

**MINUTES OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**January 20, 1997**

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  
                              Mark Weber   -         Trustee  
                              Sue Geiger-Hessler     -         Trustee

With minor corrections, a motion was made by Weber seconded by Hoffman to approve the minutes of the December 16, 1996 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given and accepted as presented. A motion by Weber with Geiger-Hessler supporting passed regarding approval of the bills. Draft numbers 2125 to 2159 were issued.

Building Report. 119 building permits in Township to date.

Old Business. None.

New Business:

1. Consideration of Proposals for Waste Water Treatment Feasibility Study. Two companies Prein & Newhof and Wilcox, have extended bids. The Wilcox bid is approximately two times the cost of the P & N bid. Both companies have good qualifications. The P&N bid is vague; not as specific as to the actual services to be tendered. Discussion followed. Does the township need an SPR (amount of gallons per day required)? Cook to gather information from ITM. Will land have to be purchased? Cook would deed land to Township? (NE corner adjacent to Bieri's parcel) Some considerations:

- How much capacity necessary?
- Intent?
- Future potential?
- Township system vs. own system by each facility?
- Cost?

Brian Johnson, representative from Wilcox, attempted to explain more clearly the services offered by the Wilcox proposal.

Motion made by Cook to accept the Wilcox proposal. No second.

Weber made a motion that considering the approximately \$3,000 difference in cost between the two proposals, Cook will determine by questioning each of the companies in detail regarding the exact services offered by each proposal, comparing the results, then at that time in his supervisory capacity make a decision which proposal to accept. Seconded by Geiger-Hessler. Motion carried.

2. "Plan for Planning" - Preparation for Master Plan. Discussion regarding the January 6, 1997 Planning Commission meeting. Tim Howard came across a resource to enhance the effectiveness of the Master Plan process, "Plan for Planning." No members of Commission have expertise; they need a starting point; a very detailed complex job. Results of the information gathering and visions from this group will be developed and presented to both the Board and Planning Commission over a 2-3 meeting process. Stone offered the information that if we request community development monies for a Master Plan, Vergennes Township will be competing with other communities for the same money. If Vergennes put their own money toward a planning instrument first, we would be in a better position to receive

Community Development planning dollars at a later date. Motion made by Stone to spend \$3,250 on "Plan for Planning" and Hoffman seconded. Motion approved.

3. Board of Review Appointments. Jan Robert Bomers has resigned.

Gil Wise                    2 year term (1997-98)  
Gay Nauta                   2 year term (1997-98)  
Marsha Wilcox              2 year term (1997-98)

Motion made by Cook to approve appointments, seconded by Weber. Motion approved.

4. Road Commission Project Recommendations. John Rice, Managing Director of Road Commission, stated there would probably not be any outsourcing of any road work. According to Cook, it costs \$600,000 per mile for paving and the Township is responsible for 55% of the cost. Paving without all tree removal can be done, but drainage is the problem. Bennett residents petition indicates residents are 100% behind preserving the natural beauty of their road. Board discussed the possibility of using Bennett as an experiment. Engineering study has been accomplished; we will ask to have it priced both ways, with and without tree removal.

Regarding unpaved road, a private traffic study was effected in September. Township to ask for an engineering study on 4 Mile Road (only one mile in Vergennes Township-rest Grattan Township), then Burroughs (high traffic), McPherson (low traffic-high maintenance).

Downes Road (3/4 mile) disrepair discussed by resident Jim Brown. It was suggested that the Road Commission could be quizzed as to their future plans. Some of the problems regarding Downes Road is its meandering line and lack of width.

5. Chamber of Commerce Community Expo. May 10, 1997. 9:30 a.m. at the Lowell High School to highlight businesses, community services, townships to create interest in our area. Notices sent to Amway employees (Relocation Department, other businesses and developers, et al.) Vergennes invited to have a booth and representatives from Vergennes Township at the Expo. Mari Stone to develop a committee for creating a booth and those items of interest to be highlighted.
6. Community Development Block Grant 1997 Funding.

- \$14,732 New Money  
- \$24,819.45 total Unprogrammed Funds

Stone reminded the board that we have approved allocation of \$2,500 to Rockford Ambulance since these figures were developed, leaving \$22,319.45 to be programmed. Discussion was held concerning the barrier-free ramp that will be necessary to utilize the upper level of the hall, and the Master Plan that will need to be updated starting later this year. (see item number 2)

Priscilla Lussmeyer, representing Fallasburg Schoolhouse, requested \$2,000 of the Board as part of this community development block grant funding. These funds would ensure all painting (inside and out); contract labor. Previously the Board has given \$23,000 (1994-1995: \$16,000; 1996: \$7,000). A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Weber to allocate \$2,000 to Fallasburg Village restoration, \$12,000 for barrier free ramp, and \$8,000 for Master Planning. Motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk