

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2007

DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township meeting 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
Vern Nauta - Trustee
Al Baird - Trustee

The agenda for the February 19, 2007 meeting was approved with changes by Nauta, seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion approved.** The minutes for the January 3, 2007 special meeting were approved with an amendment by Baird; seconded by Nauta. The minutes of the January 15, 2007 regular meeting and the January 17, 2007 special meeting were accepted as presented. The Treasurer's report and bills were approved with a motion by Nauta; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion approved.**

Guest Speaker:

Judy Straub – Lowell Historical Museum: Judy gave an update on the happenings at the Museum over the past year. She thanked the Township for their monetary support of \$1500 in 2006 and was hopeful that the contribution would be repeated for 2007. She went over upcoming exhibits including one on Ghost Towns and the history of the Lowell Area School's "Red Arrows" nickname. She will send a formal letter to the Board members asking for continued monetary support for consideration in budget talks.

Unfinished Business:

1. **No-Wake Zone Ordinance** – Lt. Craig Grey of the DNR had called Stone asking for an update on Township's position. He explained that the language sent to the Board in December is what the DNR has approved. If the Township approves the ordinance as written, it would come under the authority of the DNR law enforcement division. There was concern over language with regard to where the zone begins and ends. Stone read the ordinance aloud, and noted that the DNR intends to use the location of the Scout Cabin property on the river as a southern line. Ron Potter showed map of river and surrounding area to clarify, and indicated he had no objection beginning the zone there. Bill Schreur noted that given the new information there was now no objection by any of the riverfront owners in the township for the ordinance, and urged the Board to approve it. Nauta motioned to approve the No-wake ordinance as presented by the DNR, Hoffman seconded.

Further discussion regarding who to call if a problem. Bill Schreur commented that if there are signs posted and an ordinance in place, it should be enough to give property owners leverage to handle complaints on their own. Stone, Nauta and Hoffman voted yes, Wittenbach and Baird voted no. **Motion approved.**

- 2. Zoning Ordinance Revisions:** Have proposals from Jeanne Vandersloot and Williams and Works to do Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (MZEA) changes to ordinances. After discussion, Wittenbach motioned to have Vandersloot do revisions to bring us into compliance with MZEA, with a deadline of July 1, 2007, for an amount not to exceed \$1500. Hoffman supported, **Motion carried.** Vandersloot said she should have the revisions completed for the June board meeting. Hoffman commented that she would like to see the ordinance rewritten in chapter form, which will cost approximately \$9500. Board should give it thought and budget for next year.

New Business:

- 1. Salary Resolutions:** Board had budgeted for raises for all paid personnel to cover a two-year period. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Stone, to raise Supervisor's salary from \$20,500 to \$22,140 commencing 4/1/07. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Wittenbach, to raise Clerk's salary from \$20,500 to \$22,140 commencing 4/1/07. Motion by Stone, seconded by Nauta, to raise Treasurer's salary from \$20,500 to \$22,140 commencing 4/1/07. Motion by Nauta to adopt balance of salaries as presented, seconded by Stone. **All motions carried.**
- 2. Burial Fee Schedule:** Kenny Wittenbach raised his grave opening fees by \$50; cremation increased \$50 from \$150 to \$200. \$50/hour for snowplowing. Township collects additional \$50 to cover repairs to cemetery. Motion by Hoffman to amend fee schedule for burial fees to \$400 for grave opening, \$200 for infant and \$200 for cremation. Baird seconded. **Motion carried.**
- 3. Bruce Langlois – extension to Private road permit.** There were two issues that held up construction this year. Bieri's schedule was to do in May, then moved to September, can now do it in Spring '07. Also, Consumer's Electric had difficulty obtaining easements to move power pole. Ok as of 12/06. They are currently ready to asphalt as soon as weather clears. Motion by Baird to extend permit one year, seconded by Nauta. **Motion carried.**
- 4. Resolution – Board of Review Written appeal:** Resolution 1-2007 that a written letter can be accepted in lieu of appearing in person to Board of Review; motion to adopt by Wittenbach, seconded by Hoffman. **Motion approved.**
- 5. Steinbrecher SEUP for Rental Storage –** Mr. Steinbrecher was not present at the meeting. He wants to move majority of marina business to site on Alden Nash

to include sales, repair and service. Also would like some outside storage there. Our ordinance requires inside storage. Nauta motioned to postpone discussion until Mr. Steinbrecher is present to answer questions; Baird seconded. **Motion carried.**

Citizens Comments

Craig Wood inquired about the status of the Boundary Commission decision. Wittenbach summarized a meeting held February 15, 2007 in Lansing. The Commission voted to send a letter to the Director of Labor and Economic Growth asking for his final signature on the order to deny the annexation. This means the current annexation matter is over. The applicant has the right to re-apply for annexation again and we have received communications from Mr. Robb Munger that that is his intention. The Board is unsure of the time frame for reapplying. It was also thought that the property owner had to re-apply, not the developer.

Mari Stone noted that Bill Byl, Kent County Drain Commissioner, will speak prior to the March 5 Planning Commission meeting. Any interested persons are welcome to attend. This meeting is presented by the Open Space Committee.

Discussion about fire/rescue expenses – The City of Lowell annual invoice was reviewed, and discussion held regarding several additional expenses the city would like to see added in the future. We may need to get an opinion from our Township Attorney if we can be held liable for maintenance of city owned property and utility expenses under the current agreement. Wittenbach feels the City needs to create a Fire Board to get all entities sharing expenses and oversight equally. The Fire/Rescue invoice will be on the March 2007 list of invoices for approval and payment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk