

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2013

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

Members Present: Tim Wittenbach -Supervisor
Mari Stone -Clerk
Jean Hoffman -Treasurer
Rick Gillett -Trustee

Members Absent: Al Baird -Trustee

The agenda for the May 20, 2013 meeting was approved as presented. Motion made by Rick Gillett; seconded by Jean Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the April 15, 2013 meeting were approved as presented. The treasurer's report and the bills were read and approved as presented. Motion made by Jean Hoffman; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Unfinished Business:

1. Henschke Update

The board received a letter and email from Ms. Henschke. In the letter she stated that she is in the process of removing the remains of the house. She is also going to meet with a realtor to put it up for sale.

2. Michwave Tower Update

Through a series of emails, Michwave told the township that they are going to have the tower removed by the middle of June. They already contacted the customers by sending them a letter stating that the service will be cancelled. Dan Burrows, a citizen of Vergennes Township and customer of Michwave, expressed his concern of not having internet access and asked if any other internet provider was going to take Michwave's place. The board said that they did not have knowledge of any. The board also said that they were understanding of the customers needs and tried to be lenient by giving Michwave a lot of time to fix the tower, but unfortunately Michwave decided to take the tower down instead of comply with statutes and ordinances. The board said that they will wait and see if Michwave takes the tower down this month before acting any further.

New Business:

1. Barn Uses - Kim Greenwald-

Kim Greenwald approached the board with her idea of opening a barn wedding venue on Parnell Avenue. Weddings would only be held during the summer months and she was only planning one wedding a month. Greenwald stated that her barn would have a lot of renovations and modifications that would need to be done such as adding bathrooms, proper lighting and a

parking lot. Board was in favor of this idea but cautioned that there would be a multitude of improvements to the structure and grounds that she would be required to do. Informal discussions with Jeanne Vandersloot and Mark Fleet, who were present, presumed that the approval process would be under the Agriculture Tourism special use permit. Greenwald said she would talk with Mark Fleet, the building inspector, to see what she would have to do to the structure and then would apply for permit if she was still interested in pursuing the idea.

2. Gravel Road Maintenance Discussion-

Wittenbach informed the board that they had the annual spring review of the road conditions. The road that receives the most complaints by the Road Commission is Grindle Road. Board discussed the possibilities of using crushed limestone or paving the road. The main complaint about the limestone on roads is the white dust that it leaves on cars. McPherson, Ashley and 2 Mile are other gravel roads which should be looked at for maintenance in the near future. Board said that they would talk with the road commission about a payment plan and the prices of both limestone and pavement for the roads. The discussion will be continued in the June meeting.

3. Cemetery Fee Schedule-

Stone informed the board that there needed to be one revision to the cemetery fee schedule regarding cremations. Also, the agreement the township has with Ken Wittenbach should state that he performs all burials in cemeteries owned by Vergennes Township. Gillett motioned to amend the cemetery fee schedule and adjust the service agreement; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

Citizen's Comments:

Jeanne Vandersloot had an inquiry from Berdie Cook about indoor barn storage use for RV trailers. The board was not opposed, but wanted to see a more detailed plan and review the existing plan. Mark Fleet said that the big concern with parking vehicles inside a building is carbon monoxide. Board said they would like to have her come to the next board meeting to discuss it further.

Grindle resident and volunteer fire and rescue person Bob Rogers asked about the engineering that would be done on Grindle Road and if they would have an investigation done on the speed. He said that people go really fast on the road and the limestone could get really packed in. He also commented that the pavement of 3 Mile Road is really nice and the emergency vehicles use it a lot.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
