

**VERGENNES TOWNSHIP**

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2000

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

Members Present:                    Tim Wittenbach                    -            Supervisor  
   Jean Hoffman                    -            Treasurer  
   Susan Geiger-Hessler           -            Trustee  
   Mari Stone                        -            Clerk

Member Absent:                    Mark Weber                        -            Trustee

Hoffman, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2000 regular meeting after amending minutes to replace the words “will walk” in “ninth-twelfth grade children will walk” with “may walk on occasion” under discussion of Lowell Area Schools Agriscience Building-Special Use Permit. Motion carried. Treasurer’s Report accepted. Motion by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Hoffman, to approve bills. Motion approved. Drafts 3836 through 3871 were issued.

**Public Hearing – Request to Establish an Industrial District/Bernie Pepin–7:09 p.m.**

LaBoite Company assembles and ships storage boxes that attach to recreational vehicles. Pepin plans to move business, LaBoite Company, Inc., from Wyoming to Unit 4 of Lincoln Lake Business Park, but move depends upon company’s ability to establish an industrial district. Industrial district needs to be set up before LaBoite Company can apply for tax abatement on building and contents under Public Act 198. Township Attorney is reviewing various documents. Stone noted that as part of the agreement to grant the tax abatement, LaBoite Company will reimburse township for direct costs incurred relating to establishing the industrial district and processing the abatement request. No comments/discussion.

**Public Hearing Closed – 7:13 p.m.**

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Update on Oak Tree Timeline Project – Board Decision on Continuance. Mac McPherson contacted Township Board regarding oak tree timeline project. Original slab from oak tree is cracking, and not usable. There is a \$900 grant from Englehardt Fund pending for this project. Suggested alternatives included looking for another 150 year old tree; review of slabs left from the same tree and possibly cutting a diagonal, rectangular or square block rather than slab. Board will contact the Tree Committee to review the leftover slabs to see if there is an alternative to the original slab. Motion by Wittenbach, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to send the project back to the Tree Committee for further study and

recommend an alternative to the Board who will render final decision at next month's meeting.

**New Business:**

1. Planning Commission Recommendation – LaBoite Company Site Plan. Denise Pepin present along with Steadfast Construction representative. Planning Commission recommended approval. Their discussion included the issue of a dust free parking surface as required in the ordinance. Recommended crushed gravel with paving to occur within 3 years. Only one other unit in the park is paved at this time. No complaints from neighboring residents. LaBoite would eventually like to pave thereby improving their property; could afford to do so within 3 years. Motion by Stone, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to approve LaBoite Company Site Plan with the following items to be received before issuance of occupancy permit:

- On Sealed Site Plan:
  - Correct and clarify site location
  - Diagram location of all utilities
  - Designate street address of property
  - Correct referral to “Lot 5” on site plan to “Lot 4”
  
- Not On Site Plan:
  - Driveway topping plan
  - Design of sign in order to apply for sign permit
  - Letter of intention as to paving

Motion carried.

2. Establishment of LaBoite Co. Industrial District - Motion by Stone, seconded by Hoffman, to adopt Resolution 2-2000 establishing LaBoite Company Industrial District. Motion approved.
  
3. KCRC Work Order for Grindle and McPherson. Work order for one mile gravel on McPherson (Township's cost \$11,000) and tree cutting, brushing, ditching and construction of new road bed on Grindle (Township's cost \$41,250) for total costs of \$52,250. Stone indicated that KCRC requested that Township pay off open invoices by 12/31 – total \$38,000 (remainder of Bennett). New charges will go on next year's budget. By signing work orders, Township agreeing to payment plan and costs. Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to sign KCRC Work Order for road work on McPherson and Grindle. Motion approved.
  
4. Discussion Regarding Airport Board Representative. Lowell Airport plans on extending east/west runway (towards Lincoln Lake Road). Airport sent notice of same to neighboring residents. Wittenbach attended the information meeting. He requested that the airport send Vergennes Township minutes of all their meetings.

Discussion regarding residents of Vergennes who have an interest in the Lowell Airport. Geiger-Hessler made a motion that the Township attempt to find an interested party to become Airport Board Representative from Vergennes Township and bring back names at next regular Board meeting (June). Motion seconded by Stone. Motion approved.

**Citizens' Comments:**

More discussion regarding new Lowell Agriscience Building and Vergennes Road crossing; lowering speed limit; ask Lowell Area Schools to enter a reduced speed limit into their safety plan as a way of possibly getting the speed limit reduced in this area.

Stone reported that 10 Vergennes Township residents participated in the Household Hazardous Waste Day. This project will be continued next year also.

Stone also indicated that Vergennes Township has applied to the Englehardt Fund for a grant to cover costs of developing a Vergennes Township web site and vendor. The web site would enable Vergennes to provide information and services to residents of Vergennes Township and the greater Lowell community. Costs to move forward = \$6,701 and Township has applied for \$4,340 in Englehardt funds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mari Stone, Clerk