

**VERGENNES TOWNSHIP**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 20, 2000**  
*as amended*

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:05 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present:	Tim Wittenbach	-	Supervisor
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Susan Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee
	Mark Weber	-	Trustee

Member Absent:	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
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Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Weber, made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2000 regular meeting. Motion carried. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Motion by Weber, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to approve bills as read. Motion approved. Drafts 3727 through 3799 were issued.

Balance owing Road Commission: \$88,155.57. Stone noted portions (attached) of the Budget which need to be amended before the end of the fiscal year.

Elections	\$ 965.00
General Administration	\$ 6387.00
Kent County Rd. Comm.	\$35,204.00

Motion by Weber, seconded by Stone, to amend budget as proposed under elections. Motion carried.

Motion by Stone, seconded by Weber, to amend budget as proposed under general administration. Motion approved.

Motion by Stone, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to amend budget as proposed under Kent County Road Commission. Motion carried.

**Kate Dernocoeur – Land Preservation in Vergennes Township**

Kate Dernocoeur, spokesperson for a group of Vergennes Township residents who gathered in January to discuss ways to preserve open land and still make it possible for individual land owners to develop their parcels of real estate as they wish. Kate presented a proposal to the Vergennes Board that they support creating a committee which would lay the foundation for open space preservation in the township for years to come; arrange for an inventory of unique natural features & habitats; investigate ways to educate interested citizens about land preservation options; and give interested property owners the chance to implement some of the land preservation methods. The committee

would be appointed by the Board and open to citizens of Vergennes Township. Residents who met in January included: Dernocoeur, Rick Gillett, Pete Gustafson, Tim Howard, Bill Schreur and Marsha Wilcox. Other interested parties are Jim Bosserd, Jim Cook, Sr., Mac McPherson, Gay & Vern Nauta, Roger Odell and Doug Olin. Presentation to Planning Commission at regular meeting in April. Township Board gave their blessing and will act on the proposal at April regular meeting. Any number of people can participate. Stone to take names of interested parties.

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Phase I Bieri Industrial Park - Ray Zandstra, representing Bieri's, indicated they need resolution for township to take over private sewer in event of failure in order to move forward with the DEQ. It was noted that final approval will not be granted until Master Deed is submitted including language stipulating the set up of a Special Assessment District to pay for costs incurred in event of failure. Stone made a motion – Resolution 1-2000 (attached) – in support of Township taking responsibility for private sewer system in the event of failure. Geiger Hessler seconded. Motion approved.

Zandstra noted that Township engineer's invoices vague and asked Township Board to require itemized/detailed hourly accounting of time spent on all projects. Stone indicated itemized billings have been requested in the past, but Township will be more insistent in the future.

2. Final Approval – Talisman Drive, Private Road. Jim Hegarty, of Prein & Newhof, and Wittenbach, have inspected road. Hegarty mentioned possible soil erosion from felled trees. Hovey to plant grass seed to withstall any slope failure. Motion by Stone, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to grant final approval to the private road, Talisman Drive. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

1. Property Tax Administration System – Proposed Agreement with Kent County. Al Vandenberg and Dave Jagger discussed the Property Tax Administration system and its need for upgrade. This system provided by the County and updated last in 1985. New program rewritten in-house and completed in 1990. New system by Convergent Group will cost 5.4 million dollars. Need City of Wyoming and City of Grand Rapids to join townships to pay for system. County will pay one-half development costs up front and grant townships/cities involved 6 years with 0% interest. First payment from townships/cities involved due one and one-half year **after** system is operable. The new Property Tax Administration System entails:

- operating maintenance costs – day-to-day basis
- direct costs – postage, paper, envelopes

- development costs – share of each unit ½ of \$5.4 million (\$21,000 divided by 6 years (fixed-6 year payoff))

Weber made a motion, seconded by Stone, to enter into proposed agreement with Kent County regarding Property Tax Administration system subject to agreement review by Township Attorney. Weber amended above motion to include “contingent upon Wyoming and Grand Rapids participation in system.” Motion as amended approved.

2. Historical Commission Appointments. Colleen Lenihan and Tom Medendorp terms expire. Both expressed interest in staying on Commission. Geiger-Hessler made a motion, seconded by Stone, to reappoint Colleen Lenihan and Tom Medendorp to the Historical Commission on terms ending 2003. Motion carried.
3. Consideration of Planning Commission Recommendations. Planning Commission held public hearing. Planning Commission recommended allowing Kent County Road Commission to mine gravel on *McPherson and Cumberland*. County Road Commission agrees to reclamation of property after excavation finished, i.e. land resculpting, reseeding, trees planted by entrance, top soil returned, *and for Cumberland*, curve entryway from center gate and placing woven wire around south end of excavation. County estimated trucks and equipment entering and exiting for a processing period lasting less than 60 days and never on weekends. Motion by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Weber, to approve the application from the Kent County Road Commission for the mining of gravel on *McPherson and Cumberland* under the listed conditions (*attached*) regarding reclamation of the property at the end of excavation, noting that Ordinance is waiving twelve month requirement for excavation and stockpiling giving County up to 10 years, *and adding a condition that the Cumberland entrance be angled so as to screen with vegetation the pile of gravel from the view of the road.* Motion carried.

The Planning Commission acted on each recommendation before them separately and recommended approval of all. Weber made a motion, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to adopt zoning amendments, to be known as Ordinance 2000-2, as noted with the recommendations for approval from the Planning Commission. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes.

4. Award of Cemetery and Hall Lawncare Contracts. Received one bid for cemetery clean-up from Luscious Landscapes in the amount of \$3,800.00 (brush removal not a part of their package. Motion by Stone, seconded by Weber, to accept the bid for the cemetery lawncare from Luscious Landscapes. Received two bids for the lawncare at the Township Hall: Luscious Landscapes and Rake, Inc. (MaryJo Kerr-clean up included). Motion by Weber, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to accept the bid from Rake, Inc. for lawncare at the Township Hall.

5. Vandalism at Vergennes Township Cemetery. Clerk aware of the problem and will look into costs of repairing damage.
6. Brian Kroll – Gypsy Moth Surveyor. Kroll gave a short synopsis on the life cycle of the Gypsy moth. Cycles take 3 years to peak and recur 7-10 years apart. It is best to spray areas as the moths start climbing. Criteria for spraying will be in the areas most inhabited by moths and near and around homes – not the back forty. He has found they are effective 95% of the time. Cost \$15 per acre and 2,343 acres to be sprayed. Could be different acreage each year for the three year period. Residents asked Board to look into privately paying same sprayer to spray their property at same time. Mike Cummings and Jerry Thompson interested. If there are extra dollars generated from millage, *they would be carried over to next fiscal year in a separate fund*. It was suggested persons petition the Board to ask Kroll to look at their land and determine if extra dollars could be used to spray their land. It was noted that each year more dollars will be naturally generated from the millage.

**Citizens' Comments:**

Historical Commission will meet with Board at Fallasburg Cemetery to discuss proposed work there. Date to be determined.

VanderSloot request for change in ordinance under Definitions. She would like to remove letter captions, and use an alphabetical listing instead. Motion by Stone, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to have Planning Commission review and return recommendation to Board for action.

Thanks to Rich Kerr for hanging outside sign/bulletin board and placing plaque on Township door.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk