

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2001

Amendment italicized

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
	Al Baird	-	Trustee
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee

The minutes of the September 17, 2001 regular meeting were approved as written. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Baird, seconded by Hoffman, made a motion to approve bills as read with addition of monthly payment to Vicki Odell and Kate Dernocoeur. Motion approved. Stone noted that Fire Chief Frank Martin called to inform Vergennes Township that the \$100,000 grant for a fire truck for Lowell Fire Department was approved. Total cost: Approximately \$350,000, with the remaining amount to be shared among the three municipalities. Vergennes has budgeted \$25,000 for payment this year, which would likely come from the pooled investment account. Martin believed payout of these monies would occur in approximately six months.

Guest:

Wayne Creelman, M.D. – Running for District 86 as a Republican – House of Representatives. January 2002, Vergennes Township along with parts of nine other municipalities will make up District 86. Dr. Creelman is a medical doctor with Pine Rest, who has lived in Grand Rapids Township for the last three years. Originally from Maine where he served on various boards and was involved in government for six years. He feels his talents and experience is transferable and that his credentials make him a good candidate.

New Business:

1. 2001-2002 Season Snowplow Bids. Received one bid – Bob Griffin. Same cost as last year. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Stone, to award a three year contract to Bob Griffin for snowplowing with cost to Vergennes Township not to rise over a maximum of 10% increase each year. Motion approved.
2. VanderWerff PA 116 Request. Stone mailed letter to Soil Conservation District informing the District of VanderWerff PA 116 Request. There has to date been no reply. Motion by Baird, seconded by Nauta, to approve VanderWerff PA 116 Request. Motion Carried.

3. Charter Township Status Discussion. Official certification received from Michigan Secretary of State that Vergennes Township is eligible to incorporate as a charter township because the latest US census indicated Vergennes has a population of over 2000. Township Attorney Doezema sent letter to Vergennes regarding becoming a Charter Township in which he advised that in his opinion there was no good reason for the Township to become a Charter Township. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Baird, not to exercise Vergennes Township's right to incorporate as a Charter Township, and to remain a General Law Township.

Roll Call:	Baird	-	Yes
	Hoffman	-	Yes
	Wittenbach	-	Yes
	Stone	-	Yes
	Nauta	-	Yes

4. Discussion – Remaining 2001 Gravel Projects. Wittenbach, Jerry Byrne and Phil Tichelaar of Road Commission took tour of Vergennes Township looking at roads. *South part of Biggs Road, including Downes*, has 10,600 feet left to gravel; Vergennes Township's share = \$26,000. First portion of Biggs Road completed at a cost of \$32,500. Fallasburg Road has 3,100 feet left to gravel at a cost to the Township of \$7,500. No work order for Burroughs Road from the County to date. Project still in the County's Engineering Department. Most likely County would like to start fairly soon next year on Burroughs Road. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta, to hold off on further gravel road maintenance for the 2001-02 fiscal year. Motion carried.
5. Special Use Permit for Rental Storage – Gordon Wilcox. Request to use existing agricultural buildings for rental storage. Motion by Baird, seconded by Nauta, to approved special exception use permit for Gordon Wilcox. Motion carried.
6. Headwaters PUD Change Request. Change dual throated entrance to a single throated entrance. No Township ordinance against such a change. Jeannie VanderSloot noted that a boulevard entrance is required for sites with over 25 lots. Not applicable in this case. Nauta make a motion, seconded by Hoffman to approved Headwaters PUD Change Request as written. Motion approved.
7. Bailey Cemetery Issues. Stone has proposal from Earl Strater, Progressive Engineering, for cost of restaking Bailey Cemetery and locating misplaced corner markers at Bailey Cemetery for both new and old sections. Necessary to more efficiently find plots. There is money in the budget. Cost would be in the \$250-\$400 range. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman, to approve first phase for straightening out Bailey Cemetery at a cost not to exceed \$400.00. Motion Approved. Second Phase would entail perimeter markers being set on steel fence posts and additional markers for driveways and walkways.

Discussion regarding burial plot rates – Stone told the Board that in Grand Rapids, a burial space costs in the \$900 range. Our non-resident cost \$300. Several non-resident sales have been made recently, and Stone suggested some thought be given to raising cost to non-residents and/or eliminate purchases of plots to non-residents. Cost to residents of Vergennes Township per plot is \$30.00, and residents are permitted to bury a non-resident relative. Ordinance does not restrict number owned by residents, but lots cannot be sold or transferred to anyone else – may only be returned to Vergennes Township for a refund of original cost if not wanted anymore. The board took the suggestion under advisement.

8. Discuss Upcoming Planning Commission/ZBA/CBA Appointment Deadline. Stone to notice openings on Township Boards in early November. Agreed to 11/30/01 deadline for acceptance of applications for various Township Board appointments. Stone to mail all applications to Board members for their review two weeks prior to regular meeting of Board on December 17, 2001. Discussion noted regarding adopting a policy for acceptance and review of applications to various commissions/boards at Vergennes Township. No decision at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk