

**VERGENNES TOWNSHIP**

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2001

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

Members Absent:	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee
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The minutes of the February 19, 2001 regular meeting were reviewed and stood approved as written. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Baird, to approve bills as read. Motion approved.

**Quarterly Budget Report – Budget Amendments.** Discussion regarding quarterly budget report noted that cemetery/contracted services is over budget amount by \$680 and fire and rescue would be well over once the final bills were paid. It was suggested that possibly 2001-02 fire and rescue budgeted amount of \$20,000 should be raised. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Stone, to amend the 2000-01 budget for cemetery/contracted services to \$1,680. Motion was unanimous.

**Public Hearing: 2001 –02 Proposed Budget.** Opened at 7:30 p.m. No comments from the public. Closed at 7:44 p.m.

**Guest Speakers – Judy Straub, Jim Doyle – Lowell Area Historical Museum.** Thanked Board for Vergennes Township contribution to the Lowell Area Historical Museum of block grant money, which will be used towards handicap access/ramp and reconstruction of small bathroom in building originally erected in 1873. Museum to be open September 2001.

**New Business:**

1. **Adoption of 2001-2002 Budget** - Summary of salary/pay increases as follows: Supervisor and Clerk raise of \$2,000 from \$14,500 to \$16,500; Treasurer raise of \$2,000 from \$14,000 to \$16,000; Per Diem raise for Trustees from \$60 to \$75 and \$60 to \$65 for Planning/Zoning Chair and \$40 to \$50 for members of Planning/Zoning Commission; Zoning Administrator raise of \$3,000 from \$6,500 to \$9,500; Planning Coordinator raise of \$1,000 from \$4,500 to \$5,500; Assessor increase from \$17,000 to \$18,500. Discussion on other line items suggested increasing several accounts to reflect the current expenditures. Motion by Stone, seconded by Hoffman, to adopt 2001-2002 Budget (attached) as read and changed to reflect Fire & Rescue services at \$25,000, and Building & Grounds/Utilities at \$3,000.

Roll Call Vote: Aye - Wittenbach, Stone, Hoffman, Baird. Motion approved unanimously.

2. **Scott Osborne - Building Permit** - Discussion regarding building permit at 5150 Lincoln Lake property. Shared driveway would include an existing home, Osborne new

- home, and a vacant trailer. Ordinance requires removal of trailer before building permit can be issued. Developer intends to upgrade the road, but has not started work – has permit from County for road cut and intends to build to Private Road specifications. No more building permits will be issued until private road constructed. Motion by Al Baird, seconded by Stone, to issue building permit to Scott Osborne based on developer-provided \$5,000 security bond (for removal of trailer across from property) and requiring such removal to be accomplished within one year – March 12, 2002. Motion approved.
3. **Historical Commission Appointments.** Terms up for Judy Baird and Cyndi Dalga. John Coats moved out of township. Had several applicants. Motion by Stone, seconded by Hoffman, to appoint Tom Luehrs and Judy Baird for three year terms and Dawn Crook to fill out John Coats term, which expires in 2002. Motion carried.
  4. **Revocation of Industrial Facilities Exemption for Central States/Precision Grinding.** Exemption for personal property – grinder valued at \$390,000 - in existence since 1998 but no grinder installed. Motion by Hoffman, second by Stone, to revoke industrial facilities personal property exemption of \$390,000 for Central States/Precision Grinding. Motion approved.
  5. **Award of Cemetery and Hall Lawn Care Contracts.** Discussion was held regarding the past service of Luscious Landscapes. The job done has been fine, but closer attention needs to be paid to mowing before a holiday. There have been complaints. Motion by Baird, second by Hoffman, to award cemetery lawn care to Luscious Landscapes. Rake Inc. was the preferred company for the hall lawn care, and it was decided that the Board request that they continue. Should that not take place, Luscious would receive the work. Motion carried.
  6. **Certified Authority at Huntington Bank.** Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Baird, to authorize Tim Wittenbach, Mari Stone and Jean Hoffman to officially represent Vergennes Township at Huntington Bank. Motion approved.
  7. **Township Position on County Park Millage.** William Dean, Oakfield Township Supervisor, had written resolution opposing County Park System additional millage. Discussion resulted in agreement that Vergennes Township supports resolution in concept. A formal resolution to be considered at next meeting. Wittenbach to write a letter to include with resolution.
  8. **Murray Lake Association Request regarding a Uniform Dock Ordinance.** Brad Raimer, President of Murray Lake Association, presented information regarding dock ordinance drafted by Grattan Township. Ordinance covers docks (position/length/height), mooring rights, swim rafts, etc. Requesting that Vergennes Township adopt same or similar ordinance governing the portion of Murray Lake within Vergennes for the purposes of continuity, safety and policing. There were no objections. Wittenbach to review Grattan Township Dock Ordinance (in process of being finalized) and forward to Planning Commission for adoption process.
  9. **Clerk's Request for Education Funds.** Motion by Hoffman, second by Baird, to appropriate funds for attendance at Clerk's Institute for Mari Stone. Certification as Municipal Clerk includes intense one-week class each year for three years at a cost of \$700 per year. Motion approved.

10. **Lowell Area Community Fund – Representation for Vergennes** - Kate Dernocoeur term is up. Motion by Stone, second by Hoffman, to reappoint Kate Dernocoeur to two-year term. Motion carried.
11. **Discussion Regarding Private Road Issues.** Issue involved properties on private roads having dual access on a public road, where the driveway should be placed and which address to use. Ordinance unclear in this area. County has no formal policy. It was noted that one of the purposes of the private road ordinance is a reduction of curb cuts onto public roads. There was discussion regarding property rights, and extenuating circumstances. It was felt that the private road ordinance should not be circumvented, and that variances could be made to accommodate individual situations. Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Stone, for Board to send letter of policy to Kent County Road Commission noting that property with access to a private drive must use private drive for ingress/egress and addressing, and to direct Planning Commission to amend ordinance to reflect same.  
  
Roll Call:        Yes - Wittenbach, Hoffman, Stone  
                      No - Baird
12. **Colleen Lenihan/Planning Commission** - Not in attendance at last four of five meetings. Wittenbach to contact her.
13. **City of Lowell/Vergennes Township/Lowell Township Joint Planning Commission Meeting** - Vern Nauta attended. Next meeting scheduled June 14, 2001 and October 18, 2001. Lowell Township to host and create agenda for June, and Vergennes in October. Members paid per diem to attend.

**Citizens Comments:**

Gay Nauta reported on Recreation Committee consisting of residents from City of Lowell, Vergennes Township and Lowell Township. Received grant from Lowell Area Community Fund for study from an engineering group regarding a biking/hiking trail connecting two townships and City of Lowell. Wittenbach stated he does not support this concept, commenting that the maintenance is costly.

Tom Medendorp raised issue of excavating at gravel pits on Cumberland Road – shielding driveway; noise issue; start date.

Vergennes Township Annual meeting March 31, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mari Stone, Clerk