

**MINUTES OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 1997**

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

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

A motion was made by Weber and seconded by Hoffman to approve two sets of minutes; i.e. the November 17, 1997 regular Township Board meeting, and the minutes of a Special Joint Meeting of the Planning Commission and the Township Board held on the same date.

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. Drafts 2535 to 2582 were issued.

No new single family residence permits for the month of November.

Year-to-date single family residences:	42
Year-to-date total permit activity:	79
Previous year total permits:	115

Zoning Officer Report - Discussion among the Board members regarding various pending issues.

Old Business:

Purchase or lease of a new copier for the Township will be incorporated into the 1998 Township budget.

New Business:

1. **Authorization to Collect 1998 Summer Taxes for LAS, GRCC, KISD.** A motion was made by Geiger-Hessler to give the Vergennes Township treasurer authorization to collect 1998 Summer Taxes for Lowell Area Schools, Grand Rapids Community College and Kent Intermediate School District. Motion seconded by Stone and motion carried.

2. **Community Development Block Grant Allocations - 1998-99.** Several groups have inquired at the township regarding block grant allocation for next year: Lowell Ambulance, Historical Society. Dating back to the early 1990's, the Historical Society has received approximately \$24,900 from the community grant allocations. At present, there is \$445.00 left from the schoolhouse project which will be allocated back to the township's allocation of community block grant funds. \$1,000 was previously allocated to the North Kent Transit Authority/Hope Network. Through December, most of these funds have already been used. Tom Tilma advised Stone that a further \$500 allocation would hold the Township through June 1998. It was also suggested that the Board should consider allocating \$2,000 to Hope Network for 1998. There would still be \$12,000 to \$13,000 left to be allocated toward barrier-free access at the township hall. Discussion related to the 1998 allocation and how it should be spent was tabled until January. A motion was made by Weber to allocate an additional \$500.00 to Hope Network West Michigan for the 1997-98 fiscal year for Vergennes Township. Motion seconded by Stone. Motion approved.
3. **Planning Commission Appointments.**
Weber made a motion, seconded by Stone, to reappoint Tim Howard, Marsha Wilcox and Bob Pfaller to two year terms on the Planning Commission ending in December of 1999. Motion carried.
4. **ZBA Appointments.**
Geiger-Hessler made a motion which was seconded by Weber to appoint Kerry Tap to a two year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals, ending in December of 1999, and Roger Odell as alternate, also to a two year term ending in December of 1999. Motion carried.
5. **1998 Meeting Dates.** A short discussion between board members regarding meeting dates in 1998.
6. **Approval of Contract with Williams & Works for Comprehensive Plan.** Bill Fisher of Williams & Works briefly outlined the contract to the Board. It is a three party contract between the township, Williams & Works and Kent County. Typical professional service contract. Total for whole project: \$28,589.00 which includes one community survey, labor, expenses. Additional meetings requested by client not scheduled cost \$125.00 @ meeting. Cost for extra copies of comprehensive Plan after completion will be approximately \$10-\$20 each. There will be a monthly invoice sent for approval to the Planning Commission, Board approval and delivery to Kent

County for payment. Larry Nix is the Williams & Works Representative. Mari Stone to be the Township Representative on this project. A start-up meeting of the Board,
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Planning Commission and W & W representative was scheduled from 7:00 to 9:00 on January 26, 1998. Motion made by Weber to accept the contract proposed by William & Works for a Comprehensive Plan for Vergennes Township pending a thorough reading/comparison by the Vergennes Township Representative to determine everything desired by the township for their comprehensive plan is included in the contract with Williams & Works. Motion was seconded by Geiger-Hessler. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments:

Approval requested from the Township Board for the Vergennes Methodist Church to advertise their Christmas Eve Service on a sign in front of the church. Approval granted.

A representative of Bennett Road extended his thanks to the Board for their prior notice and actual meeting between the residents of Bennett Road and representative of Kent County Road Commission. Approximate cost for Bennett Road Project: \$300,000 of which Township pays 55%.

Hoffman requested a Budget Work Meeting for Board members to be scheduled as soon as possible in January 1998.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mari C. Stone, Clerk