

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2003

As amended

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

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

Motion by Stone, second by Nauta, to approve the Agenda for August 18, 2003 as written with the addition of Item No. 4 – Jim Clark. **Motion approved.** Minutes of the July 21, 2003 regular meeting approved as presented. Motion by Hoffman, second by Baird, to approve bills as read. **Motion approved.**

Public Hearing – Wireless Communications Ordinance.

Public Hearing opened at 7:05 p.m. No comments. Public Hearing closed at 7:06 p.m.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Ordinance Amendments** – Wireless Communications & Ch. 3 Correction. Motion by Nauta, second by Stone, to approve the Wireless Communications **Ordinance 2003-4** as written.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Baird, Hoffman, Wittenbach, Stone, Nauta

Motion approved.

Motion by Baird, second by Nauta, to approve **Ordinance 2003-5**, making a technical correction to Chapter 3 Zoning Districts to read “Township Board” instead of “Zoning Board of Appeals.”

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Baird, Hoffman, Wittenbach, Stone, Nauta

Motion approved.

2. **2004 Road Projects.** Road Commission Meeting with Vergennes Township on September 11, 2003 to discuss road projects for the coming year. Wittenbach to ask Road Commission for suggestions of roads in need of regrading. Board’s list of roads for regrading consist of:

- Heim
- Ike
- Montcalm, S of Flat River Drive
- Cumberland, S of Bailey
- Conservation, W of Fero
- Biggs, S of Downes
- Bergin, N to 2 Mile, and
- Boynton, between Bailey and Vergennes.
- Boynton, N of 3-Mile

Discussion to hold off on Ashley at this time. Engineering study completed on Three Mile - goal to pave in Summer 2004. Stone will send Road Commission this list for discussion on 9/11/03.

New Business:

1. **Rescind Special Use Permit for Terry Horrigan, Landscape Business – Downes.** Sale of property did not go through. Motion by Stone, second by Nauta, to rescind special use permit for Terry Horrigan, Landscape Business. **Motion Carried.**

2. **Open Space Citizens Committee Update** - Kate Dernocoeur and several members of the Citizens Committee were present to bring the Board up to date regarding a natural features inventory project. In April the Open Space Citizens Committee requested permission from the Board to request monies to pay for a natural features study within Vergennes Township. The Committee has two expert people on line and ready to begin. Rob Bajema from Aquinas would complete a scenic survey of natural features, i.e. mapping procedure, costing approximately \$1800. Randy Van Draight from Calvin would conduct a natural feature survey which is more in depth and would map ecologically significant areas within the township at an approximate cost of \$9,695. These surveys have a potential benefit to the landowner by documenting any scenic natural feature located on their property. No one would enter property of any township resident without their approval. Residents would be asked/notified by letter and/or telephone call. To date the Open Space Citizens Committee has for or received the following donations:

- Wege Foundation donated \$1,500
- Lowell Area Community Fund grant request of \$5,000
- Evenson Fund through Grand Rapids Foundation pending donation of \$2,500
- Frey Foundation donation of \$1,250 but requires matching Vergennes Township Funds

The Open Space Citizens Committee requests the Board’s blessing to proceed with inventory studies and also matching funds of \$1,250 required by Frey Foundation. Discussion by Board followed. Master Plan survey of township residents had a 36% response and denoted a desire to retain natural features of the township. Inventories are tools for preservation and set standard for years in the future. Motion by Stone, second by Hoffman, to approve continuation of the Open Space Citizens Committee Natural Features Inventory project and to match the \$1,250 as requested by the Frey Foundation. Baird requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Hoffman, Stone, Nauta

No - Wittenbach, Baird

Motion approved.

1. **Request from Thomas Rieger – Accessory Building Prior to Residence.** Has owned property south of Three Mile on the east side of Lincoln Lake since ~~the 1980's~~ 1974. 2.67 acres – RA. Plans to build retirement residence in the future, perhaps as far out as 8 years, but wants to erect an accessory building now. Ordinance does not allow structure on land without a residence. Discussion regarding options. Motion by Baird, second by Nauta, to grant permission to Mr. Rieger to build an accessory building on his property under the following restrictions: \$5,000 assurance bond in name of township to be kept in place until residence erected; letter stating exact usage (personal storage) and plan for building; and complying with an annual inspection of building. **Motion approved.**

4. **Jim Clark.** Received citation regarding bus for sale with no engine placed at road (Four Mile) for over a year. Anonymous complaints. Prior minutes state that form must be filled out or complaint may or may not be investigated. Clark wants wording “may or may not investigate” removed from the complaint form. Baird made a motion, second by Wittenbach, to make it a Township policy that complaint forms must be signed by complaining party or ~~Wittenbach~~ the Supervisor, or ~~Vandersloot~~ the Zoning Administrator in order for investigation to occur. **Motion carried.** Possible solutions

