

Vergennes Township Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 15, 1999
as amended

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 meeting room.

Members Present:	Tim Wittenbach	-	Supervisor
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Sue Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee
Absent:	Mark Weber	-	Trustee

A motion was made by Hoffman, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to approve the minutes of the January 18, 1999 regular meeting, and the February 1, 1999 special meeting. Treasurer's Report was given by Hoffman and accepted as read. A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Geiger-Hessler to approve the bills including the Williams & Works invoice for comprehensive plan. Drafts 3110 through 3146 were issued. Motion carried.

Presentation of Acknowledgment Plaque. Mac McPherson, standing in for Barbara VanHouten, Russell and Catherine Davis' daughter, was presented with a plaque in acknowledgment to his Uncle and Aunt Russell and Catherine McPherson Davis who donated the land and building to the township. The plaque will be hung in the entrance of the upper level meeting room.

Unfinished Business:

1. Review and Consideration of Tabled Ordinance Changes. Jim Doezema, Township attorney, present to review numerous changes to the Ordinance dating back to Spring 1998. Ordinance has been transformed into document to date by a process of presenting many redline versions to Planning Commission for review and alteration until this final document was brought before the Board. Doezema discussed changes/alterations regarding: Definitions for driveway, private road, cul de sac and conservation easements. Change of language throughout from Zoning "Inspector" to Zoning "Administrator". Clarification regarding earth mining - must also submit site plan. Topographical map and site plan must be submitted for mobile home parks. Clarification of process for site condominium review. Conservation easement not mandatory in Planned Unit Development - if utilized, must be included in registered deed. Majority of changes within Planned Unit Development (PUD) area. Many of the changes in this area necessary in order to comply with statute. Six months between preliminary approvals and final approval of the paper process. Mandatory public hearing - notice of hearing publicized as for special use permit. Required by statute. If PUD is changed, must be by mutual consent of owner and Township Board. In regard to site plan, reviewing body could be Planning Commission and/or zoning administrator. Some administration changes by inserting where, what and who for filing of papers.

Stone motioned to adopt ordinance 99-1, Hoffman seconded, and a roll call vote was taken:
Aye: Stone, Wittenbach, Hoffman, Geiger-Hessler. Weber absent.
Motion carried.

2. Motion made by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Stone, to approve Resolution 3-99 to accept the settlement as proposed by attorneys for both sides regarding 13534 Covered Bridge Road and dismiss a pending civil infraction complaint upon receipt of:
 1. Property split with ordinance compliance with any deviation from same by no more than 10%;
 2. Acquire building permit;
 3. Acquire occupancy permit; and
 4. If final decision is removal instead of improvement, removal must be completed in accordance with township ordinance and to the satisfaction of the zoning administrator.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Stone, Wittenbach, Hoffman, Geiger-Hessler. Weber absent.

Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Motion made by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Stone, to approve Resolution 2-99, delaying enforcement of ordinance provisions in regard to home-based businesses until further action by Township Board.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Stone, Wittenbach, Hoffman, Geiger-Hessler. Weber absent.

Motion carried.

2. Community Block Grant Development Agreement. Motion made by Hoffman, seconded by Geiger-Hessler to authorize the clerk and chief elected official to enter into 1999-2000 Community Block Grant Development agreement on behalf of Vergennes Township. Approved unanimously.
3. Report on purchase of chairs for meeting room. Stone and Hoffman as requested by the Board looked into purchase of chairs. They reported that Custer Office Environments has a stackable with no arms for \$28.00 each. Swivel chairs with arms for board table: \$128.00 each (least expensive). The board made no decision regarding purchase of chairs.

Citizens Comments:

* Justin Michael gave update on Pool and Recreation Authority Board. Area-wide survey to be mailed early March 1999. Report to community after compilation of results of survey.

* Suggestion that Board members during meetings sit on long east or west wall of upstairs rather than south end for acoustic reasons. Raise Board members and table on platform for same reason. Noted by Wittenbach that furnace is already set up for air conditioning and could be implemented if necessary with a small cost.

* Concerning notifications of meetings and respective dates of those meetings, posted in window outside Township Hall and also published in The Lowell Ledger. Township Ordinance book available for purchase; \$50.00 each.

* Request by resident for Board to briefly summarize issues before Board discussion as residents in attendance often not able to decipher what matter is before the Board.

* Comment that cost for Mark Daneman too high. Board noted that he was hired on a trial basis for the rest of FY 1998-99, and a review of contract consultants is conducted annually each year.

* A suggestion that annual meeting be reinstated. Annual meeting discontinued approximately 5-6 years ago. At that time, annual meeting always held the last Saturday in March. At this time, Public Hearing set for March 15, 1999 regarding budget. Board adopted a motion by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Wittenbach, to discuss at its regular March 1999 meeting the possibility of reinstating an annual meeting for next year. Hoffman opposed. Motion carried.

* Art Warning stated that there were two applications of chloride on his gravel road last year, and felt that this was not enough. Board indicated they were requesting a wider strip of chloride from the Kent County Road Commission for this summer - 1999, and that it would be applied three times.

* Residents still questioning why the intersection of Bailey Drive and Parnell Road cannot have a four way stop. Noted that there are two four way stops on Knapp within one mile of each other, yet Bailey/Parnell not allowed to have even one four way stop. It is felt that the Road Commission ignores Township officials' and residents' requests. Surveys indicate not enough traffic volume at intersection to warrant four way stops. *Geiger-Hessler commented that she had expressed dissatisfaction with this finding at a Road Commission Board meeting.* Jim Doezema, Township attorney, advised residents to write letters, many many letters, stating intersection is dangerous thus creating a big file. Address correspondence to Jeff Best, Safety Director, Kent County Road Commission. Gary Knottnerus suggested residents request a copy of the survey study for the Knapp four way stop intersections and then compare to survey study completed for Bailey/Parnell intersection. Contact County Commissioner Jack Horton.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
