

# *Vergennes Township*

## Regular Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2006

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present:	Tim Wittenbach	-	Supervisor
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Al Baird	-	Trustee
	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee
Member Absent:	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer

Minutes of the February 13, 2006 Regular Board Meeting stand approved as presented. Motion by Baird, seconded by Nauta, to approve the invoices as presented. **Motion Approved.**

**Public Hearing:** 2006- 07 Budget Hearing – The hearing was opened at 7:08. There was no public comment. The hearing was closed at 7:09.

Sandi Parrish was present to talk to the Board about her candidacy for County Commissioner. The district includes Cascade, Lowell, Lowell City, Bowne & Vergennes. Mari Stone told the Board she has agreed to be her Campaign Co-Chairperson.

### **New Business:**

1. **The 2006-07 Budget** was approved as presented with a motion by Nauta, seconded by Baird. Motion carried.
2. **2005-06 Budget** - Mari Stone motioned to make the following amendments to the 2005-06 Budget: Contracted Services (101-276-801) is increased to \$4975 from \$3000, a difference of \$1975.00; Granted projects (101-248-955) increase from \$2000 to \$5521.19, a difference of \$3521.19. Nauta seconded and the **motion carried.**
3. **SEUP for Alden Nash West sign modification:** The developer questioned if there was a waiting period after the hearing before work could start, and he was told that he can start the next day or as soon as the permit is in place. Public hearing set for April 17, 2006, with a motion by Stone, Baird seconded. **Motion carried.**
4. **SEUP for Impact Church.** SEUP required due to Church being located in commercial district. Discussion regarding project in general. There was concern over parking spaces close to or in setbacks. Nauta would like to see them reconfigured slightly resulting in a loss of 2 – 2-1/2 spaces on the East and West side of lot. Church has agreement with Crystal Flash across the street and with doctor's offices to the north to use their spaces on Sundays. Crystal Flash has 25 and doctor's offices have approximately 50 spaces. The church currently has 50 spaces. 75 are required. The addition will be on the north side of the building. There will be room for 284 people in the sanctuary. A small part crosses into the city limits. The city has agreed to let it proceed under Township zoning regulations. The city has agreed to extend the current lines to provide water/sewer services. Nauta motioned to set the public hearing April 17, 2006, seconded by Stone. Motion carried.

5. **Proposal to mediate 425 discussions.** Township will follow up with Pasquale of Lowell City to see if LACF funds are available to cover the \$2600 cost to have Joe VanderMuelen mediate further discussions between Vergennes, Lowell City and Lowell Township. There will be three meetings, each lasting about 2-1/2 hours. Wittenbach motioned, Nauta seconded, to participate in the mediation process, and to pay our share from Township funds if Grant money is not available. **Motion Carried.**
  
6. **Williams & Works Facilitated Educational Session discussion:** Jay Kilpatrick gave three dates he would be available. They are the first three Thursdays in May. Discussion topics would include new technology in sewer systems and how they affect the master plan, and review of the master plan in general, which was last done 5 years ago. Steve Williams will participate with Kilpatrick. The meeting is expected to last 2 hours. The Board concurred that the 11<sup>th</sup> of May would work best.

### Citizens Comments

**Betsy Davidson** had several things to comment on. The first being a thank you to the Board for agreeing to support the Lowell Historical Society's request for money. Secondly, she is chairing the Riverwalk Festival this year. They are celebrating 175 years of being a city and the theme of the festival is 175 years of History. They would like the Vergennes Township Board members to participate in the parade to be held July 8, possibly dressed in period costumes, and attend a presentation after the parade. They hope to have Lowell Township involved as well to show how communities work together. Her last comment was about the Lowell Area Trailway Open House to be held April 20 at Wittenbach-Wege Nature Center. There will be people from all areas there to answer questions. They are very excited about it. They are also working on several activities throughout the year including a spring trail cleanup and some type of fundraising activity.

**Nova Jean** (did not give last name) is a business partner of Morning Glory Farm. They are looking to purchase a historical farm in the Vergennes Township area. They would like to use it to teach classes at, have a real working farm and possibly have people spend the night there occasionally. She did not consider it a bed and breakfast, though. The workers would be in period costumes and teach things like canning/preserving, some art classes, etc. Jeanne Vandersloot thought it would fall under "home occupation" in the current zoning ordinance or a new ordinance could be written to cover businesses like this. Stone recommended a new ordinance be written. The idea was well liked and accepted by the Board. She will continue looking in the Vergennes area for a suitable property and will get information to Jeanne Vandersloot about her specific plans.

The next meeting is April 17, 2006. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mari Stone, Township Clerk