipment purchases and to amend the budget to create a Fire and Rescue Equipment Fund, in the amount of \$50,000 for FY 2016-17. Gillett supported. **Motion passed.**

**4. Noise Ordinance – Planning Commission Recommendation**

The noise ordinance was approved by the Planning Commission in a 2-1 vote. This will be difficult to regulate. It is in place mainly to give law enforcement something to use to enforce complaints. Discussion moved to fireworks complaints. The state law says fireworks are allowed the day before, day of, and day after a holiday. The Township can regulate any other days they are allowed.

Vandersloot thinks Otisco Township has something in their ordinance about fireworks, and will look into it. She noted that this is a stand-alone ordinance and the Board can amend it to address fireworks at a later date.

Gillett made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-0815, also known as the Noise Ordinance, as presented. Stone supported. Roll Call: Yes – Stone, Hoffman, Wittenbach, Rasch, and Gillett. None opposed. **Motion Passed.**

**Citizen Comments**

Lynn Mason, Democratic candidate for 86<sup>th</sup> District State Representative, was in attendance to introduce herself. She handed out flyers with her website and email information. She feels she knows the people of the district better than the other candidates. She has 40 years of community service. Believes that if you want to represent the district, you should be involved with all aspects of the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next regular meeting is set for September 19, 2016.

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk