

## **VERGENNES TOWNSHIP**

### Regular Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2001

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:04 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present:	Tim Wittenbach	-	Supervisor
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Al Baird	-	Trustee
	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee

Nauta, seconded by Hoffman, made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2000 regular meeting with amendment of last paragraph regarding Historical Commission request for Community Block Grant funds: should be Historical "Society" not "Commission". It was noted that Kerry Tap contacted Wittenbach and declined appointment to Construction Board of Appeals. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Baird, to approve bills as read. Motion approved.

### **Presentations:**

Charles Bowman – Presentation of Oak Tree Timeline. Mac McPherson presented artist, Charles Bowman who presented to the Township a circular plaque. He created a logo for Vergennes Township, which the Board approved. He then constructed an indoor circular wooden plaque of that logo using wood from the old oak tree (92 pieces – 120 hours - Outer ring, bushes, and upper background consist of wood not from the actual tree). The Board thanked him for his time and effort.

Priscilla Lussmeyer – Fallasburg Cemetery Findings. Dave Thompson sent memo to Board of recommendations re cemetery. Ms. Lussmeyer unable to attend meeting to present her recommendations re Fallasburg Cemetery. According to Ms. Lussmeyer, current layout of Fallasburg Cemetery based on Fallas Survey and laid out in shape of parallelogram, 16 ½' x 16 ½' plots/8 burial spots rather than present day standard of 18' x 18' plots/8 burial spots. Current corner markers may or may not reflect correct dimensions. Stone made a motion, seconded by Hoffman, to hold a special joint meeting in April 2001 of the Board, Historical Commission, Fallasburg Historical Society, John Wilterink of Lowell Monument Co., and Ken Wittenbach, who excavates the graves, regarding the cemetery and its future use. Motion approved.

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Fee Schedule Revisions. Minor changes; Copies remain at 25 cents each to non-residents, charge for residents, 25 cents each after first ten pages; personal faxes \$1.00; cemetery

fees changed to reflect new costs adopted at last month's meeting; Sections I and II as amended adopted last month also. Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Nauta to adopt fee schedule as revised. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

1. Precise Engineering Special Use Permit Amendment. Planning Commission recommended approval of special use permit with two waivers; 19' setback (distance of original buildings) rather than 40' required by ordinance; building to contain same materials as existing front of building rather than ordinance requirement of 80% stone, glass, brick, etc.; and approval of 1500' addition to second building by 2003/2004. Baird made a motion, seconded by Nauta, to approve Precise Engineering Special Use Permit Amendment. Motion approved.
2. Mike Snarski Request to Split – Possible Need for A Bond. Predicament: to approve split, barn on Rittersdorf/Alberts property that does not meet setback requirement needs to be removed; buyer Snarski to remove barn, but wants wood so removal will be little by little; Township requires bond of buyer regarding removal of barn; buyer cannot take out bond until he is owner of property. Stone made a motion, seconded by Baird, to permit split administrator to approve Rittersdorf/Alberts split with Snarski then to purchase a \$2500 bond guaranteeing removal of the barn.
3. Discussion Regarding Community Development Block Grant Funds. Currently, Township has \$19,000.00 in unprogrammed Community Development Block Grant funds. Stone made a motion, seconded by Hoffman, to designate \$3,000 Community Development Funds to Rockford Ambulance to aid in the purchase of mobile transport stretchers. Motion approved. Motion by Stone, seconded by Hoffman, to designate Lowell Area Historical Museum \$8,000 Community Development Funds to aid in the construction of a handicap ramp at Lowell Historical Museum building (City of Lowell – Lowell Township also using CDBG funds for this project). Motion approved. Stone made a motion, seconded by Nauta, to designate \$1,000 Community Development Funds to North Kent Transit for the 2001-2002 year. Motion approved. Nauta made a motion, seconded by Stone, to designate \$3,000 in Community Development Funds for the purpose of construction of fences at Historic Fallasburg Cemetery. Motion approved.
4. Gypsy Moth Program Update – Proposed Spray Blocks. Proposed spray blocks smaller than last year – 755 acres at a cost of approximately \$19,412.50 as opposed to nearly \$48,000 in 2000. Stone made a motion, seconded by Nauta, to approve spray blocks as presented for gypsy moth spraying in the township for the year 2001. Motion approved.
5. Dave Groenleer. It was noted that Dave Groenleer, Kent County Road Commission Director of Engineering is retiring after thirty-five years with the Road Commission. He will be new Plainfield Township Supervisor.
6. Sharon Whaley –Alden Nash Home Construction Donation. Builder went bankrupt. \$100,000 up front payment used by builder but home not constructed. Sign and

collection jar in township offices regarding personal donations for Sharon Whaley - Home Construction Fund. Huntington Bank, Lowell has an account for donations.

**Citizens' Comments**

Some discussion regarding need for gypsy moth spraying as opposed to relying on nature to lessen the gypsy moth invasion.

It was noted that any petition regarding Historical Designation would need Board approval. Historical Commission will present petition for approval to the Board at February regular board meeting.

Great Lakes Paving Public Hearing, January 29, 2001 @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mari Stone, Clerk