

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2000

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

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

Nauta, seconded by Baird, made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2000 regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman, to approve bills as read. Motion approved.

Unfinished Business:

1. Final Approval for Phase I, Bieri Industrial Park. Township Attorney Doezema recommended recording of sewer agreement before approval or approval with his review of agreement. Ray Zandstra noted Master Deed registered 12/6/00, pg. 056, and sewer agreement recorded at same time. Township Engineer Hegarty noted construction debris removal from drainage ditch; street/stop sign at entrance; detention pond removal of soil stockpile; barriers in right-of-way; seeding/stabilizing site. Hegarty recommended tabling approval until completion of first two bulleted items. Ray Zandstra addressed all items to the Board's satisfaction. Wittenbach made a motion, seconded by Nauta, to grant final approval of Phase I, Bieri Industrial Park, subject to Township Attorney Doezema's final review of recorded documents; removal of construction debris; placement of street/stop sign; barriers in right-of-way; seeding/stabilizing site. Motion approved unanimously.

New Business:

1. Request for Site Plan Approval – Headwaters PUD. Mr. Godfrey VanderWerf presented to the Board a written objection to this project citing issues of no fence/liability concerns; real problem where fence would be located – section line or neighboring property (Bernadette Pniewski). Mr. VanderWerf requested that construction of fence be condition of granting approval to PUD application. Host and Pniewski working toward resolution in this matter.

Ron VanSingle presented site plan to Board. Stone asked to be allowed to abstain from voting on this matter, as her father is the Petitioner. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman, to accept Stone's request to abstain from voting on this site plan approval. Motion carried.

Public Hearing was held 12/4/00. Planning Commission recommended approval of the use of a PUD for this property, citing the retained open space as a benefit for the township, and that it presented no burden on surrounding properties. On the 54.6 acres, there would be 18 “clustered” lots taking up 25.17 acres, with 29.12 total acres of green-space retained. Single family; buried utilities; individual septic and wells. Full boundary survey not completed – want approval of PUD application first; then conduct survey for preliminary approval of PUD site plan. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta, to grant approval to Headwaters PUD application. Motion approved.

2. LaBoite Co. PA 198 – Industrial Facilities Tax Abatement Request.

Public Hearing opened at 8:30 p.m. There were no comments from the public, but a general discussion concerning the business and the abatement request was held. Township Attorney has reviewed tax abatement agreement and recommended adding to the agreement a section that states “...any part...violated, than tax certificate revoked...” Agreement will be in effect for 12 years. If a sale, owners are liable for back taxes or can be transferred to new owner. Public Hearing closed at 8:40 p.m.

Motion by Baird, seconded by Nauta, to grant industrial facility tax abatement for twelve years for real and personal property to LaBoite Co. Motion carried unanimously.

Regarding appointments to various township boards in the future, Nauta suggested an earlier cutoff date to allow more time for board review and consideration of applicants. Stone will publish notice in early November next year, noting a deadline of December 1.

3. Construction Board of Appeals Appointment. This Board required by the State of Michigan to cover any problems between building inspector and residents. Kerry Tap only applicant. Motion by Stone, seconded by Nauta, to reappoint Kerry Tap for three-year term. Motion carried.
4. Planning Commission Appointments. It was noted that Art Warning desires to resign his appointment. Motion by Wittenbach, seconded by Hoffman, to appoint Tom Read to Planning Commission for a term ending in 2003. Motion carried. Tim Wittenbach made a motion, seconded by Nauta, to re-appoint Rick Gillette to Planning Commission for a term ending in 2003. Motion carried. Motion by Wittenbach, seconded by Baird, to appoint Jerry Richmond to Planning Commission filling Art Warning’s term which expires in 2002. Motion carried.
5. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments. Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Nauta, that Al Baird serve out his term of office on Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carried. Nauta made a motion to re-appoint Bob Humphries for a term ending in 2003, seconded by Hoffman. Motion carried. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Stone, to appoint Bill Schreur Jr. as an alternate to Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion did not carry. Motion by Baird, seconded by Nauta, to re-appoint Bill Schreur Jr. to Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending in 2003. Motion carried. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta, to re-

appoint Kerry Tap as alternate to Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending in 2002. Motion carried.

6. Board of Review Appointments. Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Nauta, to re-appoint Bob Meyers to a term ending in January of 2003. Motion carried. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Stone, to re-appoint Gordon Edwards to a term ending January 2003. Motion carried. Stone made a motion, seconded by Hoffman, to re-appoint Bill Johnson to a term ending January 2003. Motion carried.
7. Open Space Committee Update and Request. Kate Dernocoeur, spokesperson for Open Space Committee, related activities and meeting results. Request to Board to approve application to Lowell Area Community Fund for a grant for educational session on preservation of open space. Session with several speakers planned for January 24, 2001 at Wittenbach Center from 6:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Motion by Stone, seconded by Nauta, to grant approval to the Open Space Committee for application to Lowell Area Community Fund for monies to cover costs of education session on alternatives available to residents for preservation of open space. Motion approved.
8. Approval of MTA Convention Attendance. Conference to be held in Grand Rapids - dates are January 16, 17 and 18, 2001. Seven Board and staff members to attend. Stone will register.
9. Approval of Meeting Schedule for 2001. Approved by Board unanimously.
10. Collection of Summer Taxes for LAS, GRCC & KISD. Annual formality in month of December to grant Treasurer permission to collect taxes. Baird made a motion, seconded by Stone, to grant Township Treasurer permission to collect summer taxes for LAS, GRCC and KISD. Motion carried.
11. Revision for Burial Fees Agreement. Revision of fee to \$300 all year rather than different summer/winter fees; \$200 more for frozen ground; \$50 more for infant opening. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Baird, to approve revision of burial fee agreement as proposed. Motion carried.
12. Fee Schedule Revision. Proposed changes regarding fees for cemetery, planning commission applications, sign permits and per page fee for copies. Discussion regarding copy charges and needed changes to planning & development fees. Nauta made a motion, seconded by Hoffman, to adopt sections I. and II. of the fee schedule. Motion carried. Stone make further revisions to fee schedule and present to Board in January 2001.

Citizens Comments:

Wittenbach noted Frank Martin, Fire Chief, wants to purchase '93 Water Rescue Truck/Troop Transport – 33,000 miles/\$6,000. Asking three municipalities to share in cost – approximately \$2,000-\$3,000 each. He will look into the Look Fund and/or Engelhardt Fund for grants.

Motion by Wittenbach, seconded by Hoffman, to contribute \$2,000-\$3,000 (or less if other funds contribute) toward the purchase of '93 Water Rescue Truck/Troop Transport. Motion carried.

Historical Commission has requested additional funds from Community Block Grant of \$2,374. Tower project cost \$9,620 and architectural fee was \$754. Originally approved \$8,000 of Community Development Fund monies. Motion by Stone, seconded by Nauta, to grant approval to Fallasburg Historical Society of an additional \$2,374 from Community Block Grant monies. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk