

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 15, 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
Al Baird -Trustee
Rick Gillett -Trustee

Members Absent: Jean Hoffman -Treasurer

The agenda for the March 15, 2010 meeting was approved with the addition of Chuck Hayden from the North Country Trail by Baird; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the February 15 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with a motion by Baird; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Chuck Hayden from the North Country Trail - Chuck Hayden informed the board that expanding the North Country Trail that currently ends on the north side of Fallasburg Park will be the focus of the local chapter. He told the board that the trail is part of the National Park Service runs through public land such as national and state parks and forests but also heavily relies on land that is privately owned. They obtain easements from landowners that allow the trail to run through the private land which are largely handshake-type agreements. He showed the board on maps where the proposed trail is preferably going to run through Vergennes Township. Hayden approached the board because he was looking for feedback. The board had some concerns such as the amount of traffic, and whether snowmobiles could use the trail. He informed the board that the trail is only 18'' wide and basically a footpath, so it can only be used by hikers. As for gauging the usage, he said that there was no exact way to measure usage.

Public Hearing 2010-11 Budget Hearing

1. 2010-11 Budget Review - The public hearing was opened and closed at 7:30 P.M. There were no public comments.

New Business:

1. Adoption of 2010-11 Budget – The proposed budget suggests that the township will have a negative budget of approximately \$60,000 this fiscal year. No raises have been given, and many accounts have been cut back. Revenues are projected to be down due to decreased property values and revenue sharing. Stone raised the issue of a potential \$1,035 assessment by the Kent County Drain Commission. It was determined that this issue could be addressed when more information is available. Gillett motioned to adopt the 2010-11 budget as presented; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**

2. 09-10 Budget Amendments - The only budget amendment for the 2009-2010 fiscal year was the street lighting account. Stone motioned to amend 101-448-920 by \$207.40, from \$750.00 to \$957.40, seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

3. Lowell Area Community Fund – Vergennes Representative - Vergennes Township needs a representative for the Lowell Area Community Fund. The Lowell Area Community Fund requires a list of 4 people from which it chooses who will represent the township. They need an answer by April 16th. Stone has come up with a list of some people that may possibly be interested in representing the township. The board discussed the nominees from Stone's list and chose 4. Gillett motioned to nominate Jeff Bunn, Dave Emmett, Pete Gustafson, and Mark Weber to submit to the LACF; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

4. Cemetery and Hall Lawn Care Maintenance - Zack Beachum and Rake Inc. bid the same prices for their services for 2010 as for 2009. Wittenbach motioned to use Zack Beachum for cemetery maintenance and Rake Inc. for township hall maintenance; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**

5. Jim Hall – PA 116 – Jim Hall's PA 116 application needs township approval before it is given to the state for approval. Aerial photos were reviewed and it was determined that the property is contiguous to Hall's property currently in PA 116. Stone motioned to approve Jim Hall's PA 116; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

6. Temporary Dwelling Agreement on 700 Montcalm – Cindy Cornell wants to tear down the current house that is on the property and replace it with a modular home. However, she wants to live in the current house until the modular is completed. In other words, there will be 2 houses on the property simultaneously until the modular is built. The township has on record two temporary dwelling agreements that were previously used – one requiring a bond and the other not. Cornell still needs to look into financing, check with Consumer's Energy to see what needs to be done electrically, check with the Health Department regarding the well and septic, and determine how they will tear down the house that is currently standing on the property. The board informed her that they would be willing to grant her the temporary dwelling agreement conditioned on submittal of a demolition plan, all other agency approvals, and application of the building and demolition permits. Cornell will work with the Building Department to get these items and come back for the temporary dwelling agreement when she is ready to pull the permits.

Citizen's Comments: There were no citizen's comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
