

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2000

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:03 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present:	Tim Wittenbach	-	Supervisor
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Susan Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee
	Mark Weber	-	Trustee

A motion was made by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Weber, to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2000 regular meeting. Motion carried. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Motion by Weber, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to approve bills as read. Drafts 3959 through 4013 were issued.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Saurman, CPA, discussed his report regarding 1999-2000 annual audit. Saurman commented that the Fund Balance is healthy and well above generally accepted accounting practices, and that the clerk and treasurer do a great job. Changes in accounting requirements within the next two years include depreciation of assets, i.e. buildings, land, equipment.

New Business:

1. Lowell Wesleyan Church Request. Don Schneider presented information regarding a 30th Anniversary Tent Revival for Lowell Wesleyan Church to be held September 22, 23, and 24, 2000 on the grounds of the Lowell Airport. They hope to have 200-250 attendees on each day. Sent a petition around to neighboring homeowners. One resident concerned about the volume of the music. Church agreed to point the speakers to the west towards the cemetery and end music at 9:00 p.m. City of Lowell approved event provided they were beneficiary to a one million dollar insurance policy against liability and that the grounds be returned to pristine condition. Schneider has looked into and solved handicap access, parking delineation and overflow parking with shuttle buses. He agreed to a request by the Board to erect no parking signs on both east and west sides of Lincoln Lake Road and be no hindrance to the Lowell Airport Fly-In to be held the 24th in the morning. Stone made a motion to approve event as amended to provide for liability insurance policy to be raised to two million and Vergennes Township is added as an additional insured along with the City of Lowell. Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
2. Request for Accessory Building Prior to Home - Bruce Doll, 2193 Fallasburg Park Drive, Would like accessory building to store personal belongings as they will have to vacate old home before the new home can be occupied. VanderSloot indicated Doll has applied for a building permit and that there is no problem with meeting setback requirement.

Small problem over address; county and township have different numbers. This will be corrected before permit is issued. Has purchased a bond as required by Township under these circumstances. Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Weber, to grant Bruce Doll's request for permit to erect accessory building prior to building of home (November 2000) to facilitate storage of personal belongings in the interim. Motion approved.

3. YMCA Corporate Sports Event at Fallasburg Park – Jessica Beilman. Request by YMCA Corporate Sports Event (Walk/Run Competition) at Fallasburg Park to be held September 16, 2000 from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Sheriff's office contacted for safety coverage of event. Letter mailed to surrounding residents September 1, 2000 informing them of the event and alternate methods for entering and exiting home property. It was noted that residents upset in previous years regarding ingress and egress to their homes. Board requested that Vergennes Township be added as an additional insured on the liability insurance policy acquired by the YMCA for this event. Weber made a motion, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to grant permission to the YMCA for this event provided Township is added as an additional insured of the liability insurance policy acquired for this event. Motion carried.
4. Farmstead Drive Preliminary Approval. Planning Commission recommended approval of private road off of approximately 9700 Vergennes. Wilcox property. Township attorney requested a few changes to the agreement, which have been accomplished. Prein & Newhof requested a sealed plan after everything finalized; soil borings. Drainage calculations sent to Hegarty for approval. Weber made a motion, seconded by Stone, to grant preliminary approval of Farmstead Drive pending receipt of sealed print and approval of drainage calculations. Motion approved.
5. Road Commission Meeting Review – 2000 Projects and Expenditures. Discussion regarding annual review of Township roads with Kent County Road Commission to be conducted September 12, 2000 at 3:30 p.m. Open forum between parties for discussion about old and new projects, costs, balances owing, future projects for the Township. Township pledged to the County that they would pay off in December 2000 the \$63,000 balance owing on Bennett project in order that the Grindle project could begin. Agreed to pay off Grindle project in December 2001. 85% of residents in and around Burroughs signed petition requesting paving of Burroughs. Wittenbach indicated it was his personal agenda for the Board to attempt to focus on upgrading and improving all the gravel roads in the Township (30 miles total). Request that Board look into and talk to the Road Commission regarding "rumble" strips at intersection of Bailey and Parnell. The Board will hold a Special Meeting on September 7 to further discuss proposed projects, and will ask the Road Advisory Board to provide input for this purpose.
6. Resolution Regarding POW-MIA Recognition Day. Board asked to adopted resolution to designate September 15, 2000/POW-MIA Recognition Day. Had participated four years ago with same. Stone made a motion, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to adopt resolution 2-2000, recognizing September 15, 2000, POW-MIA Recognition Day. Motion carried.

7. Jeanne VanderSloot's letter to the Board regarding Ordinance Amendment pertaining to Mobile Home section of Ordinance. Due to changes in Mobile Home Act and certain court cases where township zoning ordinances have not been upheld, we need to enact amendment as quickly as possible. Township attorney is reviewing sample ordinances and language and will send draft to Board. Stone made a motion, seconded by Hoffman, to request further study (next planning commission meeting/9/5/00) on this ordinance amendment and make recommendation to Board as soon as possible. Motion approved.
8. Weber made a motion, Geiger-Hessler seconded, that Board approves language as presented regarding November 7th ballot question pertaining to reestablishing annual meeting for Vergennes Township.

Yes – Wittenbach, Weber, Geiger-Hessler, Stone No - Hoffman

Motion carried.

Citizens Comments:

Justin Michael commented on possible allocation cost of pavement of roads to those who actually use the roads – special assessments. Residents requested Board to compile approximate cost of paving Burroughs Road and appraised share by each resident by home rather than feet of frontage; all to share in cost of paving road.

Some discussion regarding moratoriums on accepting any requests for variances regarding mobile homes may not be upheld in court of law.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk