

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 20, 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
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Al Baird	-	Trustee
	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee

Hoffman, seconded by Baird, made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2000 regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta, to approve bills as read including Williams & Works invoice. Motion approved.

New Business:

1. Request for Amendment to Hope Network/North Kent Transit Contract. Discussion regarding the service was held. It was noted that at present, use in the Township is low. It was suggested that an article be placed in *The Lowell Ledger* informing people as to the services available to them from Hope Network. Nauta made a motion, seconded by Stone, to approve 2000-01 Amendment No. 1, amending Kent County Community Development contract with Vergennes Township and Hope Network/North Kent Transit, to reflect a cost increase for one trip to \$11.81. Motion carried.
2. Historical Commission Recommendations – Petition for Historic Designation. Fallasburg Historical Society has requested that all of their properties receive township historical designation. Historical Commission wishes to implement a form to use for application for historic designation. Commission also desires to adopt state historic ordinance with amendment stating this historical designation is available ONLY to those who want designation. Historic designation application would be available to anyone within the township.

Questions from the Historical Commission:

- Revise application with addition of statement referring to signatory aware and agrees to abide by current and future ordinance changes?
- Deed restriction; when property changing ownership, Buyer made aware of historical designation; attachment to petition for application for historical designation?
- In case of organization such as Fallasburg Historical owning property, who acts as Seller? If not one person (Board agrees that it should be all officer's signatures) then how to designate who signs; all officer's signatures, attach copy of minutes of organization; 2/3 majority of ruling Board?

- Possibility of property owner withdrawing from historic designation after property has been designated?

Motion by Stone, seconded by Hoffman, direct Township Attorney to review Historical Commission questions and report back to the Board with his conclusions before any action taken on this issue. Motion carried.

3. Adoption of Federal Poverty Income Standards for 2001 Assessments. Motion by Stone, seconded by Nauta, to adopt Federal Poverty Income Standards for 2001 Assessments (attached) as written. Motion approved.
4. Proposal Regarding Ordinance Supplements. Latest supplements of changes to ordinance cost Township \$1600.00 plus there usually is approximately a two month turn around period. Jeanne VanderSloot proposes keeping the supplements in house and she will reprogram the ordinance and keep up with the amendment changes from this point forward. Her proposal indicates she will charge \$18.00 per hour – more hours will be spent in the beginning while converting from old format to Word format. The cost of purchasing an ordinance book will be cheaper. Nauta made a motion, seconded by Hoffman, to accept Jeanne VanderSloot’s proposal as read regarding editing and producing supplements to the Ordinance rather than sending changes to an outside company and eventually putting the ordinance on the Township web site at a cost of \$18.00 per hour for her time. Motion carried.
5. Request from Zoning Administrator – Procedure for Emergency Temporary Restraining Order. Township attorney recommends adding provision to the ordinance setting up Board procedures for an emergency situation. After discussion, Baird made a motion, seconded by Stone, that in an emergency situation where activity/violation needs to be halted at that moment, the Supervisor has authority to make the final decision after gathering facts and attempting to contact other Board members for input. Motion approved.
6. Snow Removal Services 2000-01. Bob Griffin proposal – price good; close by; good job last year; will provide salt upon request. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Baird, to hire Bob Griffin for snow removal services for the winter months 2000-01. Motion carried.
7. Appointment to Fill Board Member Seats on Planning Commission and ZBA. Geiger-Hessler was the Board Rep to the ZBA, and Weber on Planning Commission. Nauta expressed a desire to stay on Planning Commission. Motion by Stone, seconded by Hoffman, to appoint Vern Nauta to Planning Commission and Al Baird to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion approved. Mark Weber and Al Baird off Planning Commission leaving 2 seats open. Discussion on returning to seven member Commission from nine members. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta, to reduce Planning Commission total number of members from nine to seven members. Motion approved.

8. Request to Review Current Sheriff Patrol for Adequacy. Justin Michael requested the Board to review the current sheriff patrol for adequacy. Supervisor to contact Sheriff Department and request further/more frequent protection in the Township and the criteria/requirements for receiving such added protection. It was noted that some areas have begun Neighborhood Watch. It was suggested that a Neighborhood Watch Inquiry of residents be put on Township website.

Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Stone, to close Township Office on Friday, December 22, 2000. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments:

Discussion regarding Kazemier's trailer. Kazemier indicated in April of 1999 that if he was left alone, he would remove trailer by April 2000. Wittenbach visited Kazemier this spring (trailer still on property) and Kazemier indicated the trailer would be put up for sale and removed by Fall 2000.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk