

Vergennes Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2014

The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Members Present:	Tim Wittenbach	Supervisor
	Mari Stone	Clerk
	Jean Hoffman	Treasurer
	Rick Gillette	Trustee

Members Absent: Vern Nauta Trustee

Jeanne Vandersloot asked to be added to the agenda to discuss some zoning issues with the Board. Motion to approve agenda with addition was made by Mari Stone, seconded by Rick Gillette. **Motion carried.** The minutes from the June 16, 2014 meeting were approved as presented. The treasurer's report was given and a list of invoices were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Jean Hoffman and seconded by Rick Gillette. **Motion carried.**

Guest Speaker – Kent District Library Annual Report - Charles Myers, KDL Board Chair spoke first. There is a millage issue on the August 5, 2014 ballot. The current millage of .88 expires this year. They are looking to expand their blind and physically handicapped services, early literacy program, and make much needed technology updates in addition to maintaining their current services.

Michelle Boisvenue-Fox, KDL Assistant Director then spoke. The annual report booklet was reviewed including the use by Vergennes residents. There were some decreases and it is a reflection of economic recovery. The use of the digital collection increased. Its use is equal to the circulation at a large branch. Their WIFI needs have increased.

Josh Bernstein – New manager of Englehardt Branch in Lowell – He has been busy getting to know the branch and the community. There are the elderly learning the technology, kids in KDLville, resume writing, computer use. There was an 11% increase in program attendees this year. They are also looking to offer an iPad lending program. A patron would be able to check out an iPad for 3 weeks.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

1. **Request for Fireworks permit at Pink Arrow Game – September 5, 2014.** - Per Mari Stone, the paperwork is in process. There are no changes from last year's event. Mari Stone motioned to approve the fireworks permit. Rick Gillette seconded. **Motion carried.**
2. **PA 198 application for Industrial Services Group.** - Stone said she developed the agreement and other documents for this application based on standard forms and previous applications. The proposed agreement is for 12 years. ISG will use the building at full capacity or lose tax relief. The agreement requires ISG to obtain a written appraisal of the property for township use. If they fail any part of the agreement, the PA 198 will be revoked. Wittenbach motioned to set a Public Hearing for a PA 198 request from ISG at the August 18 Board meeting. Rick Gillette seconded. **Motion carried.**

3. Zoning – Jeanne Vandersloot - Jeanne wrote a letter to 13800 Thompson Drive regarding the canopy over their boat on the Flat River. Brian Bury of Natural Rivers department said the canopy was not allowed. The canopy was still there as of July 16. She believes her letters will be ignored. Is the Board ok with her issuing a ticket? It becomes a civil infraction and goes to the district court magistrate. Wittenbach motioned that Vandersloot move forward on issuing the ticket. Hoffman seconded. **Motion carried.**

Vandersloot also noted there are a lot of small sheds popping up along the river. She will be sending letters to ALL river residents including a copy of the ordinance and a note to move the sheds.

Ike Road update – Vandersloot emailed residents regarding road name. It was suggested by a resident that another meeting be held to get a name approved. Tom Byl contacted her asking for an update. Hoffman questioned whether we can force the name change. Wittenbach thinks the Township can force it. Vandersloot could amend addressing ordinance for unnamed private roads. While the township doesn't have a specific ordinance she thinks the Kent County Road Commission could force it legally.

Audio-Visual equipment in meeting room - It was suggested by a meeting attendee a few months ago that the Township look into obtaining some type of audio-visual system for viewing site plans, etc... during meetings. The Planning Commission members and the Board members have plans in front of them to look at. The audience just has whatever is displayed on a board in front of the room which is usually difficult to see. Vandersloot thought the Township should look into something so everyone could see what is being discussed. There is probably grant money available to cover the cost.

Office lighting – the area over the receptionist's desk and over the elections clerk desk is very dark. On cloudy days it is difficult to see fine print, etc... There is 15 feet between the lobby area light and Vandersloot's desk. There is 11 feet between her and elections desk. Can a couple of lights be installed over the two desks to make it easier to see, especially on cloudy days? Wittenbach will call the electrician that installed the current lights (high efficiency) and see if a couple more can be added.

Mari Stone thanked and commended Vandersloot for her recent work on the J&H issues with the airport. There was some discussion about airport zoning. Does the township need to enact an airport zoning ordinance? If they did, is it the township that enforces it? One method that could be used is a district overlay to the existing zoning map that would specify airport district height restrictions. It could be reviewed whenever a building or cell tower was being planned in that area.

Citizens Comments - None

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,
