

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2014

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
Rick Gillett -Trustee

Members Absent: Jean Hoffman -Treasurer
Vern Nauta -Trustee

The agenda for the March 17, 2014 meeting was approved as presented. The motion was made by Tim Wittenbach; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the February 17, 2014 meeting were approved with changes to #4 in New Business. All verbiage in first paragraph of #4 up to “former Trustee Vern Nauta...” will be deleted and in second paragraph insert “as alternate” regarding the ZBA. The motion was made by Tim Wittenbach; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.** The Treasurer’s report and bills were read and approved as presented. The motion was made by Rick Gillett; seconded by Mari Stone. **Motion Carried.**

Public Hearing – 2014-15 Budget

The public hearing began at 7:14 pm. Wittenbach briefly reviewed the proposed budget, and discussed several expenditure increases - need of a new fire engine and the maintenance of gravel roads. He also noted there were no proposed salary increases. There were no citizen’s comments. The hearing ended at 7:18 pm.

Unfinished Business:

1. J&H Oil Gas Station Convenience Store Plan Revisions – Owner Craig Hoppen has applied to secure a liquor license from the state to sell alcohol on premises. Stone commented that state of MI can approve a liquor license but that does not pre-empt Vergennes Township ordinances - owner must abide by those. Hoppen proposed a plan to add square footage to original approved building plans to accommodate a larger sales counter and add a cooler to hold alcoholic products. The Board had many concerns over alcohol being sold in close proximity to the high school. Stone suggested J&H apply under the township’s alcohol ordinance. The board members would like to hear citizen comments on issue before decision is made. The board decided to vote on the addition of the square footage, but noted it does not include approval to sell alcohol. If J&H applies for a permit under the township ordinance, the Board will schedule a public hearing regarding the approval to sell alcohol at the next scheduled township meeting. Stone motioned to approve the plan to expand the store; seconded by Gillett; opposed by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Adoption of 2014-15 Budget – Stone explained several additions and changes to line items that had needed research at their budget workshop in January. New line items for BS&A accounting support and software were added, and proposed amounts to Street Lighting and Miscellaneous Township Administration were amended to reflect the new Covered Bridge light and a County Digital Orthophotography project. Gillett motioned to approve the proposed budget as submitted; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried**

2. Request for Approvals – Rebuild White’s Covered Bridge, Christine Baird – No representative was present to discuss this issue.

3. SEUP Request – Accessory Building on Adjacent Property, Scott McDowall – Scott McDowall owns two adjacent lots of which one has his home and the other is vacant. McDowall requested permission to build a structure on the edge of his property that is vacant. Property association has already approved plan, which includes placement of building closer than the required 25 feet from property line. There were no objections from the Board. Tim Wittenbach motioned for a public hearing at the next meeting for the approval of the special use permit; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

4. 2013-14 FY Budget Amendments – The Board had no amendments for the 2013-14 Budget.

5. National Flood Insurance Program – Consideration of Participation – The program will update the flood maps to include many areas of Vergennes Township and will enable certain residents to obtain flood insurance. However, the program requires a commitment to the program for flood mapping to begin. It would be of no cost to the Township. Mari Stone already completed preliminary paperwork to participate. Participation in this process would enable residents to become eligible for federal disaster relief from flooding and federal flood insurance. Mari Stone motioned for the Township to participate; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

6. Approval for Collection and Disbursement of Taxes for KDL – Stone motioned to approve collection and disbursement of taxes; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Citizens Comments:

Several residents at the meeting stated their concern over J&H Oil selling alcohol in the Township and had many of the same worries that the Board did on the matter. They especially wanted the board to consider long range plans of township growth and maintain the character of Vergennes Township.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
