

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2014

As Amended

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
Rick Gillett -Trustee
Duane Rasch -Trustee
Jean Hoffman -Treasurer
Mari Stone -Clerk

The agenda for the December 15, 2014 meeting was approved with the addition of the Resolution Supporting 911 Phone Emergency. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Rick Gillett; seconded Tim Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the November 17, 2014 meeting were approved with the addition of the word “approximately” regarding the next fire truck in 2022. The Treasurer’s report and bills were read and approved as presented. The motion was made by Jean Hoffman; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.** Stone commented that the BS&A Software charge of \$3150 included in the bills is an annual charge that will allow the public to access the tax and assessing information.

Unfinished Business:

1. SCBA Equipment Purchase for LAFESA

The board discussed the purchase of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for the local Fire Authority. The Fire Authority originally applied to FEMA to get a grant to cover the cost of replacing the SCBA equipment, however they were not granted the funds. The Fire Authority which consists of the City of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township are now responsible for paying the new equipment. Hoffman stated that she thinks they should put off the purchase of the equipment until they can apply for the Englehardt Fund in April. Stone commented that the township needs some time to budget for the money required for the purchase. After some bids were received for the equipment, it was decided that it will cost around \$111,000 to buy the SCBA equipment. The board discussed the facts that the breathing equipment may be different from the other fire departments, and wanted to know if this breathing equipment was compatible to work with other departments in the area. Hoffman motioned to consider the purchase of the SCBA equipment next year when making the new budget in January, and after having applied to the Englehardt Fund in April; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Nugent Builders – Request for Temporary Residence Permit

Nugent Builders requested from the board a permit for a temporary residence for a cottage which is located on 4 Mile Road near Murray Lake. The builder is moving the garage, building a new house on the piece of land, and the homeowners want to stay in their old house during the construction process. After the new house is complete, the old house will be torn down. The board has issued this type of Temporary Dwelling Permit in the past. It was decided that it did not have to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals if the township board allowed it with a Special Exception Use Permit. Stone motioned to set the public hearing for January 19 for the SEUP and that the Nugent builders will have their paperwork completed before the meeting; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

2. Faulk and Foster- Preliminary Application, Telecommunication Tower

There is an application for a Telecommunication tower to be put in on 900 Fero Ave. The application is still in the process of being put together. The pole will be 150 feet tall and will be a monopole with no lights. Stone commented that there have been some landowners in the area that have already expressed concerns about the tower. Stone motioned to have the application go through the Planning Commission and that it will be set by the January 5th meeting; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

3. Appointments:

- Planning Commission- Wittenbach motioned to appoint Nate Post to fill the term of Duane Rasch ending in December 2015, and Penny Rosema to a three year term ending in December of 2017; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**
- Zoning Board of Appeals- Wittenbach motioned to appoint Roger O'Dell to a three year term ending in December 2017; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**
- Board of Review- Stone motioned to appoint Ryan Peel, Steve Hansen, and Ken Ford, with Jim Herb as alternate, all for two year terms ending January 1, 2017. Seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**
- Construction Board of Appeals- Wittenbach motioned to nominate Nate Post to a three year term ending in December 2017; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Stone motioned to keep the roster of community board representatives the same; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

4. CDBG 2015 – 2016 Allocations-

The Senior Neighbors of Lowell requested funding for \$5500 which is the same as the prior years. Stone motioned to approve the request for \$5500 to the Senior Neighbors of Lowell and give the most they can to North Kent Transit Service; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

5. Collection for Summer Taxes for LAS, GRCC, and KISD

Hoffman motioned to authorize the collection of summer taxes for LAS, GRCC and KISD; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

6. LARA Agreement Update

Stone updated the board about the LARA Agreement changes. There were small changes in the agreement regarding the terms of office and appointments of members, the annual organizational meeting being held in June, annual payments being due July 1st, and the treasurer not approved to sign checks. Gillett motioned to approve the changes to the LARA Agreement; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

7. Meeting Dates and Holiday Hours for 2015

The board reviewed the calendars for the 2015 year. Stone motioned to adopt the calendar for the year; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

8. Set Budget Meeting Date and Annual Meeting Date

The board will meet to create the 2015-16 budget on January 21, 2015 at 10 AM. Stone motioned to set the annual meeting for March 16, 2015 at 6:30PM; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

9. Resolution Supporting 911 Phone Calls

The board discussed the resolution which is to support 911 emergency phone calls. Gaines, Byron and Caledonia townships have *collectively paid in approximately \$40,000 toward dispatch fees*. The county wants to change it so that all the townships pay for dispatch. There will most likely be a millage ballot in two years regarding this resolution. Wittenbach motioned to pass the Resolution for 911; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Citizens Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
