

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2011

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Rick Gillett at 7:15 pm in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present: Mari Stone -Clerk
 Rick Gillett -Trustee
 Jean Hoffman -Treasurer

Tim Wittenbach, Supervisor, and Al Baird, Trustee, were delayed by snow, and arrived at 7:30. Gillett chaired the meeting until Wittenbach arrived.

The agenda for the February 21, 2011 meeting was approved with the addition of the LaBoite discussion by Hoffman; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the January 17 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with a motion by Hoffman; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.** Stone commented that they are reviewing the Foster and Swift bill, so the amount may change.

Guest - Suzie Reinbold- Farm preservation update - Reinbold did not attend the meeting.

Guest - REDFrog Technologies- Internet access offerings in Vergennes Township-

Ron Bianchi and Kirk Gee, co-owners of REDfrog Technologies, updated the board on Internet access availability in Lowell and Vergennes townships. They have installed a new tower on top of a silo near the corner of Bailey and Parnell, and anticipate that residents in this area will now be able to get their service. The board inquired as to why more residents in Vergennes couldn't get quality internet reception. REDfrog explained that it is difficult to reach all homes due to the terrain. The board also asked if REDfrog was planning to expand their services so that they would be able to better serve Vergennes Township residents. REDfrog stated that Vergennes Township was not an initial target market for them but they have been expanding and building new towers. REDfrog currently has about 80 subscribers in the Vergennes Township area. REDfrog concluded that it may be cost prohibitive to reach all of Vergennes residents with a good signal due to hills, trees, and other terrain issues.

Unfinished Business:

1. 2011-2012 Budget Review - Stone reviewed the 2011-12 budget with the board. Hoffman gave updated revenue information for the 2011-12 budget. The board discussed the possibility of having to send out new voter registration cards due to the census. This cost would be added to the Elections budget. Stone will add the additional cost if applicable.

2. Ryan Peel proposal for Broadband provision - The board had sought legal advice from the township attorney, Jim Doezema, about Ryan Peel's broadband project proposal and request for fiscal sponsorship by the township. Doezema gave his opinion that fiscal sponsorship was legal for the township to engage in, but had concerns about how the funds would be kept separate. Peel gave the board a step by step plan for the project that outlined responsibilities of fiscal sponsorship. (attachment) It was noted that a separate fund would be created for deposit of grant funds, and that no township monies would be mixed with this fund. Hoffman likened the administration of this fund to the "Trust and Agency" fund she administers for planning and zoning projects. Peel was asking the board to create a volunteer committee to organize activities, write grants, and administer any funds received. Stone motioned to create the *Vergennes Broadband Project* committee, consisting of Jean Hoffman, Ryan Peel, Stephanie Peel, Mari Stone, Heather Hoffman, and others as needed, with Treasurer Hoffman serving as financial administrator. Hoffman seconded; **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. LaBoite Discussion - The LaBoite Inc. former owner has transferred his Industrial Facility Tax (IFT) abatement to new owner Randy Fleischig. Hoffman informed the board that Fleischig did not pay his winter taxes on time. Hoffman has informed him that the taxes must be paid to the Township by Friday, February 25. Hoffman told the board that this is not the first time he has been delinquent. Hoffman motioned to start revocation proceedings if he does not pay the IFT tax by Friday, February 25. Stone seconded; **Motion Carried.**

Citizen's Comments:

A citizen asked REDFrog how many residents are served by the Fallasburg Point tower. Gee answered that there are currently 13 residents being served by them in that area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk