

MINUTES OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD
January 19, 1998

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Jim Cook at 7:00 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present:	Jim Cook	-	Supervisor
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Sue Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee
	Mark Weber	-	Trustee

Jim Doezema, Township Attorney and Herb Vanderbilt, member of the Lowell Township Board were also present.

A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Geiger-Hessler to approve the minutes of the December 15, 1997 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Hoffman and accepted as read. A motion was made by Weber and seconded by Hoffman to approve the bills. Motion carried. Drafts 2583 through 2611 were issued.

Permit Activity. Forty-four single family permits through December 1997.

PUBLIC HEARING - Proposed Revision of Water Ordinance, 98-1

Public Hearing opened at 7:05 p.m. Several residents of the service district were present.

A few minor revisions and clarifications to the Vergennes Township's water ordinance requiring connection to the water line within the water district were noted. Duplicate sentences at page 2 (d) and 2 (h). At page 2 (j) and (k), clarification of the terms water connection pipe and water main was noted. Also Exhibit "A" attached is mentioned as Exhibit 1 throughout the ordinance. Exhibit A will be revised to be titled as Exhibit 1. Exhibit 1 indicates the area which is covered by the ordinance.

Vergennes Township's ordinance is less strict than that of Lowell Township. In the R-1 district, where a one acre/165' frontage requirement exists, residents who can split their property into two lots of 165' of frontage would only have to pay the \$35.00 per foot charge for the first 165' of frontage. Residents who cannot split their property must pay the entire front footage. In the RA District, the same would apply using a three acre/300' frontage formula. Current residents who have wells would not be required to automatically hook up, but must do so if their well fails. Residents could still use a well for irrigation and watering of stock.

Questions occurred about the legitimate cost of the entire water project and concerns about the \$35.00 per foot rate. Lowell Township residents pay the same

\$35.00 per foot of frontage. Fee structure was set up by engineers to be only as much as necessary to pay for the system. This fee schedule is non-negotiable. As to developers of an area, a \$1,000 initial hook-up fee is to be paid by each site.

Lowell Township offers a 5 year payoff at 7% interest. Property owner can defer up to five years. Until the ordinance is in effect, no new construction required to hook-up.

Weber expressed concern that the amount left to be paid off by Lowell Township is in fact what is owed on the project and that money from the Lowell Public Schools did not help to cover some of that remaining cost.

The ordinance with revisions by the Township attorney will be on the February Agenda.

Public Hearing closed at 7:55 p.m.

Zoning Officer Report - Deb Rashid. Hearing slated for February 2, 1998 regarding Larry Marvel, Forest River Drive (driveway extension not within ordinance allowances). Two complaints regarding Ken Wittenbach. Suggestion that a posting/notice again be written explaining that run away fires are paid for by the resident if a permit was necessary and was not obtained. A permit is not necessary if there is snow on the ground.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. **Gerald L. Felix, Executive Director - Grand Valley Metro Council.** Jerry Felix addressed the Board regarding Metro Council and how it facilitates communication between rural and urban areas. The Council began 7-8 years ago and now has 27 members in 7 counties, acting as a voice for W. Mi. concerns in Lansing.

Some of the areas in which Metro Council assists municipalities include public purchasing power, transportation planning, hazardous material alliance, MetNet, MTA and Municipal League, Metro Water and Sewer Systems, City/Township Cooperation Group, North Kent Township Group and regional master planning. The Council has no authority. The Council is based on consensus and cooperation between individuals and groups to maintain the quality of life already existing. Membership costs are based on a formula using \$.27 per capita based on 1990 census.

Regional Geographic Information System (REGIS) is a database file which will contain all sited information topographically (utilities, water, sewer mains, etc.); i.e. aerial mapping which has been digitized. Cost depends on number of parcels. Township can join REGIS without joining Metro Council or vice versa. A pilot group is assembling with a cut off date for joining as of January 31, 1998.

2. **Community Development Block Grant Allocations - 1998-99.** Unprogrammed Funds = \$15,058.13. \$2,000 was allocated to North Kent Transit. Applications for the community development block grants are due February 1, 1998. Geiger-Hessler made a motion to allocate the rest of the dollars (\$13,058.13) toward handicap accessibility to the Township Hall for use of second floor. Stone seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **PA 198 Request from Central States Precision Grinding.** A motion was made by Cook to approve application of twelve years each for personal property, \$600,000 grinder and smaller equipment inventory, subject to legal assessments with the Township providing the Agreement. Motion seconded by Weber. Motion carried. A public hearing on this issue occurs next.
4. **Examination of Preliminary Plans for Parking Lot Expansion.** The new parking lot would have two entrances, one on Bailey Drive and one on Parnell Avenue, both with deceleration lanes. There will be two lots, one off Bailey, accessing the lower level, and one behind the building, off Parnell. This one will have a handicapped accessible walkway connecting it to the upper level. The two lots will be connected by a drive. In all, forty parking spaces will be available after construction. Community Development Block Grant money could be used for any handicap accessibility costs. The project will cost \$52,000 and funds have previously been budgeted for the parking lot construction. At this time, the renovation of the upstairs of the hall into a planning and meeting area is on hold until the entire cost can be determined as well as the legalities involved in making the space handicap accessible. Motion made by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Hoffman, to proceed with the parking lot construction and reserve decision on the renovations to the upstairs of the hall until after considering all factors necessary to comply legally with rules and regulations for a government building. Motion approved.
5. **Examination of Plans for Cemetery Expansion.** Three Thousand Dollars has been budgeted for this renovation. \$1,900.00 spent to date for plan/computerized lots. Stone whittled down Progressive's various concepts to three plans. Basically, eliminate north/south driveways, continue east/west drives all the way to east of cemetery, and add space in rear. Vacant land in the rear previously purchased, but space needs to be surveyed. Next is Phase I, at a cost of approximately \$2,000, to set lines, survey, purchase corner markers (\$2.50 each) and ultimately create 82 new lots consisting of eight burial spaces each.
6. **Discussion Concerning Possible Upgrade to Assessors Program.** Motion made by Hoffman and seconded by Stone to upgrade to Assessor's Program at a cost of \$1,000.00 from a stand alone to network version of Equalizer. Motion approved. Cook to look into creating a book containing all the information which is found on the Equalizer program.
7. **MTA Capitol Conference - February 10, 1998.** Mari Stone and Sue Geiger-Hessler to attend this conference. Hoffman made a motion that the Township remit payment for their attendance fees. Motion seconded by Weber. Motion carried.

8. **Board of Review Appointment.** A motion was made by Cook to appoint Bob Meyers to a position on the Board of Review caused by the resignation of Gil Wise for a one year term. Motion seconded by Weber. Motion approved.

Citizens Comments:

Mac McPherson presented a petition signed by Township residents to save the two oak trees in front of the Township Hall by petitioning the Kent County Road commission to spare these two trees and strongly request the need for a 4-way stop at the Bailey/Parnell corner.

Previous Board voted to cut the tree down which grows within the Kent County right-of-way and which impedes vision to the east at the Bailey/Parnell intersection when traveling south. Road Advisory Committee recommended the two trees be cut in the interest of overall safety. Weber made a motion and Geiger-Hessler seconded the motion to once again strongly urge and petition the Kent County Road Commission to put a 4-way stop at the intersection of Bailey Drive and Parnell Avenue.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully

Submitted,
