

# *Vergennes Township*

## Regular Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2010

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
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Al Baird	-	Trustee
	Rick Gillett	-	Trustee

The agenda for the June 21, 2010 meeting was approved by Gillett; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the April 19 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with a motion by Baird; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

**Unfinished Business: None**

**New Business:**

**1. Adoption of Ordinance 2010-1** - The ordinance amends various sections of the zoning ordinance pertaining to child care, agricultural, and other miscellaneous issues. A roll call vote was taken.

Hoffman, Baird, Stone, Wittenbach and Gillett; yes. **Motion Carried.**

**2. Township Millage Rate for 2010** – The rate after Headley would be 0.8672, which is no change from 2009. A discussion was held on options for additional revenue. Collecting the whole 1.1 would require a Public Hearing; collecting an administrative fee for summer tax collection is also an option. In that case, the taxpayer is paying the administrative costs - currently we are charging the schools a fee. The Treasurer will look into what other jurisdictions are currently charging. Motion to approve 2010 Township Millage rate of 0.8672 by Stone, seconded by Hoffman. **Motion carried.**

**3. Potential Planning Commission Vacancy** – One of the commissioners is planning a move to a neighboring jurisdiction – State law allows one non-resident to serve. Stone motioned to table this discussion until more information is gathered, Wittenbach seconded, and the **motion carried.**

**4. Adoption of Whistleblower Policy** – The Auditor had suggested the Board adopt such a policy, and Gillett motioned to adopt the presented version. Hoffman seconded, and the **motion carried.**

**5. Annual Senior Neighbor and Hope Network Contracts** – Stone motioned to approve the contracts in the amounts of \$5,007 and \$3577 respectively. Gillett seconded, and the **motion carried.**

**6. Historical Tax Records** – The Fallsburg Historical Society has been storing old tax records in one of their buildings, and is requesting that they be permitted to relinquish them to the custody of the Alton Church Society. Stone motioned to approve the transfer, Gillett seconded, and the **motion carried.**

**7. Annual PDR Applications** – There were two applicants for the 2010 program – James Hall and Bruce Roth. Hoffman motioned to approve, Gillett seconded, and the **motion carried.**

**8. Grand Lux/Grand Volute Liquor License Name Change** – The original license was approved for “Grand Lux”, and the State Liquor Control Commission requires current business names. Stone motioned to approve, Gillett seconded, and the motion carried with Wittenbach and Baird voting no.

**9. Miscellaneous Zoning Issues** – Vandersloot reviewed her Zoning Administrator report with the Board – issues included the current use status of the former Shady Acres property, the Fallasburg Historical Society’s Tower House, and the burned out/abandoned property at 1149 Flat River Dr.

**Shady Acres** - the Land and buildings that used to be Shady Acres has been for sale (minus the residence) for several years, and interested buyers always want to know what kind of business they could conduct there. The Board confirmed that the commercial Special Use the former Shady Acres operation had has long expired. Without a residence, it could not even be operated under the Home Based Business or Home Occupation Ordinances. The realtor and bank will be informed.

**FHS** – They have been approached about leasing or selling one of their historic buildings to a non-profit organization to house their national headquarters. There are no scenarios in the current zoning ordinance that would allow this, but the board indicated that they would be willing to work with the organizations to make it happen.

**1149 Flat River Dr.** – Stone motioned to consult with the township attorney as to the legality of boarding up the unsafe structure and placing a lien on the property. Wittenbach seconded, and the **motion carried**.

**10. Reception Area Remodel** – The office staff had received a bid from Kentwood Office Furniture, who did the original installation, to reconfigure the reception area to allow for better customer service. Motion by Wittenbach, seconded by Hoffman, to proceed not to exceed \$1,000. **Motion carried**.

**Citizen’s Comments:**

Judith Fay Kapteyn introduced herself and told the Board she was running for the 29<sup>th</sup> State Senate seat as a Republican.

Ken Skinner said he would be interested in putting in his own private boat launch. He would be willing to open it up to river owners in the spring and fall. The township will continue to inquire with the county as well.

Hoffman and Stone had discussed the possibility of closing the hall on Friday afternoons during the summer with the staff. They estimate that savings could be as much as \$1000, and have maintained call logs over the previous weeks that showed very little activity on Fridays. Motion by Gillett, seconded by Hoffman, to post summer office hours on Friday for 9-noon through Labor Day, and to re-evaluate after that. **Motion carried**.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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