

**Vergennes Township Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 16, 1998**

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

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| Members Present: | Marsha Wilcox | - | Supervisor |
| | Jean Hoffman | - | Treasurer |
| | Mari Stone | - | Clerk |
| | Sue Geiger-Hessler | - | Trustee |
| Arrived at 8:30 p.m. | Mark Weber | - | Trustee |

A motion was made by Stone, seconded by Hoffman, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 1998 regular meeting. Amendments to the minutes of the October 19, 1998 meeting regarding 1. Ratification of Construction Cost Change for Hall Renovation and 5. Gypsy Moth Program Participation were made as follows in italics:

1. Add "*by contractor*" to the end of the sentence which reads: First page not added into the final total.
5. Motion made by Geiger-Hessler to *have the residents of Vergennes Township participate, if they wish to*, in the Gypsy Moth Program for 1999...

Minutes approved as amended. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Hoffman and accepted as read. A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Geiger-Hessler to approve the November bills including the Williams & Works invoice for comprehensive plan. Motion carried. Drafts 2985 through 3026 were issued.

Permit Activity. 3 single family permits 10/98. 60 single family permits year-to-date.

Unfinished Business:

1. Discussion Concerning the Role of Marc Daneman. Daneman to be the person who reviews and interprets for Vergennes Township between the technical and practical aspects of the township's ordinances, site plans, etc. on an "on call" (as needed) basis. He will primarily work with the Planning Commission.
2. Request for Funding - Thermal Imaging Camera - Lowell Fire Department. According to Frank Martin, Lowell Fire Chief, the camera has already been ordered. Lowell Rotary raised \$13,800 and the Look Fund donated a substantial amount. Balance left owing: \$6,600.00. The Fire Department hopes to receive the balance from Englehart monies, but are seeking donations from the City of Lowell, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township for any remainder; approximately 1/3 from each municipality of the remaining cost for the camera (\$500 - \$2,000). The Englehardt Fund Board meets in December and the Fire Department will be notified at that time the amount it may or may not receive from the Fund. Geiger-Hessler made a motion to table any decision until December or until the Englehart Fund has made its decision about any donation toward the purchase of the Thermal Imaging Camera to enable the Board to determine the actual amount of

their donation. Hoffman seconded, and the motion carried.

New Business:

1. Amendment to Fee Schedule. Planning Commission still working on the fee schedule and it is not ready for adoption at this time. Many questions left yet to be answered. The Fee Schedule needs to be all inclusive. It was suggested that the proposed schedule be sent back to the Planning Commission or planner to cross-reference with the ordinance all special use permits; i.e. what kind of fee for what procedure, such as site plan fees, development fees, etc. Geiger-Hessler agreed to work on this review.
2. Request for a Liquor License - Shady Acres. Applying for a beer or wine license. Two liquor licenses are available in Vergennes Township at this time. Arrowhead Golf Course owns one. Licenses are available based on population of an area. (Required population in Vergennes Township according to the 1990 census: 2,492) Shady Acres is a lawful non-conforming use as it existed in the Township before the ordinance was adopted, but there can be no adding, extending or altering changes. Township Board must first pass a resolution to allow Shady Acres to apply for liquor license and then the request is brought before the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. Al Baird mentioned that he thought that this subject was discussed at a Board meeting some 6-8 years ago and the previous minutes should be located regarding this discussion. Wilcox suggested that a Public Hearing to receive resident input would be valuable to the Board. It was decided to hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. before the next regular Vergennes Township Board meeting on December 21, 1998.
3. Appointment to Lowell Community Pool Committee. Justin Michael was appointed to serve on the Lowell Community Pool Committee along with Jim Cook and Tim Wittenbach as the Vergennes Township contingent
4. Special Exception Use Permit - Rittersdorf. Boat storage in barn across the street from their home. No complaints from residents. Motion made by Hoffman and seconded by Stone to grant the special exception use permit. Motion carried.
5. Special Exception Use Permit - Wilcox. Paul Wilcox requesting storage of two semis and four trailers in conjunction with his home-based grain hauling business. (Wheat in the summer; soybeans/corn in the fall) Parked uncovered behind the existing barns. Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Stone, to grant the special exception use permit. Marsha Wilcox abstained. Motion carried.

6. Annual North Kent Transit Service Contract. Contract the same as the preceding year; no changes. Board approval needed to go over \$2,000. Stone made a motion to approve the North Kent Transit Service Contract with a \$2,000 expenditure from community development funds. Seconded by Hoffman. Motion approved.
7. Gypsy Moth Program Update. The Board has not received any information from the Program.
8. Community Development Block Grant Allocation Change. \$13,000.00 were allocated in 1997-98 toward handicap access to the hall renovation. This request has been withdrawn, and the unprogrammed funds have been offered by Community Development to make up the difference between the \$20,000.00 allocation for the Comprehensive Plan Project and the contracted amount of \$28,589.00 Stone made a motion to allocate 8,589.00 of unprogrammed Community Development Block Grant money to the comprehensive plan project. Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion approved.
9. Miscellaneous Ordinance amendments. Amendments received from the Planning Commission for action by the Board. Basically just cleaning up language within the ordinance. Amendments reviewed by Marc Daneman. Geiger-Hessler made a motion to table any approval until Board given time to review the amendments. Stone seconded the motion. Motion approved.
10. Private Road Ordinance Amendment No. 98-9. Necessary to comply with Kent County Road Commission specifications. Acquired new drawing and fixed wording so that drawing and ordinance would conform; 1 3/4" bituminous changed to 3" bituminous. Typo on "B."; change "and" to "an". Motion by Stone to approve Private Road Ordinance Amendment No. 98.9 as noted, seconded by Hoffman. Motion approved. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Stone, Wilcox, Hoffman, Geiger-Hessler. Weber absent.

Citizens Comments:

Discussion regarding tree removal in front of Township Hall. Road Commission saved the log and will deliver it to be milled. Committee consisting of Mac McPherson, Doug Olin, and Pete Gustafson, if they agree to serve, and any other parties they wish to add to their Committee, to make decisions regarding milling the log for further use as furniture or a plaque and report back to Township Board.

Dave Thompson requested feedback from the Board regarding where the Historic District Commission needs to go from this point with their ordinance given the lively public discussion on this issue. The Historic District Commission believed they were requested by the Board to have their ordinance reflect the new State Act in the matter of selection and designation of historic property. Residents are very concerned and feel that the ordinance is too restrictive and not good for property owners. The proposed ordinance is still in Planning Commission review status. It was noted that since the Board takes its recommendations from the Planning Commission, the Historic District Commission should confer with the Planning Commission.

Gay Nauta noted her concerns with the rapid changes in the township through the years, thanked Marsha Wilcox for her time spent as Supervisor, and pledged assistance to the new Supervisor, Tim Wittenbach, to be sworn into office Friday, November 20, 1998.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari C. Stone, Clerk