

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2010

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
Mari Stone -Clerk
Jean Hoffman -Treasurer
Al Baird -Trustee
Rick Gillett -Trustee

The agenda for the December 20, 2010 meeting was approved by Hoffman; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the November 15 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved by Hoffman; seconded by Baird. Hoffman stated that the Township would have to wait to pay the Kent County Road Commission Bill until they had the funds. **Motion Carried.**

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

1. Annecy Group – Enworks – Site Plan Review - Dave Powell, Frank Marshall, and Ryan Dykehouse were the representatives present from Enworks for the meeting. Enworks currently employs 13 full-time employees and 6 part-time employees. It is a local furniture company that ships its products around the country. They are looking to build a 27,000 sq. ft. facility that has 6,000 ft of office space. The board reviewed the Planning Commission and Township Planner recommendations. They have complied with everything except 3 items as noted on the Williams and Works memo dated December 14, 2010. The memo noted that there were issues with the handicapped parking spaces. After discussion, the board wanted at least 2 of the east handicapped parking spots moved west of the other 2 east spots so that handicapped persons would have clear access to walks. The other 2 issues left for the applicants to resolve are the buffer requirements and the engineer's grading requirement. Stone motioned to approve the final site plan which is conditional on compliance with 1.) the buffer requirement, 2.) the grading according to the engineer's memo, and 3.) moving the 2 handicapped spots west of the 2 east handicapped spots; with the entire project subject to Building Inspector Mark Fleet's approval; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

2. Zoning/Building Departments – Recommended Zoning Amendment – River Stairs - It has come to the board's attention that stairs such as those built to access a river are considered structures according to the building code. This means that a building permit is required. The board decided to include an ordinance amendment requiring a building permit for stairs the next time another amendment is proposed. In the meantime, Gillett motioned to make it the Township's policy to require a building permit when outdoor stairs are being built; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

3. Appointments - Currently, the Planning Commission has 7 members, but only 5 are required. After discussion the Board decided that a 6 member Planning Commission will work for this year. Wittenbach nominated Scott Jernberg and Mike Mastrovito to three year terms to the Planning Commission, expiring December of 2013; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.** Stone nominated Pete Gustafson and Scott Jernberg to three year terms on the Zoning Board of Appeals, expiring December of 2013; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.** Hoffman nominated Ken Ford, Jim Herb, Steve Hansen, and Ryan Peel for the Board of Review, with terms expiring January 2013; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** Stone nominated Bill Rapson for the Construction Board of Appeals for a three year term expiring December of 2013; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.** Stone nominated Wittenbach for the LCTV Fund Advisory Board; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.** Stone nominated Jeff Bunn for the LACF Advisory Board, Mari Stone and Betsy Davidson for the LARA Board, Dan Williams for the Lowell Airport Board, and Terry Conley for the Grattan Vergennes Sewer Board; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

4. Collection of Summer Taxes for LAS, GRCC, & KISD - There was no discussion on this matter. Hoffman motioned to collect the taxes for LAS, GRCC, and KISD; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

5. Meeting Dates for 2011 - Stone suggested changing the date of the Regular March board meeting to March 28 and to hold the annual meeting prior to the Regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. The remaining Board meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month as always. The meeting dates for the planning commission have the approval of the planning commission. The board decided to reduce the number of times the planning commission meets officially. Stone motioned to adopt the meeting dates with the changes of the planning commission official meeting months to be February, May, August, and October; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

6. Holiday Hours for 2011 - There was no discussion. Gillett motioned to adopt the proposed holiday office hours; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

Citizen's Comments:

The board briefly discussed the Fire Board meeting. Wittenbach told the board that Jim Herb is now the Chairman of the Fire Commission. One of the major topics of discussion at the Fire Board meeting was in regards to the proposed construction of a new fire station in Lowell Township. It will require the purchase of another fire truck, an emergency vehicle, and a tanker. The project, if approved, will probably not proceed for another 2 years.

The board discussed the Road Commission payment. Wittenbach said that he would find out more about what can be done to extend the current payment plan.

The board scheduled a budget meeting for January 12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
