

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 17, 1998

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Marsha Wilcox at 7:00 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present:	Marsha Wilcox	-	Supervisor
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Sue Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee
	Mark Weber	-	Trustee

A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Stone to approve the minutes of the July 20, 1998 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Hoffman and accepted as read. A motion was made by Weber and seconded by Geiger-Hessler to approve the bills including Williams & Works invoice for Comprehensive Plan project. Motion carried. Drafts 2864 to 2894 were issued.

Zoning Officer Report. No report. Wilcox read a letter from Debbie Rashid, Zoning Administrator, offering her resignation as Township Zoning Administrator, effective September 21, 1998. Motion made by Stone to accept resignation of Debbie Rashid as Zoning Administrator, seconded by Hoffman. Motion carried.

Permit Activity. Six single family permits for month to date. Total permits are up by 15 from August 1997.

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Consideration of FR District Dock, Stair and Boardwalk Ordinance.** Changes have been made since last meeting. Latest draft of ordinance dated 8/3/98. The ordinance was originally requested by the administrators of the state Natural Rivers Program, as the Township regulates structures on the land and the State only the water. Steve Sutton, representative of DEQ, requested that the Township make the boardwalk/stairs language more definitive. Neither the township nor the state wish to control property owner rights, but are concerned about preservation of banks, lay of land and river. Motion by Mark Weber to adopt the FR District Dock Ordinance as presented, seconded by Hoffman. Motion approved unanimously.
- 2. Clerk's Software Programs Changes.** Stone attended a workshop, and still has some concerns regarding the new software. Price will go up from \$799 to \$1299 next year. Owner/developer Jerry Scripps has offered to lower support cost for Workhorse to \$400 if it is decided to stay with Workhorse for the rest of the Fiscal Year. Motion by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Hoffman, to remain with the Workhorse software program this year and consider new software next year. Motion approved.
- 3. Kazemier Situation Revisited.** A mobile home which was a temporary Special

Exception Use from 1982 has created a violation of the ordinance by having two homes on one parcel of land. The most recent history on this situation goes back to July of 1997, when the Board gave the Kazemiers an extension on the removal date of June 1, 1998. No action was taken by the Kazemiers. Since June, Wilcox has been in communication with Kazemiers--offered an extension for the removal of the trailer of 4/1/99 with an executed agreement and bond. Kazemiers suggested an extension of 4/1/2000. During discussion several members expressed a willingness to extend as long as an agreement is signed, and a bond is purchased by the Kazemiers to cover any expenses the Township may incur in order to insure compliance with the ordinance. The Board agreed that Wilcox will contact Kazemier's one last time and report back at the September 21, 1998 meeting.

New Business:

1. **1999 Road Commission Planned Projects and Expenditures.** Road Commission requested that Board list possible projects for next year to help them with their budget for 1999. Township now pays \$60,000 annually towards completed projects. Current invoices are for the paving of Bennett, and for the re-engineering of Downes and Burroughs. Stone questioned the Road Commission's summary of current projects regarding Burroughs. The way it reads, it may be that they believe that the Township is planning to pave Burroughs. The signed work order is for engineering, ditching and graveling only. After some discussion, the Board decided to advise the Road Commission that Vergennes Township will make no requests for paving at this time and will continue to follow the Road Advisory Board's recommendations/priorities (see attached).
2. **1997-98 FY Audit Report.** Phil Sauerman, Township auditor, reviewed his June 1998 annual report of the Township funds. He reported "good accounting recordkeeping" and a "healthy fund balance." Just under \$300,000 in fund balance which approximates one year operations in reserve. Few adjustments were needed. Sent auditor informational letter to the Township stating all is well.
3. **Annes (Fallasburg Park & 4-Mile Road) Bond Extension.** Live in a trailer on their property while building a home, but need another year extension. Motion made by Hoffman, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to approved Bond Extension (\$5,000) for another year. Motion approved.
4. **Parking Lot Expansion Project Report.** Motion made by Stone and seconded by Weber to approve and award excavation and paving of parking lot expansion project to Bieri Excavating at a cost of \$11,700.00 and Exxcel Asphalt Paving at a cost of \$9,973.95. Motion carried.
5. **Hiring of Receptionist.** Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Weber, to approve employing Star Palazak as permanent receptionist at the Township Hall. Motion carried.

Discussion Items:

Supervisor Wilcox recommended asking Planning Commission to declare a moratorium on installation of any additional/new cell phone towers at this time and, when time allows, enact an

ordinance for regulation of cell towers. There have been no applications for any cell towers to the Township Board to date.

Discussion regarding an escrow policy for developers' applications for site plan reviews to cover publishing, fees for planning commission members, recordkeeping. Currently a state court of appeals decision dated 7/31/98 involving Cannon Township has left Vergennes escrow policy technically illegal. It is unknown if an appeal to state supreme court will be made. Township attorney suggested the Board set a fixed fee with graduated amounts per number of parcels. The Planning Commission will be asked for their input.

Kent County Road Commission is developing a policy for non-motorized facilities within townships; i.e. hiking/biking trails; rails to trails, etc. In the draft sent to the Township, if we build it, the township is liable even if it is in their right-of-way.

Lowell Fire Department conducted fire safety review of Township Hall and gave it a safe bill of health other than covering attic access in second floor.

Citizens Comments:

Mr. Thompson stated that the Historical District Commission has completed a new ordinance and sent a copy to the State. Their ordinance closely follows the state ordinance. Copies to Township Board and Planning Commission. Ms. Miller asked about copies of Vergennes Township Ordinance in library in Lowell. There are presently two copies at the library. Tim Wittenbach, who won the August Primary race for Supervisor, was present and introduced.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,