

**MINUTES OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**May 19, 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 seconded by Geiger-Hessler to approve the minutes of the April 21, 1997 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Hoffman and accepted as presented. A motion by Geiger-Hessler with Weber supporting passed regarding approval of the bills. Drafts 2286 through 2319 were issued.

A motion was made by Stone and seconded by Weber to amend the Assessing Miscellaneous Budget; #101 209 704 from \$500 to \$3,100. Change revenue based account #101 000 698 to \$1,500 and split out franchise fees from Lowell Cable-TCA and add another new revenue account #101 000 697, with anticipated revenue of \$3,500, for the franchise fees. Motion carried.

Building Report. Four single family building permits in Township, one addition and one garage permit issued in April 1996.

**Old Business:**

1. Discussion of Waste Water Treatment Feasibility Study. Gil Wise announced that the Township needs to decide on a direction taking into consideration the recommendations of Wilcox Associates. Brian Johnson, a representative of Wilcox Associates engineering firm, was present and advised that the price of more than \$1.6 million indicated that building a Vergennes Township system along Lincoln Lake Road was not economically feasible. He also indicated a resistance on the part of the Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ"). Their rationale includes a preference to connect with an established system such as the City of Lowell, not open opposition. The Vergennes Township plan involved a plant which would handle a minimum of 60,000 gallons of sewage. The Lincoln Lake Industrial Complex would not produce enough waste to warrant building a system of that size. A sewage control system at a lesser cost could be constructed but would only last approximately 5-20 years and is not economically justified. It was agreed that annexation with the City of Lowell is not a desirable option. Gil Wise suggested providing for "down the road"; a future plan for moving from "a to z." Some considerations would be prepare for the best site by a purchase of land for future use and a base line of usage with considerations of future growth.

Upon recommendation by Brian Johnson, the Board agreed to open talks with the City to determine cost of hooking into their system, and also possibly involving ITM. Some financial options are a lump sum payment and/or negotiating favorable user rates. A motion was made by Stone and seconded by Hoffman to initiate discussion with the City of Lowell to explore the possibility of buying into their system at present time. Motion carried.

2. Appointment of Township Road Advisory Board. Final decision regarding which roads in the Township will be paved remains with the Board, but prioritizing and fact-finding by a newly appointed Township Road Advisory Board will aid the Board. Other duties could include consideration of levying special assessments on residents who want their roads paved and determining the exact cost of paving one mile of road. A member of the Kent County Road Commission will meet and speak to the new Advisory Board. No meeting dates or time frames for prioritization were finalized.

Nominees:	Kerry Tap	Fallasburg Park Drive	unpaved
	Tim Howard	Parnell	paved
	Ken Rasch	Alden Nash	paved
	Justin Michaels	Parnell	paved
	Cindy Dalga	4 Mile	unpaved
	Joe Host	Bailey Drive	paved
	Mark Lessens	Sagamore Trail	paved

Initially, it was decided not to have residents on unpaved roads be members of the Advisory Board. However, it was decided in fairness to include the two residents of unpaved roads. The resident on 4 Mile, a road under consideration, was the only nominee who was questioned. A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Stone to have all seven nominees nominated to the Township Road Advisory Board. Aye: Cook, Hoffman, Stone and Geiger Hessler. Opposed: Weber  
Motion carried.

3. Professional Planner Update. Regarding the issue of Family Farm Business, the Planning Commission is preparing to interview three professional planners to determine who is best qualified to assist them in setting guidelines on what a Special Use Permit shall allow and not allow in determining when a family business becomes a commercial enterprise. Once selected the commission will bring a formal proposal to the Board seeking funding for the use of the planner.
4. Approval of new ZBA Application form. Considering the new form has been approved by the ZBA and the planning commission, a motion was made by Cook and seconded by Weber, to approve the new ZBA Application form.

**New Business:**

1. Report of Meeting Concerning Possible Shared Sheriff Patrol with Grattan Township. A

May 14 meeting with Grattan Township officials to discuss the possibility of joint funding for the addition of a Kent County Sheriff's officer resulted in Vergennes Township passing on the proposal. High cost and no real perceived benefit as Vergennes heaviest traffic times were not the same as Grattan were cited reasons against the three year funding package. The first year would cost Vergennes, \$4,375 of a total \$43,740; the second year would cost Vergennes, \$9,115 of a total \$45,578 and the final year would cost Vergennes, \$17,077 of a total \$46,815 and approximately \$40,000 per year thereafter.

Stone indicated some residents had had waits for up to thirty minutes for a sheriff. The Vergennes area is somewhat geographically confined between rivers and not easily and quickly accessible depending on the location of a patrol car. A suggestion was made to attempt a letter campaign citing increased traffic due to new school and requesting more frequent coverage.

2. Amend Historical Budget. \$44,615.36 was budgeted for 1995-96 for the Vergennes Township Historic Commission and there were -0- expenses, a motion was made by Hoffman to amend the 1997-98 budget to \$48,379.94 which figure includes the anticipated interest of \$1,500. Motion was seconded by Weber. Motion carried.
3. Review of Kazemier Special Exception Use Permit. It has come to the attention of the Board that a rental unit exists on the same parcel with George Kazemier's home on Downes. The Board reviewed minutes of a meeting in 1982 between Kazemier and the planning commission and found a permit was issued in 1982 to permit a mobile home on the property, but only as a place for Mr. Kazemier's daughter to live. It was to be removed when she moved out. Gil Wise, a member of the planning commission in 1982, indicated it was never the intent of the commission to grant the permit if the building was going to be rented to outside family members. This special exception was meant to be reviewed every year by the Board. Present officials were unaware that this permit existed. A motion to rescind the Kazemier Special Exception Use Permit to place a mobile home at 12430 Downes Road because it violates the agreement of the permit was made by Cook and seconded by Weber. Motion carried.

#### **Citizen's Comments:**

Al Baird thanked the Board for their decision to opt out of funding an extra sheriff patrol car. He also requested a study of 4 Mile Road to estimate costs of paving and inquired as to the rationale of putting Burroughs Road first on the priority list of paving projects. The Board indicated there has been no prioritization at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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