

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2008

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township meeting was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 pm in the Vergennes Township Hall. Members Present: Wittenbach, Stone, Baird. Members absent: Nauta, Hoffman.

The agenda for the March 17, 2008 was approved with one addition. The minutes for the February 18 and January 23 Special Meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. The bills were approved with a motion by Baird; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Approved.**

Guest – Pat Allchin, Executive Director Lowell Area Historical Museum – This past year has been busy for the Museum. They had several exhibits at the Museum as well as traveling exhibits. Everyone is pleased with the exhibits.

Public Hearing – 2008-2009 Budget Hearing – There were no raises this year, and the budget is \$20,000 less than last years. The hearing was opened at 7:15. Someone asked how much money is compensated to township employees per mile. Stone answered 48.5 cents or as currently allowed on the IRS website. The public hearing was closed at 7:17.

Unfinished Business:

1. Final Approval – Alden Meadows Court Pvt. Road – There are three things that needed to be fixed. 1.) Rock check dams in place, they are currently under the snow. 2.) Snow in area where driveway meets the road needs to be looked at. 3.) In July of 2007 the road was built without an inspection. The Township needs to be shown bills, drainage, weight limits, also, a field test showing density needs to be done. There was a motion to give final approval to the road contingent on receipt of all items outlined on the memo from Vandersloot and Austin dated March 14 by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Adoption of 2008-2009 Budget – Motion by Baird, seconded by Stone, to adopt the 2008-09 budget as presented. Motion carried.

2. 07-08 Budget Amendments – There were line item amendments that needed to be made to the current fiscal year.

ELECTIONS: AMEND MISC. by \$454.75 - from \$500.00 to \$954.75

ASSESSING: AMEND MISC. \$1265.10 – from \$200.00 to \$1,465.10

FIRE DEPARTMENT: AMEND LOWELL FIRE & RESCUE by \$49,133.12 – from \$20,000.00 to \$69,133.12, and KENT CO. FIRE ASSESSMENT by \$2,333.91 – from \$4,700.00 to \$7,033.91

There was a motion to adopt these amendments to the 07-08 budget by Wittenbach; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**

3. Township Insurance Proposal – Pinnacle Insurance, Bill Deimers – Deimers matched the Township’s current insurance plan to one of almost identical coverage and assured the Board they could save the Township money. His proposal comes in just over \$7,000. Wittenbach and Stone will meet with Deimers to discuss the proposal further.

4. Cemetery Lawn Care Maintenance Contract – There were two bidders this year. Both have liability insurance and similar job descriptions. There is a \$500 difference, with Clean Cut Lawn Care Services less. There have been no complaints about Clean Cut this past year. There was a motion to offer the contract to Clean Cut Lawn Care Services by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

5. Bruce Langlois, Expired Private Road Permit – Langlois has been informed his permit has expired and he can come to the board when he is ready to begin again. The Township needs a guarantee it will be done. Wittenbach will call Dave Austin for advice and information. Langlois has until next month to have something figured out otherwise our attorney, Jim Doezema, will contact him.

6. Historic Ordinance Discussion – Since Vergennes Township doesn’t have a population of 5,000, a historic commission isn’t required. The question right now is if the Township even has the support for a Historic Commission. Mike Page voiced his concerns and opinions regarding this issue. He believes this ordinance needs to be followed and that it is important to have it because of the historic areas in Vergennes Township. Support is needed to run the Commission. Past efforts at enlisting resident support has not produced results Pat Allchin believes that preserving the houses we have is the first step, then building from there. The board would reappoint the members if they are willing to apply. There was a motion to have a public hearing at the April Board meeting to review the need and desire for the historic district ordinance by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

Public Comment – None. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk