

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2002

With amendment in italics

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present: Tim Wittenbach - Supervisor
 Jean Hoffman - Treasurer
 Mari Stone - Clerk
 Al Baird - Trustee
 Vern Nauta - Trustee

Motion by Nauta, seconded by Baird to accept the agenda as written. Motion carried. The minutes of the May 20, 2002 regular meeting were approved as presented. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Baird, seconded by Hoffman, made a motion to approve bills as read. Motion approved.

Guest: Robert Eleveld, Candidate for 86th District State Representative. Lived in the district his whole life. Very active in the community, Republican Party and professional organizations. His campaign has three messages: (1) improve public education, (2) integrity & honesty, and (3) will not accept any money from special-interest groups or political action committees. Favors pro choice; does not favor gun control. Believes in less government – more local control.

New Business:

1. **Rezoning Request – Pete Faber, Lincoln Lake R-2 to Industrial.** Twelve + acres on Lincoln Lake – originally planned a residential development but borders industrial zoned land. Rezoning from R-2 to Industrial follows Master Plan, *and was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission.* Motion by Nauta, seconded by Baird, to grant the rezoning request of Pete Faber for the property located adjacent to 629 Lincoln Lake from R-2 to Industrial. Roll Call Vote: Stone, Hoffman, Nauta, Wittenbach, Baird – Yes. **Ordinance 2002-8** approved.

2. **Request for Special Use Permit – Kent County Road Commission, Jerry Byrne.** Gravel pit on Burroughs contains sand and gravel. Road Commission will use the sand it needs this summer for construction of Burroughs roadbed from this pit. Plans long term gravel extraction – approx. 180,000 ton/20 years off and on. Commission will continue to restore and grade towards river as gravel/stone removed from area. Would like to produce 40,000 cubic yards to store on the site for future use. Not planning to get to gravel production this year. Discussion regarding the road project and gravel extraction, and how it would affect the residents in the area. Motion by Stone, seconded by Nauta, to grant Kent County Road Commission's request for special use permit for the gravel pit located on Burroughs Road as long as following seven requirements are met: (1) excavation and further clearing no closer than 150' from property line; (2) Create two foot berm containing 5 foot trees planted along the Meier's property line; (3) production on this application limited to 40,000 cubic yards of gravel; (4) removal of 5,000 cubic yards of sand allowed this project only – for the purpose of building Burroughs Road; (5) sand mining approved on Saturdays for the 2-3 weeks during construction project, with no gravel production on Saturdays; (6) 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. work days; and (7) Notice to Township when gravel production is to begin so Township can notify residents. Motion approved unanimously.

Jerry Byrne will fax information to Stone regarding work planned to be done on Lincoln Lake Road and an approximate start date for Burroughs.

3. **Proposed Sign Ordinance Amendments.** Adoption recommended by Planning Commission. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Stone, to approve Sign Ordinance Amendments as written. Roll Call Vote: Stone, Hoffman, Nauta, Wittenbach, Baird – Yes. **Ordinance 2002-9** approved.

4. **Proposed Commercial Rear Setback Amendment.** Adoption recommended by Planning Commission. Baird made a motion, seconded by Nauta, to approve commercial rear setback amendment as written. Roll Call Vote: Stone, Hoffman, Nauta, Wittenbach, Baird – Yes. **Ordinance 2002-10** approved.
5. **Planning Commission Vacancy.** Tom Read has resigned from Planning Commission. Wittenbach recommended Chris Kropf, who had submitted an application. Motion by Wittenbach, seconded by Nauta, to appoint Chris Kropf to serve out the remainder of Tom Read's term of office. Motion approved.
6. **Historical Commission vacancy.** Vacancy advertised the week of June 17, 2002. Appointment to take place at July regular township meeting.
7. Stone presented article regarding application of sewage on land in Spencer Township; suggested Township require special land use approval before any applications of sewage. The board would like to review Spencer Township ordinance on this issue.
8. Wittenbach received letter from Michigan Railroad Association requesting Township Board adopt ordinance amendment which would keep developments from building within the railroad right of way. Township chose to ignore request at this time.
9. Stone presented a memo from Jeanne Vandersloot bringing the Township Board procedure of granting special use permits to the Board's attention. Not all special use permits need to go before the Planning Commission- can go directly to Board. Could eliminate extra step in the procedure and save time by noticing the public hearing for the same night as a regular board meeting. It was agreed that Stone ask Vandersloot to segregate and give some examples of special use permit requests which would in the future go directly to the Board and bypass the Planning Commission. To be discussed further at the July regular meeting of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk