

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2001

As Amended (Additions in italics, deletions crossed out)

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
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Al Baird	-	Trustee
	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee

The minutes of the April 16, 2001 special meeting, April 16, 2001 regular meeting, and May 3, 2001 special meeting were accepted as written. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Baird suggested that the engineering firm of V-Tec be included in the final round of the decision regarding township representation. There were no objections. There was a question as to Colleen Lenihan's term on the Historical Commission, and whether she intends to fulfill it. Stone will contact her. Wittenbach questioned the invoice from Betsy Davidson for computer network services. Stone and Hoffman explained the work performed. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta, to approve bills as read. Motion approved. Wittenbach commented that Jack Horton would be attending the June meeting to give the board a report from the county.

Building Inspector Jerry Roark was present to answer some questions regarding the timeliness of the reports he provides to the township. There is a concern that the Certificates of Occupancy and other miscellaneous items are not being reported as they are completed, and this affects the ability of the assessor and treasurer to perform their duties. Motion by Stone, seconded by Nauta, to set a policy to require the Building Inspector to notify the township office the day of a final inspection, and to submit the inspection card within 3 days. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Planning Commission Appointment – There were two applicants; Craig Vanderstelt and Tim Howard. Wittenbach told the board that he was not prepared to make an appointment. Stone commented that she believes that new planning commissioners should be required to attend educational classes and workshops, and urged Wittenbach to consider this when making appointments. Nauta commented that he would like to see appointments of people who are willing to do the work, adding that some of the present commissioners don't read the packets, do their homework, or follow up on committee assignments. Hoffman commented that at the April meeting there was no quorum, so the meeting was cancelled. She asked that the commissioners take their appointments seriously, commit to come to meetings, be involved, and do the work.

2. Revised Fee Schedule for Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Permits – In a letter to the board, inspector Butch Visser explained that the increase is the first since 1991, and is a less than 2% increase per year. The new format of the forms will enable them to be accessed via the Internet. Nauta motioned to adopt the new fee schedule, Resolution 2-2001, Hoffman seconded, and the motion carried.
3. Hoffman motioned to close the hall on Friday, May 25th for the Memorial Day holiday, Baird seconded, and the motion carried.
4. ~~Discussion Regarding Open Space and Other Committee Issues—Baird and Wittenbach had concerns regarding the language used in the Open Space Committee Mission Statement. Baird questioned whether they were really “approved by the Township Board”, as stated in the document. Stone read minutes from the April 2000 board meeting confirming that they were.—~~

~~A lengthy discussion was held regarding the use of citizen groups such as the Open Space and Road Advisory committees. Baird expressed that he does not like committees, and is uncomfortable about the powers they have now. Hoffman commented that committees can only advise, and the Board always has the final say. Stone likened these committees to the Historical Commission’s ad hoc committee that is working on cemetery issues, adding that citizen volunteers are always needed. Nauta commented that these kinds of citizen groups contribute greatly to the well being of the township, and believes they offer the Board important insights.—~~
5. ~~Discussion Regarding 2001 Minor Road Construction Projects—Hoffman questioned the number of trees being cut on Biggs, and the scope of the project. It looks like the entire road is being worked on, rather than the Downes intersection and narrow curve/safety issues only. Stone asked about the yearly drive around with the Supervisor and Road Commission representatives. Wittenbach replied that the drive around did not happen, but rather a meeting was held sometime during the winter at the hall with several Road Commission representatives. The question was raised as to how much work would be done for the amount approved on the work order, and where? Wittenbach said he would contact the Road Commission to find out what is going on. Hoffman stated that in the future we should not vote to approve any work order that does not specify the location and scope of work to be done.~~

Citizens’ Comments:

Craig Wood suggested a public notice be placed regarding the termination of burial space sales in Fallasburg Cemetery. Stone will publish. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mari Stone, Clerk