

MINUTES OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD

March 31, 1997

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Jim Cook at 7:00 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present:	Jim Cook	-	Supervisor
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Mark Weber	-	Trustee
	Sue Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee

A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Weber to approve the minutes of the February 17, 1997 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report approved as read by motion by Hoffman, seconded by Geiger-Hessler. Motion to approve bills made by Cook and seconded by Weber. Motion carried. Drafts 2199 through 2252, as well as 2283 and 2284 were issued.

Amendments to the 1996 Vergennes Township Budget:

101-248-703	Clerical Wages (from \$5500 to \$6505)	by \$1,005.00
101-248-901	Printing & Notices (from \$2000 to \$2,565)	by \$ 565.00
101-336-970	Lowell Fire & Rescue (from \$20,000 to \$21,540)	by \$1,540.00
101-336-972	Kent County Fire (from \$4,500 to \$4,686)	by \$ 186.00
101-371-807	Mechanical & Electrical Inspections (from \$16,800 to \$20,540)	by \$3,740.00

Hoffman made a motion to accept the 1997-1998 Vergennes Township Budget as amended and the motion was seconded by Geiger-Hessler. Motion approved

Building Report. Six single family building permits issued year to date.

Old Business:

1. Still need two volunteers to serve on the Citizens' Road Improvement Committee for a maximum of five to six individuals. Four volunteers initially interested, however, one

volunteer may have to be disqualified as he/she resides on a dirt road. It was decided that volunteers need to reside on a paved road for an unbiased and objective result.

2. Planning Commission Recommendations. Planning Commission recommended adoption of the following amendments to the Vergennes Township Ordinance:

Proposed Property Subdivision Ordinance 97-1 This Ordinance will provide for subdivision of property under the provisions of P.A. 591, The Land Division Act of 1996, which amends the provisions of the former Michigan Subdivision Control Act. It will amend the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance, Section 201.426.

Motion made by Stone to adopt as recommended by the Planning Commission, to take effect 30 days after publication of its adoption, seconded by Cook. Motion approved. Roll Call: Yes by all.

Proposed Ordinance Amendment 97-2.

Driveway Setback The setback for a driveway in R-2 zoning had been adversely affected by a previous ordinance change concerning driveway setbacks, which required 15 feet from sidelines in all zoning districts. The building sideline setback in that zoning district is 10 feet, making the 15 foot driveway setback requirement inconsistent. The Planning Commission is recommending a return to 10 feet in the R-2 District.

Minimum First Floor Living Space Current requirements call for a minimum of 900 square feet on the first floor, unless it is a full two-story dwelling, which must have 750 square feet on both the first and second floor. The amendment will eliminate the 750 foot exception for two stories, and no further requirements will be made for the second floor. All dwellings will have a minimum 900 feet of first floor living space.

Motion made by Stone to adopt Ordinance 97-2 as recommended by the Planning Commission, to be effective 30 days after publication of its adoption, seconded by Weber. Motion approved. Roll Call: Yes by all.

Proposed Flat River Ordinance Amendment 97-3. A question as to the clarity of language in the FR District ordinance has resulted in the Planning Commission recommendation for changes, so that in the future misinterpretation can be avoided. The Board reiterated that this amendment will not change the way the ordinance is currently being enforced..

Motion by Stone to adopt Ordinance 97-3 as recommended by the Planning Commission, to take effect 30 days after publication of its adoption, seconded by Hoffman. Motion approved. Roll Call: Yes by all

Off-Farm Businesses Amendment 97-4. Motion made by Cook to consider this item

separately and table discussion to a later date was seconded by Stone. Motion Approved.

Public Hearing: Proposed 1997-98 Budget.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:30. Attendees asked questions concerning several line items. The Township has budgeted \$12,000 in anticipation of a pension plan, but an ordinance must be adopted before the money can be spent. Discussion regarding type of plan, who it will be offered to, and how much. The proposed plan allows township employees earning more than \$10,000 to be included. The plan would also allow employees with ten years of service (Cook and Hoffman) to go back and get 3% of their total wages placed in the plan. Criticism received regarding reaching back ten years for 3% pension funding not the pension plan itself. Township residents will have a chance to discuss the proposed pension plan before adoption although a date for such a hearing has yet to be selected.

Other items brought up for discussion were as follows:

- Administrative consulting fees represent the waste water treatment feasibility study and the Master Plan: Plan For Planning project.
- General Administration contracted services fees represent the newsletter and minutes on disk.
- Kent County Road Commission Repairs and Maintenance budget of \$30,000 consists of outstanding bills and additional anticipated expenditures for '97-'98.

Public Hearing Closed at 7:45

New Business:

1. Adoption of 1997-98 Budget.

Hoffman motioned to adopt the proposed 1997-98 budget as written, Cook seconded, and a roll call vote was taken. Yes by all. The adopted budget totaled \$310,517.00 in revenues, and \$322,180.00 in expenditures. A complete copy is attached.

2. Award of Lawncare Contract. Two bids received: Hardings Enterprises (last year's contractor) and Rake Inc. Both have insurance. Fertilizer separate. Rake Inc. to charge \$18.00 per mowing and Hardings to charge \$25.00 per mowing-with option of monthly payment schedule. Cook made a motion to accept the bid of Hardings Enterprises and was seconded by Weber. Motion approved.

3. Zoning Officer Appointment. Ms. Rashid was Zoning Officer at Grand Rapids Township and is familiar with civil infraction ordinance. Her duties will be to seek out infractions of ordinance and process correction of infractions. Salary: \$5,000. A

motion was made by Hoffman to appoint Deb Rashid as new Township Zoning Officer and seconded by Stone. Motion carried.

4. Proposed New Assessing Software. Old software (Sam's program purchased in 1983) difficult to operate and has virtually no support. Cook recommended Equalizer software at a cost of \$2,195 plus \$400 to transfer existing data. Hoffman made a motion to approve purchase of Equalizer software for assessing, seconded by Cook. Motion approved.

Citizens Comments:

Discussion opened by Cook regarding a home under construction (Section 27) on Lincoln Lake Road. Owner allowed to move into a mobile home on land while residence under construction approximately one year ago. Home is not finished and owner would like to be allowed to stay in mobile home on property without purchasing new bond. Original bond expires on May 5, 1997. Cook made a motion that resident move mobile home out, seconded by Hoffman. Motion carried. Stone to notify resident of the Board's action.

Discussion regarding Kent County Road Commission and dust layer applications. There are no more than three applications; one before Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day.

Resident inquiry regarding denial of building permit and any further steps/options available. It was noted that a request for a variance could be made to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk