

# Vergennes Township

## Regular Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2009

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was held on Tuesday and 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  
Not Present:                Vern Nauta      -Trustee

The agenda for the March 10, 2009 meeting was approved as presented by Baird; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the February 16 meeting were approved. The treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with a motion by Hoffman; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**

**Public Hearing – 2009-10 Budget Hearing-** Vergennes Township Budget Hearing was opened at 7:10. There were no comments regarding the Budget Hearing.

### New Business:

**1. Adoption of 2009-10 Budget-** The board reviewed some of the line items for further discussion before adoption. Stone noted some adjustments that should be made based on current information. The board decided to raise the cemetery grounds keeping budget to \$8000 and incorporate all of the cemetery maintenance in that line. Stone also informed the board that the Township exceeded last fiscal year's budget for paying deputy and clerical, citing the election for the overage. The board decided to increase that line item to \$11,000. Hoffman motioned to adopt the 2009-10 budget (attached) with above changes; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

**2. 08-09 Budget Amendments-** Hoffman motioned to have the amendments to the budget be accepted as noted; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

#### ELECTIONS:

Salaries	\$679.25 – from \$3500.00 to \$4179.25
Misc.	\$523.30 - from \$1000.00 to \$1523.30
Equip & Supplies	\$132.95 - from \$200.00 to \$332.95

#### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Deputy and Clerical	\$4773.65 – from \$9000.00 to \$13773.65
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#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS

New Equipment	\$1994.00 – from \$3000.00 to \$4994.00
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#### CEMETERY

Contracted Services	\$860.08 – from \$3000 to \$3860.08
Grounds Maint.	\$1080.00 – from \$4800.00 to \$5880.00
Misc.	\$398.71 – from -0- to \$398.71

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Kent Co. Fire Assmt.	\$7433.98 – from \$7000.00 to \$14433.98
Shared Operational	\$15322.53 – from -0- to \$15322.53

**3. Murray Lake Marina – SEUP and Site Plan Review-** Murray Lake Marina is moving from Lally road to Alden Nash road. Owner Dave Steinbrecher had been asked who owns the

Consumer's Energy electric pole on the property – Consumers couldn't tell him without much research. Boats will not be stored until the trees are planted between the school and the marina. Wittenbach motioned that Murray Lake Marina Site Plan be approved and the marina be allowed to move to Alden Nash with conditions noted by the Planning Commission; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**

**4. Cemetery and Hall Lawn Care Maintenance-** There was a brief discussion regarding fees charged by the contractors. Clean Cut Lawn Care is not raising its fees, and Rake, who does the hall grounds, only wants a dollar more per cut. Stone motioned to have Clean Cut Lawn Care and Rake, Inc. take care of the Township grounds this year; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

**5. Amendment to Planning Commission Establishment Ordinance-** Discussion was held regarding a draft ordinance from the township attorney re-establishing the Planning Commission. Board members agreed that 7 was still a good number, and that the idea of allowing one non-township resident commissioner should be studied. Stone motioned to have the planning commission establish ordinance and bylaws; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

**6. Lighting Ordinance Discussion-** Bill Schruer asked about a light he has installed on a new home that is not compliant - it can be rotated, even though he has it pointing downward. The board determined that the light needs to be in a fixed position to be compliant with the ordinance. Discussion was held about the problems that have been experienced with the lighting ordinance by residents and the zoning administrator. The ordinance was adopted to reduce unnecessary lighting, but the board recognizes that the ordinance is causing other issues and needs to be reviewed. Wittenbach motioned to have the planning commission review and address the ordinance; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

**7. Assessing Department Request-** The assessing department would like help with drawing 1000 parcels onto their computer system. It has been suggested that temporary employee Ronda Benedict can do the work. The board decided that Benedict could work on this project for 1 to 2 days a week for a few months, and a review of the clerical budget will be made. No motion was made.

**8. County Solid Waste Management Plan-** Kent County asked Vergennes Township to accept the plan for 2009. Kent County can handle the waste that is produced in Kent County at this time. Wittenbach motioned to adopt resolution 1-2009 Solid Waste Management Amendment; seconded by Hoffman. A roll call vote was taken. Wittenbach, Stone, Hoffman, and Baird voted yes, and Nauta was absent. **Motion Carried.**

**9. High Speed Internet Proposal-** Stone informed the board that Vergennes Township has exhausted all options in working with vendors directly. A proposal has been submitted to survey residents and use the findings to market Vergennes in order to attract new vendors/providers. Limited areas of the township have high-speed, cable internet, but large areas still use dial-up. Wittenbach suggested that the Lowell Area Cable funds could be used for this project when they are available. It was also suggested that the board apply for LACF funds. Hoffman motioned to apply to the Lowell Area Community Fund for \$10,000 for this project; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

Citizen's Comments were made by Bill Schreur, and concerned the lighting ordinance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Mari Stone, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_