

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2013

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

Members Absent: Al Baird -Trustee
Rick Gillett -Trustee

The agenda for the August 19, 2013 meeting was approved as presented. Motion made by Tim Wittenbach; seconded by Jean Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the July 15, 2013 meeting were approved with an amendment stating that one fire truck will be replacing two trucks.

Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved as presented. Motion made by Jean Hoffman; seconded by Mari Stone. **Motion Carried.**

Public Hearing - SEUP for MichWave Tower on Hewitt Property

The public hearing opened at 7:10. There were no public comments. The public hearing closed at 7:11.

Unfinished Business:

1. SEUP for MichWave Tower on Hewitt Property-

Glenn Watson informed the board that all the permits, including building and electrical permits have been approved. The inspections on the tower have been approved as well. Stone commented that she thinks it would be nice to have a separate ordinance for small wireless communications towers. Currently the township uses the Cell Tower Ordinance for all towers in the township, and she believes that in many cases it is overly restrictive. Hoffman motioned to have the Planning Commission look at the Cell Tower Ordinance for lighter antennas and/or wireless communication towers; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.** Stone motioned to approve the SEUP for the MichWave tower on the Hewitt property; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Fallasburg Covered Bridge Fire Retardant Project- KCRC-

The board discussed a proposal to apply a fire retardant to the Fallasburg Bridge in cooperation with the Road Commission. They also are looking into installing lights/cameras. The Board agreed that it would be good use of township funding to protect the bridge. Stone motioned to

participate with Kent County Road Commission for a Fallasburg Covered Bridge protection project; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

2. 2014 Road Maintenance Programming-

The board discussed the recent crushed limestone application on McPherson Road. The board has not received any complaints from the citizens living on that road. The board would like to continue using limestone on the gravel roads in the township. Wittenbach motioned to budget approximately the same amount for next year, which will cover about two miles; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

3. Kent County Parks Request-

The township received an email from the Director of the Kent County Parks Department about a piece of property that is currently for sale on the south side of Cover Bridge Road. This property would be used to expand Fallasburg Park. The property is about twenty acres. The parks director asked if the township might be able to contribute to a purchase. No decisions were made regarding funding assistance, but the township will support the parks department request to the Lowell Area Community Fund for a grant to purchase the land to add to Fallasburg Park.

Other Business:

Wittenbach updated the board about the Fire Authority. There was not a Fire board meeting in the month of August. The department has started to look for a new truck. The board discussed some concerns and said they support a joint meeting of the three municipalities; Vergennes Township, Lowell Township and the City of Lowell.

Stone asked the board what they wanted her to do with DEQ complaints. In the past they have been put in the Assessing file. Stone wanted to know if the board wanted a copy of the complaints. The board discussed this and said they would like to receive a copy of the complaints and that the complaints can stay in the Assessing file.

Citizen's Comments:

Glenn Watson asked the board about the management of the walking paths in the township. Stone gave a brief summary of the three entities involved; Lowell Area Trailway, governed by LARA, Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trail, and the North Country Trail. These groups are working on various paths around the Lowell community, and Stone explained how they are meant to interconnect. At the current time, volunteers are planning and maintaining them.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
