

# *Vergennes Township*

## Regular Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2008

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  
Vern Nauta - Trustee  
Al Baird - Trustee

The agenda for the January 21, 2008 meeting was approved by Nauta; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion approved.** The minutes for the December 15 meeting were approved. The Treasurers report and bills were approved with a motion by Hoffman; seconded by Baird. **Motion approved.**

**Public Hearing – Township Recreation Plan** – The plan adopted in 2003 served as a base for this one, and additions regarding additional community recreation have been made. The intention of the board is to review the recreation plan every 5 years. A parcel list of all of the recreational land in the township will be added as an appendix. There were several clerical amendments to the draft that were reviewed. The public hearing was opened at 7:14. Dan Edwards spoke - he helped in the 2003 revision of the recreation plan and was concerned that this version would have all the components the state required for grants. The public hearing was closed at 7:16. Stone stated that this is a joint project with the City of Lowell and Lowell Township. All of the state requirements are met, and the plan will be submitted for state approval.

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Rail to Trails Project Letter of Support – Stone reviewed a proposed letter that addressed the concerns expressed at the January 08 meeting. It was also noted that this project will be funded by donations, and that leaving the railroad bed in place won't be feasible. There was a motion to send the letter as presented by Hoffman; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**
2. Henschke House – A new letter will be sent to the home owner indicating a new permit will be required when work resumes on the house. It was agreed that the Township should require some physical assurance such as a bond from the homeowners in order to get it done.

### **New Business:**

1. Recreation Plan Adoption – There was a motion to adopt the recreation plan, including the acreage report as appendix B and the clerical amendments, by Nauta; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**
2. Alden Nash West – Conditional Rezoning Application – The developer, Steve Hansen, is asking to conditionally rezone the western three acres of the north adjoining property and add them to the adjacent Alden Nash West development. Hansen removed one previously approved lot to accommodate the extended street. The additional property will look the same as the portion already built. The water retention and slope concerns are being

accommodated. Nauta offered the following **motion**: That the proposed conditional rezoning be approved for the following reasons; compliance with the recently adopted master plan and future land use map, the proposed conditions are thought to be helpful in making the site more compatible with the surrounding land use, and the impact of the natural environment does not appear to be in any way detrimental. It was further moved that the approval for conditional rezoning shall expire on January 7, 2010 unless the applicant or his assigns submit the appropriate request for extension in accordance with section 201.904. The motion was seconded by Stone, and a roll call vote was taken.

**Motion carried.**

3. Community Development Grant 2007-08 Funds – The Township seems to be on target for the North Kent Transit current allocation. 50 percent of the funds have been used during the first half of the fiscal year. There was a motion to allocate \$5,000 to North Kent Transit and \$7,000 for the Lowell Senior Neighbors for 2007-08 by Stone; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**
4. Set Annual Meeting Date – Since attendance has been low for the last couple of meetings, this year the meeting will be held before a regular board meeting. There was a motion to set the date for the annual meeting on March 17, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. by Hoffman; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**
5. Building Inspector – Discussion regarding whether Mark Fleet, the building inspector, should be compensated for his extra time spent at 285 Lincoln Lake Ave. There was a complaint filed to the state against the builder and Fleet has been in the middle of the issue. The possibility of adding something to the fee schedule regarding dispute control/additional services was discussed. Stone will talk to Fleet and advise the Board. Precise Engineering is no longer manufacturing, but still is has a tax exemption. The assessor, Debbie Rashid, wrote a letter to Precise Engineering and the state of Michigan regarding revoking their abatements. If the township doesn't hear from them, the township will revoke the IFT.

**Citizens Comments**

Jay Clark, a fifth grader from Murray Lake Elementary, informed the board and audience of a spaghetti supper that will be held to raise money for the fifth grade trip at the end of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mari Stone, Clerk