

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2004

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:05 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

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

Minutes of the February 16, 2004 Regular Board Meeting approved as presented. \$126,112.27 amount on check register to Kent County Road Commission pays off Downes intersection work, 2003 gravel projects, 30K for Burroughs paving, and invoices to date for 3-Mile engineering. Approximately \$30,000 remaining on Burroughs paving. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Baird, to approve bills as read. **Motion approved.** Motion by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman, to approve Agenda as written. **Motion carried.**

Public Hearing – 2004-05 Proposed Budget.

Open: 7:15 p.m. There were no comments by the public.

Close: 7:17 p.m.

Public Hearing – Ordinance adopting National Fire Code. The ordinance would adopt by reference the codes of the National Fire Prevention Association, providing regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire and explosion – 15 binders make up the National Fire Code. Need to find out if it is necessary to have the entire code be located at the township offices for viewing by interested residents, or can they be viewed at Lowell Fire Department.

Open: 7:18 p.m. There were no comments by the public.

Close: 7:19 p.m.

Guest: Jack Horton, Kent County Commissioner. Horton in attendance to give information regarding Purchase of Development Rights program. Twenty-seven applications across the county met first criteria in scoring process; owner application, 51% of land must be prime agricultural, recommendation by Township, and property not within urban service district. Federal government requires 50% matching dollars by local government. In Vergennes Township there have been dollars donated from Wege Foundation and Lowell Area Community Fund - Frey Foundation grant and possibly grants from Steelcase (applied for 3/24/04) and Federal Farm and Land Protection Act (to be applied for 4/12/04) are also being looked at. The Kent County Board of Commissioners is considering whether it will allocate some general purpose funds for this program.

New Business:

1. Budget Amendments. Increases:
 - Software upgrades From \$1500 to \$6664
 - Office supplies/postage From \$4500 to \$5300
 - Cemetery Services From \$2000 to \$4570
 - Fire & Rescue From \$20,000 to \$30,000
 - Minor Construction/gravel From \$152,000 to \$168,100
 - Insurance & Bonds From \$9000 to \$10,267

Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta, to amend 2003 budget in the amounts above-referenced. **Motion Carried.**

2. Adoption of 2004-05 Budget. Motion by Stone, seconded by Baird, to adopt the 2004-2005 Budget as written noting Assessing contracted services change to \$800.00 and New Equipment change to \$3,825.00. **Motion Approved**
3. National Fire Code – Discussion and Recommendation. Township Attorney Doezema noted National Fire Code draft still needs minor work. Motion by Baird, second by Stone, to table adoption of the National Fire Code until next regular Township meeting in April 2004.
4. Makuski Special Use Permit Agreement. It was agreed by the Board to remove No. 6 – Screening from the Makuski Special Use Permit Agreement due to the fact that the building is 1,000 feet off the road and situated behind the existing garage and nearly out of view without additional screening. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman, to grant Makuski Special Use Permit for Temporary Building with terms and conditions noted in their Temporary Dwelling Special Use Agreement. The Board has eliminated No. 6 – Screening and has changed the number of days/months allowed for removal of building from 90 days to 12 months. **Motion approved.**

Citizens Comments

Annual Dinner Meeting of the Kent County Road Commission will be held at Boulder Creek on April 14, 2004. Frank Martin needs a letter of support from the Vergennes Township Board granting approval to apply for grant funds from Lowell Area Community Foundation for second fire truck and exhaust system at firehouse.

Craig Woods noted that there is a neighborhood problem at Fallasburg Village. Non-functioning automobiles (three at the moment); trash in yard; numerous occupants in house. Two letters from Township already sent to residents regarding non-functioning and unlicensed automobiles. Board noted that a complaint form needs to be filled out before any enforcement can be accomplished. Zoning officer to send another more forceful letter giving residents two weeks for compliance or possibly issuance of civil infraction would be next step.

County Commissioner Jack Horton polled Township Board members regarding Kent County Road Commission Board. It is a three member board whose members are appointed. Would the Township like to see a larger number of members on the board and should the members run for office rather than be appointed for a six year term. These changes would necessitate change in statute. The Board noted their general satisfaction with the Kent County Road Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk