

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2014

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board 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
Rick Gillett -Trustee

A moment of silence was held in honor of Trustee Al Baird who recently passed away.

The agenda for the January 21, 2014 meeting was approved as presented. Motion made by Rick Gillett; seconded by Jean Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the December 16, 2013 meeting were approved as presented. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved as presented. Motion made by Rick Gillett; seconded by Tim Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

Guest- Pat Allchin, Executive Director, Lowell Area Historical Museum

Pat Allchin, the executive director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum, informed the board that there has not been a lot of change to the museum this past year. There have been some new exhibits including the Flashback to the 60's and the theater exhibit. New informational signs are going to be put all over downtown Lowell along the river walk as well. The board discussed the funding of the museum the same amount has been budgeted for the 14/15 fiscal year. The board said that they will plan to pay this contribution in February.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

1. Bill Schreur Request - Pavilion -

Bill Schreur approached the board requesting an amendment to his current Special Exception Use Permit. He wants to build a pavilion on the property for his Bed and Breakfast business. Schreur is also requesting that he be allowed to split the property with the B&B from the original 15 acres because the State of Michigan will not allow this activity in the PA 1-16 Open Space Preservation program. The board was hesitant to agree to split the land as Schreur was proposing and decided that they need to discuss this issue more with Assessor/Split Administrator Debbie Rashid. However, the board was not opposed to the pavilion. Stone motioned to hold the public hearing in February for the River Edge Bed and Breakfast pavilion request. They will address the issues separately and then make a final decision when the board is satisfied with the split. Seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

2. North County Trail Update and Request-

The board received information from the manager of the North County Trail and they said that they are looking to re-route the trail through Vergennes Township. The manager is asking the township to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that they have already used with Ada and Cannon Townships, where they have been working on connections to the White Pine Trail. They are just asking for township support, not funding. The board was in favor of the trail system, and will have the MoU on the February agenda.

Dennis McKee from Consumer's Energy came to inform the board about new Smart Meters that will be put in the homes in county's all across the state. These meters will give a more accurate reading and will have the ability to inform Consumer's Energy when a house loses power. Smart Meters will give off a signal to alert Consumer's Energy of energy usage instead of having people come check the meters on a regular basis. These new techniques will allow buyers to save money by saving energy. McKee told the board that it will probably be in the Fall of 2015 when the meters in Vergennes Township will be changed and homeowners do not need to be home when this happens and the new meters will not save any personal data on them.

Citizen's Comments:

Wittenbach acknowledged Al Baird and his passing away on January 16th. He served the township for over 30 years and was a dedicated trustee to the board. The members of the board will miss Al Baird greatly.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
