

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 16, 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
 Jean Hoffman -Treasurer
 Al Baird -Trustee
 Rick Gillett -Trustee

The agenda for the August 16, 2010 meeting was approved with the addition of Mark Fleet and his inspection of 1149 Flat River Dr. by Gillett; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the July 19 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report and bills were read. The board noted that Addorio was incorrectly paid twice. They were approved with this correction by Hoffman; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Kent District Library – Annual Report – Eric DeHaan, Charles Myers-Eric Dehaan and Charles Myers were the representatives of Kent District Library sent to inform the Township about challenges that the library system is now facing. In addition to the handout the board was given, the representatives stated that, even though the economy is hurting, that library attendance is up. This is in spite of a reduction of funding. They also informed the board that the library system has had some reforms since last year's annual report. The library system, in order to keep within their budget, has eliminated some management positions through attrition, streamlined the system through self-checkout systems, has developed a centralized phone center to free up staff, and has re-negotiated its telecommunication's contract. Charles Myers told the board that the Englehardt branch is planning to expand the current building.

Unfinished Business:

1. Parking Lot Repair Estimates-Wittenbach had looked into the issue of repairing the Township's parking lot. After looking over the proposals, Stone motioned to use both of Harding Enterprise's proposals to repair the Township's parking lot; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Pink Arrow Project 5k Run/Walk – Request to Close Vergennes 9/11 at 7:15 am - Amy Bush, a representative from the project, came to obtain the permission of the board to close Vergennes Rd. They have already worked with the KCSD, who recommends closing Vergennes from Alden Nash to Cumberland, detouring traffic south on those roads and east or west over Foreman for approximately an hour and a half. The runners and walkers will be going from the football stadium across Vergennes to the Wittenbach Center and then back again. Baird was concerned about closing a major artery of traffic, but noted that with the hour of day and short duration it would likely not be a major disruption. Stone said that she would follow up with the Road Commission. Hoffman motioned to approve the outlined plan to close Vergennes from Alden Nash to Cumberland on 9/11; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

2. Resolution Establishing Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day-The board annually passes a

POW/MIA recognition day on every 3rd Friday in September. Baird motioned to establish an annual POW/MIA Recognition Day without needing board approval every year; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

3. Review of PA 198 Application Procedures-The township has currently received no new applications. Wittenbach attended a supervisor's meeting and was informed that Kent County is trying to standardize its application procedures. The board had no objections to the Township's current PA 198 application procedures.

4. Discussion – 2011 Road Projects-There are no new road projects. However, there are 2 miles scheduled to be paved on Lincoln Lake. There will be a County public hearing on this issue.

5. Mark Fleet and his inspection of 1149 Flat River Dr.-Mark Fleet is requesting the board's permission to board up the house at the address of 1149 Flat River Dr. Since the house has been deemed an unsafe building, safety measures, such as boarding the house can be put in place without the owner's permission. Mark Fleet did not just take action because the original cost is paid by the Township before the owners pay the cost. The board considered demolition, but decided that they may not get the money back. The two primary concerns that the board had were that if they gave enough time for the legal and financial parts to work, and to protect against unlawful entry. The board decided that they needed to send out a bid to builders to board up the house. Gillett motioned to put a bid out for a builder to board up the house and clean up the rubble, and to have Mark Fleet send a letter to the owners,; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

Citizen's Comments:

The board received information that Mr. Dawson had complied with the Township's demands. Mark Fleet had looked at the building and was in contact with Mr. Dawson. A survey had been conducted and stakes had been put out to mark where the proposed building site lies. However, Mark Fleet said that he would need to issue a new permit for the materials used at the new building site.

The Harding property is currently not in compliance with code. It was zoned residential, but is being used commercially. Mr. Harding is running a landscaping business. He wants 1/2 to 2/3 of the building to be used for parking his commercial equipment and the rest of the building for private use. Mr. Harding had a petition signed for an accessory building by his neighbors. The board stated that the neighbors needed to be notified.

The Henschke property now has a fence and gate put up. The court is going to make a decision on whether it will allow the Township to go in and make the house inhabitable or not.

Stone had received information regarding the rail trail storage. A committee is following up on trespassing issues. Currently, the rail cars, which are sitting on the tracks, have until next year for them to remain on the tracks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,