

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 16, 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 June 16 meeting was approved with one addition by Nauta; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the May 19 meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. The bills were approved with a motion by Baird; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

Unfinished Business:

1. Zoning Issues update – Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator – Bruce Langlois – No building or occupancy permit will be issued until everything is done. The first step for the township is to issue a citation for failure to complete the agreement. There was a motion to have Doezema issue a civil infraction for not completing the road in compliance with the agreement by Stone; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** A ticket was issued for the crashed truck on Langlois' property also. The property on 2 mile was cleaned up, and the mobile home will be replaced by a double wide. A ticket was issued to the Henschke's. The board would like to see the house get finished. They have a hearing June 30 with the magistrate. The Historical Ordinance was rescinded at the planning commission meeting on June 2, 2008.

New Business:

1. CDBG Grant – Annual Senior Neighbors Contract - There was a motion to approve the 2008-09 Senior Neighbors Contract by Stone; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** There was a motion to approve the 2008-09 North Kent Transit contract by Baird, seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

2. Township Millage Rate for 2008 – The millage rate is the same as last year, at .8672. Stone reminded the Board that we can still consider an administrative fee, as the cost for tax administration is rising. Hoffman will look into a smaller figure than the 1% normally collected in other jurisdictions. There was a motion to approve the millage rate for .8672 by Wittenbach; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**

3. Insurance Policy – Stone and Wittenbach listened to two presentations given by insurance companies. Pinnacle is less expensive than Burnham and Flower. Pinnacle costs \$7,310 including workers comp, while Burnham and Flower costs \$9,751 not including workers comp. Both companies offer basically the same coverage. There was a motion to switch insurance companies to Pinnacle by Baird, seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

4. Extension of Private Road Construction Permit – Victory Woods – The entrance to the road is now paved. The road is almost done; just finishing touches are needed. There also needs to be a meeting between Doezema and Kidder to finalize a maintenance agreement. There was a motion to extend the private road construction permit to not exceed September 1st, 2008 by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

5. Conservation Easements – Discussion – The Kent MSU Extension land preservation committee works with land owners who own more than 40 acres to preserve it from future development in four townships, one of which is Vergennes. There is currently an effort to widen the methods to preserve land. The board doesn't need to become involved in the process currently.

6. Proposed Fire Authority – Update and Discussion – The funding formula being considered is 40% State Equalized Value, 20% population, and 40% number of runs. There don't appear to be any concerns regarding property and equipment being rolled into the authority. The Act 7 language does not give the ability to enact a millage. The board felt that leaving the choice to a unit of government to collect its own millage to pay for fire and rescue services is best. The board had no issues with the current draft of the fire agreement.

7. Grattan/Vergennes Sewer Ordinance – The current ordinance needs to be amended to match the current Grattan version. According to the township attorney, a public hearing is not necessary. Doezema has reviewed and the draft under consideration was developed by him. Wittenbach motioned to approve the Grattan/ Vergennes Sewer Ordinance, number 2008-6.16, pending Doezema's final review; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The roll call vote was Nauta, Hoffman, Baird, Wittenbach, and Stone in favor. There were comments from the public regarding an apparent lack of capacity on Lally that several residents were experiencing, and the board will follow up on this issue.

There were no further public comments. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____ Mari Stone, Clerk