

Regular Meeting Minutes June 21, 1999

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
	Sue Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee
	Mark Weber	-	Trustee

A motion was made by Weber, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 1999 regular meeting. Treasurer's Report was given by Hoffman and accepted as read. A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Geiger-Hessler to approve the bills including the Williams & Works invoice for comprehensive plan. Motion carried. Drafts 3312 through 3366 were issued.

Permit Activity. There have been 24 new home permits issued through the month of May.

Unfinished Business:

- Community Recreation Authority Agreement Discussion.** Thursday, June 17, 1999, Stone, Wittenbach and Geiger-Hessler attended Pool Committee Meeting. Representatives of Lowell Township, City of Lowell and Lowell Schools were also in attendance. Consensus is that still more facts needed to make final decision. Rewritten agreement not available for signature as of yet. School attorney to get back with Townships and City of Lowell on a few issues. Board expressed their concern with pool deficit language and liability of Township to repay their share of deficit; inability to back out of agreement if vote of residents shows majority not in favor of community pool; no budget appraisal measures; pool authority vs recreational authority. Comments from citizens noted long term financial concerns.
- Fee Schedule Discussion.** Changes to existing fee schedule outlined by Stone. Fee schedule is now categorized by area of service. Changes and additions: special meetings of ZBA for Interpretations of Ordinance are \$200.00. Service of grave opening raised by \$50, which will be used to pay for top soil and seeding, and any other disturbance of the cemetery at the time of a burial, as the Township has no perpetual care fund. Zoning Compliance Permits for Home Occupations is \$25.00; Special Exception Use Permit for Home Based Businesses and Storage Facilities is \$100.00. J. VanderSloot noted that a separate fee for rezoning should be included. This should be \$300.00 as there are two notices in the paper and a public hearing must be held, and be categorized under Planning Commission. No fees were raised and a couple of the fees were lowered. Motion by Stone, seconded by Weber, to accept draft of Fee Schedule as written noting the addition of a separate fee of \$300.00 for rezoning. Motion carried.
- Cemetery Fee Agreement.** Stone received updated proposal from Ken Wittenbach in which the fees are the same as last year. He added a few things such as removal of frost; 48 hours' notice; and mark grave site 24 hours before burial. Ken provides labor only for seeding and filling in of graves - purchase of seed and additional soil provided by Township. Auditor indicated any pay to Ken Wittenbach is considered "services" and must be run through the general account; must start budgeting for this expense and any payment to Ken Wittenbach will be part of monthly bills. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Weber, to approve the Cemetery Fee Agreement between Vergennes Township and Ken Wittenbach provided Ken Wittenbach approves wording changes incorporated by Stone. Motion approved.

New Business:

1. **Rezoning Request - John DeVries.** Opinion of J. Kilpatrick that rezoning is consistent with Master Plan. Request is to rezone from RA to R1. Planning Commission held hearing on this rezoning at their June meeting. Motion by Weber, seconded by Stone, to approve rezoning request of John DeVries at 775 Alden Nash SE, consistent with plans and recommendation of approval by Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Zoning Administrator Update Regarding Devonwood Lighting.** Neighbor still complaining. It was determined at hearing by Zoning Board of Appeals that lighting is excessive and a nuisance to neighbors and passing traffic. Owner did not attend hearing but was represented by two caretakers. Agreement to change to frosted bulbs of reduced wattage; put shields on lights on west side of property; and hook lights to a timer to turn off and on intermittently. Zoning Administrator asked Board what is the next step if two parties cannot come to agreement. Wittenbach suggested giving resident time to comply with agreement on bulbs and shields and have Zoning Board of Appeals check and make another ruling; then go to court if necessary. No action taken at this time.

Citizen's Comments:

Geiger-Hessler and others noted that Fallasburg Cemetery has a fallen tree, and that the cemetery was defoliated by gypsy moths. Stone had spoken to Don Anderson, Luscious Landscapes, who indicated he mows and trims on a two week schedule. Stone to mention to Anderson that Fallasburg Cemetery needs additional attention, and that brush and fallen trees need to be removed.

Old flagpole to be given away; Tim Wittenbach requested the pole.

Comments by Art Warning and others regarding gypsy moth spraying program. Noted that no Township plan to spray total Township; cost is \$16 per acre; need to sign up by the Fall for the next year's spraying. It was suggested all townships in the area band together and present to State of Michigan that a use for the budget overflow could be gypsy moth spraying program for the entire state.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
