

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 15, 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
Al Baird - Trustee

Member Absent: Vern Nauta - Trustee

The agenda for the January 15, 2007 meeting was approved by Wittenbach; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion approved.** The minutes for the December 18, 2006 meeting were approved with changes. The Treasurers report and bills were approved with a motion by Baird; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion approved.**

Unfinished Business:

1. Historic Districts Ordinance Discussion – The Township currently has a commission of three to seven people. They are in charge of outreach and can designate historic sites. The commission doesn't meet as often as they are required and this has left the board wondering if the commission needed. The board was thinking of dissolving the Historic Preservation Commission. This wouldn't change anything from how it is now. The Fallasburg District would run the same as it does now. Currently historic landholders can claim a tax credit, but when the township reaches a population of 5,000 a Historic Commission is needed. The township would need to create a Commission when the population reaches that so the people could claim a tax credit, if the Commission was dissolved.

New Business:

1. Master Plan Updates – The airport master plan needs to be included in the draft. Also, the land use of the master plan needs to be fixed. There was a motion to pay the increased rates from Williams and Works by Stone; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion approved.**
2. Discussion – Ordinance Overhaul – Who should do this work? – The work needed to be done on the ordinance is mostly housekeeping issues. The ordinance currently mixes regulations with definitions, and it is lengthy and complicated. The RA section could be divided into two sections. The board would like to see a more organized ordinance. Kilpatrick said that a template could be used to make the current ordinance easier to read. Kilpatrick is going to work with Vandersloot, and will give us an estimate and some options to accomplish these amendments.

3. DNR Recommendation Re: No-Wake Zone – The DNR recently sent a short ordinance regarding a no-wake zone for the township to possibly use. This ordinance would implement a no-wake zone along the Flat River. There were questions regarding where the city began along the river. Peggy Covert stated that water traffic has been getting worse, and a no-wake zone is needed. Stone thought that the DNR made good points in the paper and believed that a no-wake zone was needed. There was a motion to disapprove a no-wake zone ordinance in the township by Baird; seconded by Wittenbach. A roll call vote showed Baird and Wittenbach for and Stone and Hoffman against. **Motion died for lack of majority.**
4. Discussion Regarding Beer and Wine Ordinance Amendment – The ballot proposal to sell spirits in the township passed at the last election. The only thing needed to be done is to add spirits to the ordinance wherever it says beer and wine. There were concerns regarding the banquet facility, and not wanting alcohol sales in a walk-in situation such as a bar. It was also noted the township doesn't have to give a liquor license if they feel it won't be used correctly. Wittenbach tabled the issue for a month.
5. Community Development Grant Funds – Currently the grant money can't be used for much. The township could buy land in the future with the money. As of right now the money is used for Senior Neighbors and North Kent Transit. There was a **motion** to allocate \$5000 for Senior Neighbors and \$1000 for Hope Network by Hoffman, seconded by Stone. **Motion carried.** There was a **motion** to approve the contract with Hope Network for the 2006-2207 year by Stone; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion approved.**
6. Set Annual Meeting Date – There was a **motion** to approve the annual meeting date on March 31, 2007 at 1:00 PM by Wittenbach; seconded by Stone. **Motion approved.**
7. Sewer System – The Township would consider buying a permit for the sewer if they had the land. Wittenbach is going to call Jamie Frain to set up a meeting to see where they are at in the process.

Citizens Comments

Ken Gregerson was wondering what the townships take was on his situation. He built a barn on his property and wanted to buy land next to it so he would be in accordance with the Township's zoning setbacks. He has put in a letter of attempt at the city, but has got no response. He would like the property to be deeded to him. He also said he is willing to pay for the property. He wanted to know what his options were.

Peggy Covert would like a letter of support for preservation of the Boy Scout Property.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk