

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2009

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
Al Baird - Trustee
Vern Nauta - Trustee
Jean Hoffman - Treasurer

The agenda for the June 15, 2009 meeting was approved with the additions of Jim Redd's Fireworks permission request and Tom Medendorf's request to discuss the water district by Nauta; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the May 18 meeting were approved. The treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with a motion by Baird; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

Guest – KDL Annual Report-Ms. Sherry Bava and Ms. Jane Aronson were both present for KDL's annual report. Ms. Bava opened up the report with her power point presentation. She stated that it was KDL's goal to enhance each community's quality of life. Ms. Aronson, of the Englehardt library in Lowell, showed how the library had created new groups that would help facilitate learning. Ms. Aronson reported that 139,000 people walked through the library's doors last year.

Guest-Jodie Vokes, LARA Fundraising Update-Ms. Vokes briefly explained the safety benefits and other "walkability" factors that would help the Lowell community. They currently have \$365,000 from donations. Their goal is \$1.5 million with half coming from charitable donations and the other money being matched by government organizations such as DNR and MDOT. Stone asked about payroll contributions to which Ms. Vokes replied that they would need to meet with Township staff who process payroll.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Arrowhead Golf Course - Outdoor Pavilion - Josh Brewer requested from the township that it would consider allowing the golf course to build a structure that is 40x40. It would be for outings that require extra space. Currently, they are using tents for their events. Josh Brewer showed the board a picture that is very similar to what it will look like. Josh Brewer also said that, at a later date, he would dress it up with things such as columns and picnic tables. Also, the board inquired if it would be able to be seen from the road. Josh Brewer had no definitive answer but said that you probably would be able to see it from the road. Nauta motioned for a public hearing to be scheduled to discuss this topic; seconded by Stone. Baird commented that he wants specific details for Josh Brewer to give the board such as angle of the roof and size and angles of eaves. **Motion Carried.**

2. Jan Devries - Easement Request - Jan Devries was not present for the meeting. She came to the Board in 2008 asking for assistance with a problem she had concerning getting a mortgage approved without a legal easement to her property. She is now in the process of getting easements over all of the properties on the private drive, and one of them has been deeded to Vergennes. It has a grinder pump for the sewer system on it – the Grattan Supervisor told Stone that they did not care if Vergennes Township granted the easement. Dave Steinbrecher, who also owns land on the road, stated that he was concerned about who will maintain it, and said that an association needs to be formed. Stone motioned to grant easement for Jan Devries with the stipulation that Vergennes Township will be held harmless of any maintenance liabilities; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

3. July Meeting Date - Request To Change - Hoffman asked the board if the monthly meeting date of the Township’s board could be moved to July 13th from July 20th. Hoffman motioned to move the July board meeting to July 13th; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

4. Township Millage Rate for 2009 - The millage rate for 2008 of .8672 will not need to change. Stone motioned to approve the 2009 millage rate at .8672; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

5. CDBG Grant - Annual Senior Neighbors and Hope Network contracts - There was a brief discussion on services provided and allocated amounts. Stone motioned to approve Senior Neighbor’s 2009-2010 contract; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.** Hoffman motioned to approve Hope Network’s 2009-2010 contract; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

6. Jim Redd’s Fireworks Permission Request - Jim Redd gave a brief synopsis of rules regarding fireworks. Jim Redd explained to the board that he intends to get a storage box so that he could legally store his spare fireworks after a show as per ATF’s requirements. Before he obtains his fireworks magazine, he needs permission from the Township to install this box. The board asked if he was going to inform his neighbors that he was installing this magazine, which he said he was going to. He is located at 73 Rivertop Drive. Baird motioned to give permission to Jim Redd to install and use a storage device for fireworks as long as he obeys federal statutes; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

7. Tom Medendorp’s water district discussion -Tom Medendorp recently was about to sell property but lost the deal because Lowell Township had increased the price to connect to the water system. It is currently \$50 per frontage foot as well as additional “readiness fees”. The board informed Tom Medendorp that they would look into it.

There were no Citizen’s comments. MTA sent the township a certificate for its proper following of procedure. It also included a “Principles of Government” which Stone read out loud and the board signed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk