

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2007

Tim Wittenbach called the regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board to order at 7:00 pm in the Vergennes Township Hall.

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

The agenda for the December 17, 2007 meeting was approved with two additions by Nauta; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the November 19, 2007 were approved. Treasurer's report read and approved. There was a motion to approve the bills as presented by Baird; seconded by Nauta.

Guest – Our Love Skate Park Committee – Ellen Mork and Missy Beckhorn presented information on the proposed skate park in the city of Lowell. Mork is vice president of the Our Love Skate Park Committee and Beckhorn is one of three adult supervisors. The 100 by 70 foot skate park costs approximately \$85,000 with concrete estimated at \$30,000. The park will be located at Stoney Lakeside Park. The Committee would like to see Vergennes Township donate a small amount of money to help build the skate park. The park will benefit people around the Lowell community.

Unfinished Business

1. Henschke Building Permit Expiration – Since no work has been done on the house since the permit extension was granted, a new building permit is needed. A completion bond will need to be signed at the time of getting the new permit. A letter has been sent to the family regarding this issue and the board will wait for a reply before taking action. This will give a chance for them to get back with the Zoning Administrator. There was a motion to table this issue until next month by Hoffman; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Fire and Rescue Services Discussion – The board decided that a dissolution clause needs to be added to the agreement. Also, if any equipment is sold an agreement needs to be set up so the money gets split up evenly. The Board wondered if there is any equipment used only in the City of Lowell. There was a question of employee oversight, but no one had any concerns. There was a general consensus

that there needs to be more communication between the Fire Advisory Board and the Township. There was a motion to table the discussion until January so the board receives further information from the Fire Adversary Board or the City by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

2. Appointments –

- Zoning Board of Appeals – The Zoning Board of Appeals terms are three years and will expire in December 2010. There was a motion to reappoint Scott Jernberg and Pete Gustafson to the Zoning Board of Appeals by Hoffman; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**
- Planning Commission – There was a motion to reappoint Mike Mastrovito, Scott Jernberg, and Al Baird as the Board Representative to the Planning Commission for terms expiring December 2010 by Wittenbach; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**
- Construction Board of Appeal – Scott Jernberg will be reappointed in 2008 and Tom Medendorp in 2010. There was a motion to reappoint Jernberg and Medendorp for a term of 1 year and 3 respectively by Nauta; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**
- Grattan and Vergennes Sewer Board – There was a motion to reappoint Terry Conley as the Vergennes representative on the Sewer Board by Stone; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

3. Vergennes Recreation Plan Draft Discussion – Comments were given about the draft – it was noted that a community swimming pool facility was also listed as a long term goal in the current plan as adopted by the board in 2002. There were some questions regarding how much acreage the County has in the three municipalities. Kilpatrick will be given a few more adds in current inventory that will be made to the Draft. There was a motion to have a public hearing in January by Nauta; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

4. Rail to Trail Letter of Support – The Rail to Trail group of West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition is looking for a letter of support from all of the municipalities on the abandoned rail route. This trail will connect many other trails in Michigan. Meijer has committed a substantial amount toward the purchase. There were several questions regarding who can use the trails and when. There was also the question of who has jurisdiction over the trails. The

answer is believed to be the county. This issue will be tabled until January.

5. Alden Nash West – Phase II – Steve Hansen was present to explain the situation. The new portion of the road has been constructed but won't be paved until the ground thaws. A building permit has been issued and a house started that will likely be occupied before the road is paved. The owners are aware that the road isn't finished. The soil erosion issue will be taken care of within the week. There was a motion to allow the family to move into the house before the road is complete by Nauta; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**
6. Collection of Summer Taxes for LAS, GRCC & KISD – There was a motion to approve the collection of summer taxes for LAS, GRCC and KISD by Stone; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**
7. Asset Level Standards Resolution for Poverty Exemptions – There was a motion to adopt the asset level standards by Wittenbach; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**
8. Adoption of 2008 Federal Poverty Guidelines – There was a motion to adopt the 2008 Federal Poverty Guidelines by Stone; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**
9. Holiday Hours for 2008 – The Vergennes Township offices will be closed on March 21, May 23 and 26, July 4, August 29, September 1, November 28, and December 24, 26 and 31. There was a motion to adopt the hours mentioned above by Wittenbach; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**
10. Budget Date – The budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22nd at 10 am.

Concerning the grant project from LACF, Jeanne VanderSloot had some questions for the Board regarding the printing of maps. The Board thinks it will be more cost effective to send out the materials to be printed rather than buy a printer.

Citizens Comments

Peggy Covert thinks the new city council will be better and more cooperative. She urged the township to consider keeping an open mind about supporting maintenance fees in the city.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Mari Stone, Clerk