

**Vergennes Township
Regular Board Meeting
February 15, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Tim Wittenbach, Supervisor.

Roll Call – Stone, Hoffman, Gillett, Wittenbach, and Rasch were present. None absent.

The agenda was approved as presented with a motion by Gillett, support by Hoffman. **Motion passed.**

The minutes from the January 18, 2016 meeting were approved as presented. The treasurer's report was read. The bills were approved as presented with a motion by Hoffman, supported by Gillett. **Motion passed.**

Public Hearing – Schreur Request to modify SEUP – 786 Flat River Drive.

Bill Schreur and his wife, Brenda, are requesting permission to enclose the west side of the pavilion in addition to approximately 10 feet of the north and south sides. They believe it will provide a better experience for their wedding guests by blocking the wind that comes from that direction.

The public hearing was open at 7:05 pm.

Ron Potter, 985 N. Washington, Lowell – He is against enclosing the sides. He feels this will allow the music and noise from the venue to funnel directly at his house and be louder than it currently is. He has called the police three times about noise. There is nothing they can do due to there being no noise ordinance in the Township. Mr. Schreur makes a mockery of the natural beauty river. The wedding venue should have never been allowed in that area. It is residential, not commercial.

Al Eckman – he has worked for the Schreur's all summer. They run a class operation. He has been a police officer for 20 years. He also works with the parks department. The Schreur's bend over backwards to ensure the neighbors are considered. Nothing goes past 10 pm. Mr. Eckman has had experience with noise ordinances in other areas. This is far better than other venues he previously worked with.

Potter – There is no way the decibel levels of the noise coming from the venue are within OSHA standards. .

Pete Gustafson, 12213 Bailey Drive– he assists the Schreur's with most of their legal matters. It is a well-run operation in every respect. He hopes the Board focuses on the issue at hand, that

being enclosing the sides of the pavilion. The Sheriff department found no violations and officers have been instructed to ignore Mr. Potter's calls about noise. The sides will make the building safer and stronger. The sides will not change the view aesthetically since it will only be blocking a berm on the west side.

Scott Jernberg, 13274 Vergennes – he has been involved in part of the discussion regarding noise and how to mitigate sound issues. There are different materials they can use to muffle the sound. He supports what the Schreur's want to do.

Mary Schreur, 13535 Forest River Dr. – supports their request to add sides to the pavilion.

Bill Wieringa, 350 River Place– he lives in line with the airport runway. He is also close to the football stadium and can hear that noise every week. He has lived in the area since the mid 1990's. He supports the Schreur's and their request.

7:15 pm. Public hearing closed.

Unfinished Business

1. Schreur Request to modify SEUP – 786 Flat River Drive

Bill Schreur spoke to some of Mr. Potter's concerns. He does not believe he is doing anything wrong. They close down at 10 pm and have lost business because they won't stay open till midnight. Potter has made false allegations all along. He has not been reasonable with the neighbors in general. The venue is 800 feet from Potter. Does not know how it could be that loud.

Potter – he is only neighbor in direct line with Schreur. Peggy Covert has an entire woods between her and the venue. He can hear the noise with doors closed and air conditioning running. It is 15 decibels over maximum allowed.

The Board had no further comment. Gillett motioned to accept the modification to the SEUP, including enclosing the entire west wall and two 10 foot wings on the north and south side of the pavilion. Hoffman supports. **Motion passes.**

New Business

1. Lowell Township Riverfront Park North

Mari Stone presented a brochure from Lowell Township regarding the park they are planning on their property behind Walgreens that goes to the Grand River. LARA is working with Lowell Township to extend the trail down Alden Nash to Walgreens, which would provide access to the

park for Vergennes residents and allow anyone using the trail to have bike and pedestrian access to the new park. Stone encouraged the Board to consider support of this project.

2. Hall Addition Update

The Township Offices are working with outdated wiring, heat issues, and not having enough room. There has been discussion about how to go forward. Expand? Gut the current space and start over? Given the space issues, talk has been leaning toward an addition to the building. Triangle and Associates recently came up with a suggestion for an addition to the north side of the building.

Aaron Jenks– Architect with Triangle. The goal would be to keep the historic look of the building. It is currently planned as a 1200 square foot addition. It would house all offices. The current vault area downstairs would be partially utilized as a mechanical area for a furnace, etc...as well as storage. The new grading would alleviate water issues on the west side of the building.

Scott Jernberg – Triangle – the inside of the building is very flexible. The only enclosed space is the break room. There will be a lot of natural light. The addition will fit in with the existing topography. There will be a ramp similar to what is there now, except it will be covered by the building overhang. There will be no change to the parking areas.

Rasch – is 1200 square feet enough space? It is possible to extend the building out to 20 x 60 instead of 20 x 54. The propane tank would need to move regardless.

An addition to the north is the most economical choice at this time. If space was added on the west, the existing well would have to be moved and parking spaces would be lost. Not to mention the entire office would have to move upstairs during renovations. That becomes a space issue since it is an election year and there are 3 elections that need to be held in the meeting room. This is still in the planning stages. There will be more updates in the next few months.

Citizen Comments – Chris Becker wanted to introduce himself and to let us know he is running for Kent County Prosecutor. Bill Forsythe is retiring. The police and sheriff departments support him. His office endorses him. Chris is currently the chief assistant prosecutor. Mr. Forsythe has not run opposed in the last 20 years. Becker wants to keep Kent County Safe. His motto is Tested, Trusted, Tough on Crime.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm. The next scheduled meeting is March 21, 2016.

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk