

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2004

As amended

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

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

The minutes of the December 15, 2003 regular meeting approved as presented. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Stone, to approve Agenda for January 19, 2004 as written with the addition of Guest Speaker – Matt McConnan, Rockford Ambulance. **Motion carried.** Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta to approve bills as read. **Motion approved.** Stone did not locate any procedure about contacting township attorney within minutes from previous meetings. Stone to put something together and bring before the Board in February.

Guest – Lowell Fire Department – Frank Martin, Chief – Request for Funding for Truck. Vergennes Township paying at present on 2002 tanker purchase. Fire Department intends to purchase a new county truck. Bids to open January 20, 2004 and hope for December delivery. Cost to be hopefully less than \$280,000 which was the amount for last truck purchase. Fire Department hopes to get funding from Engelhardt Fund and also one-half the total cost *(\$160,000-\$165,000) will be received from County Fire Commission (paid out once every 16 years). First payment by municipality to occur in 2005.

Also over last three years (since 9/11/01) Federal government giving away preventative dollars. \$76,700 approved for 2004. Of that amount, \$40,000 will be used at the fire station for a diesel exhaust system and \$36,000 for breathing apparatus-air packs and a laptop computer for the fire truck. Local government has to come up with one-third - \$2,556.00 from each municipality.

Guest Bryan Kimball - National Fire Code. Presented written request including correct wording for resolution by Vergennes Township to adopt National Fire Code ordinance which will allow fire department to enter community facilities for a safety inspection. On average a facility has thirty days to comply. By having an ordinance in effect, enforcement of noncompliance by way of penalties/fees can be better effected. Need three member appeals board within Township consisting of one person with electrical expertise, another person with construction expertise, and one Board member. Township needs to publish 30 day notice of public hearing on the National Fire Code, then decide to adopt or not, then publish National Fire Code Ordinance.

Guest Matt McConnan - Rockford Ambulance. Request for allocation of community funds from Vergennes Township in the amount of \$2,000 towards purchase automobile vehicle locators in all trucks. Total cost: \$30,000.

Public Hearing – Private Road Ordinance Amendments.

Open Hearing: 7:30 p.m.

Charles McDonald lives in Grattan Township but accesses his home using a private road in Vergennes Township. He gave his opinion that we not change width of private roads to less than 22', reasoning that the County will not receive roads less than 22' as public roads.

Close Hearing: 7:50 p.m.

New Business:

1. Consideration of Private Road Amendments. The Planning Commission had recommended several changes and discussion was held. Reasons cited for reducing standards: Reduction of speed, less tree removal; preserve more open space; still maintain cul-de-sac for turn around; maintain 3' shoulder rather than 2' for 16' road and 4' for 22' road.

It was felt that the proposed further work to the Private Road Ordinance by Township Engineer Dave Austin was not entirely necessary, and that a joint meeting between Planning Commission and Board would help clarify the issues. Baird made a motion, seconded by Nauta, to table adoption of private road ordinance amendments until overhaul of total Private Road Ordinance can occur. **Motion Approved.**

2. Discussion Regarding Community Development Grant Funds. Of the \$16,413.00 total allocation as of 1/12/04, there is a remainder of \$3,339.13. Township Board all comfortable borrowing into next year for community grant funds. Motion by Stone, second by Hoffman, to allocate the following, borrowing into next year:

Fire Department/Emergency Preparedness	\$2,500
Rockford Ambulance AVL Project	\$2,000
North Kent Transit	\$3,000
Senior Meals	\$3,000

Motion approved.

3. Approval of 3-Mile Construction Work Order. Plan is to payoff Downes/Fallasburg construction by March. Owe \$32,000 for remainder of Burroughs. Need to amend budget for road work – under budgeted – Downes/Fallasburg not included. Motion by Stone, second by Nauta, to approve 3-Mile paving work order for section between Lincoln Lake and Alden Nash. **Motion carried.**
4. Discussion – 2004 Road Projects. Motion by Stone, second by Hoffman, to approve the following 2004 road projects for minor construction:

Heim - East and West of Lincoln Lake
Cumberland – South of Bailey Drive
Boynton – Between Vergennes and Bailey Drive
Biggs – South of Downes

Motion approved.

5. Set Annual Meeting Date. Motion by Stone, second by Nauta, to set Annual Meeting for March 27, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. **Motion approved.**

Jeanne Vandersloot Comments:

Keyhole Ordinance/Murray Lake Association. *Grattan Township attorney, who wrote the proposed keyhole ordinance, advised Vandersloot that it should be added to the Zoning Ordinance - complements the dock ordinance adopted in 2003. Grattan Township has similar keyhole ordinance only difference is in lot widths. It has worked well for them for 10 - 12 years.* Stone made a motion, second by Nauta, to send Keyhole Ordinance to Planning Commission for approval. **Motion carried.**

Vandersloot noted that mini-storage site plan parking formulas need to be amended. First draft ready to be sent to Planning Commission regarding change of tenancy in commercial or industrial district. Supervisor spoke to Mr. Clark regarding semi on 4 Mile Road. Attempts to move not successful – given approval to reattempt move in Spring. Bus has been moved.

Lowell Area Schools – antenna construction for wireless system between school buildings. Schools exempt from site plan reviews. Believes a special use permit is needed. Vandersloot to do research regarding same or contact school and request research by school attorney.

New ordinance books now available.

Citizens Comments

Four Mile Gravel Pit Mining – What route with the trucks be taking? North on Whites Bridge to Four Mile to Lincoln Lake – 5 Mile Road to Grand Rapids. Agreement in place to put gravel on road and keep it brined all the way to Lincoln Lake.

Stone noted that Jim White from Lowell Area Schools indicated concern regarding children walking along Lally Road to the new elementary school; he asked if we would talk to Road Commission about public road easement for a sidewalk along Lally; protection for erosion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk