

## **Regular Meeting Minutes** **March 15, 1999**

Prior to the regular meeting, a Public Hearing on the proposed 1999-2000 Budget was held. The Public Hearing was opened at 6:30 by Supervisor Wittenbach, who read the budget line by line. There were several questions and comments by residents, including what was proposed to be spent out of the New Equipment line item, the cost of maintenance of gravel roads, Fire and Rescue costs, and how many dust layer applications are planned for the Summer. Wittenbach informed the public that both lanes will be sprayed this year, and the three major Holidays are targeted. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m.

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 Hoffman, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to approve the minutes of the February 15, 1999 regular meeting with a minor addition. Treasurer's Report was given by Hoffman and accepted as read. Treasurer noted that the Township has a \$271,000 balance after renovation of township hall. A \$75,000 CD was taken out two years ago in a pre-planning method for paying for renovation and parking lot, but it has not been cashed. General fund monies were used instead. 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. Motion made by Hoffman, seconded by Weber, to pay bills which come in after the March Board meeting which need to be paid out of the current fiscal year budget. The Board will receive notification of these. Drafts 3147 through 3223 were issued. Motion carried.

Permit Activity. 11 single family permits month of March.

### **Unfinished Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

1. Adopt 1999-2000 Budget. Motion by Weber, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to accept 1999-2000 Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Historical Commission Appointments. Two seats open. Two applications: Craig Wood and Sue Ford. Motion made by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Weber, to appoint Craig Wood and Sue Ford for two year terms to the Historical Commission. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Consideration of Special Use Permit - Mary Jo & Richard Kerr. Home-based landscaping/lawncare business. All equipment to be stored inside except for two trailers. Business to be run by Mary Jo and Richard Kerr except for one high school student during summer. It was noted that there were no negative comments and one positive comment regarding this special use permit. Motion made by Hoffman to grant Special Use Permit to Mary Jo and Richard Kerr. Seconded by Stone. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Award of Cemetery Maintenance, Hall Lawncare, and Hall Cleaning Contracts. Received one bid for cemetery maintenance and hall lawncare; two bids for hall cleaning. Motion by Stone,

seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to accept cemetery maintenance bid to Luscious Landscapes for \$3,800.00 for the 1999 season. Motion approved. Hoffman made a motion to grant bid for hall lawncare to Rake, Inc., seconded by Stone, for \$25.00 per mowing for the 1999 season. Bids for hall cleaning by Lynn Seese (approx. 2 1/2 hours-\$40 - 1 time per month); Barb Williams/Nancy VanLaan (\$15.00 @ hour - approx. 2 1/2 hours - 1 time per month). Williams has been cleaning for the past six months. Motion by Weber to accept hall cleaning bid of Williams/VanLaan for 1999. Motion approved.

5. Discussion Regarding Annual Meeting. Wittenbach opened discussion regarding annual meeting stating if instituted, annual meeting would be for next year as too late this year. Salaries of elected officials is the only decision-making allowed by statute to residents. Weber noted that it is the Board's job to provide best service possible and for the Trustees to negotiate wages for Board members taking into consideration inflation, job performance, public relations, and salaries in surrounding municipalities. He felt that the primary concern needs to be maintaining high quality personnel. Another option is the Board instituting a compensation committee. Geiger-Hessler in favor of annual meeting if the majority of residents desire same. The Board will consider the options and decide at a later date.

#### **Citizens Comments:**

Bill Schreur Jr. presented a proposal requesting a township resolution to Bill Schmidt, State purchaser of land for state game areas, to support negotiation for purchase by the State with individuals who own four parcels on Flat River contiguous to 80 acres of state owned land across the river from Schreur's property. His concern being that this land is highly errodable and purchase by the State would keep the land intact and building free. Zoning of the four parcels in question presently R2. Stone believes the area may be improperly zoned and should be looked at in context of the Master Plan. Board members not in favor of State taking the land from owners, but agree it is the property owners' personal choice. Board is willing to look at a proposed resolution if Schreur is willing to work on one and present same at April Board meeting.

Ken Ewing wished to recognize and thank Dan and Jean Hoffman for donation of Board table. Repair of Fox' Cemetery (fence and stones) noted. Stone has quote of \$500 from J. Wilterink regarding repair/replacement of stones. Stone to submit to insurance company. It was noted that the Township has no cemetery committee but would gladly take interested applications.

Justin Michael reported on elected officials meeting regarding pool. Proposed contracts handed out regarding recreational authority and pool. Survey sent to 600 residents - statistically randomly chosen. Showing of hands at Board meeting noted approx. 9 out of 38 residents received survey. Surveys can be obtained by request from school administration. Some disagreement as to increased property value if pool is built. Al Baird in favor of a user's fee rather than assessing every resident's taxes.

Motion by Weber, seconded by Stone, adjourned meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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