

# *Vergennes Township*

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2011

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  
Jean Hoffman -Treasurer  
Mari Stone -Clerk  
Rick Gillett -Trustee  
Al Baird -Trustee

The agenda for the October 17, 2011 meeting was approved with the addition of Discussion of Computer Needs with Betsy Davidson. Motion by Al Baird; seconded by Jean Hoffman.

**Motion Carried.** The minutes for the September 19, 2011 meeting were approved as amended with the addition of a sentence stating that the Fireboard is over budget. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with a motion by Jean Hoffman; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

## **Guest Speaker- Carolyn Kane, Fred Meijer River Valley Trail-**

Carolyn Kane updated the board on the progress of the Fred Meijer River Valley Trail. This trail has been a work in progress since 2007. Running from Greenville to Owosso, this trail is about 125 miles long. MDNR and MDOT have been very supportive of the building, funding, and eventually the maintenance of the River Valley Trail. The cost amount of the trail is \$12,500,000. Local governments have been supportive of the River Valley Trail, some have made contributions. The project is asking the city of Lowell for \$25,000 and Vergennes and Lowell Townships for \$5,000. The board wasn't opposed to the offer but said that the Cable Fund and the Community Fund grants could be a possible option for the money needed. Further discussion is needed regarding the funding.

## **Public Hearing- Witt's Inn, SEUP Request**

The public hearing began at 7:10. There were no comments from citizens. The public hearing closed at 7:11.

## **Unfinished Business:**

There was no unfinished business.

## **New Business:**

### **1. Witt's Inn, SEUP Request-**

Tim Wittenbach is requesting an SEUP. Wittenbach is planning to open Witt's Inn in mid-November, with the café to open at a later date. The deck on the building is going to be built to commercial specifications. Witt's Inn has parking, ramps, and widened doorways for handicapped access. Gillett motioned to grant the special exception and use permit for Witt's Inn; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

## **2. Snow Plow Bids-**

The Township received one bid for 2011-12 snow plowing from Scenic Expressions, the same contractor as 2010-11. Stone motioned to accept the bid; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.** Stone informed the board that the Township would save some money if they paid before November 1<sup>st</sup>. The board was in favor of Stone writing the check to make the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

## **3. Bernie and Denise Pepin- LaBoite IFT and Tax Issues-**

Bernie and Denise Pepin leased property to LaBoite. LaBoite did not pay the taxes and has now filed for bankruptcy. The lease contract specifically states that the lessee is responsible for the payment of the taxes. Pepin said that he had no idea that LaBoite wasn't paying taxes and would never have let it get to this point if he had known. Pepin is requesting that the board give him until the end of the year so that he can rectify the situation. Pepin said that the lease is null and void, but the board had doubts about that because there was no written paper saying the lease was void. The board thinks that the lease is still in effect until the court date, which is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>. Board doesn't really have any control of this issue, Pepin needs to communicate with the State Tax Commission and talk to Deb Rashid, Township Assessor.

## **4. Bill Makuski- Murray Lake Marina Property Discussion-**

Bill Makuski is exploring the possibility of building 4-plex condos on Murray Lake Marina Property, and wanted to get some feedback from the Board. There are a total of 14 acres on this property, which is located off of Lally Road. There would be approximately 25-30 units total that would be around 1400-2000 square feet each. Makuski would also consider putting in a pool house or clubhouse. This property already has docks and ramps to get on Murray Lake. Makuski would probably use the PUD special use permit, but would look into other options. Stone commented that there is an anti-keyhole ordinance in place for Murray Lake properties, and that he should check to see if the current docks at the Marina will be grandfathered. The Board recommended that Makuski work with the Zoning Administrator/Planning Commission with further communications.

## **5. Henschke Property**

The board was updated on the Henschke property situation. There are several people looking at buying the house and property. A potential buyer called Jim Doezema to ask a couple of questions about the house and property. There is a court date scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **6. Lowell Township Water Service Fee Amendments-**

Vergennes Township now has 42 hydrants. New hydrants were added to Alden Nash Rd. The cost of the hydrants has decreased from \$200 to \$100. The township is saving approximately \$800 due to this decrease in cost. Stone motioned to approve the new water system service charges; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

#### **7. Discussion Computer Needs with Betsy Davidson-**

Betsy Davidson updated the board on the Township's computer situation. The Township is switching servers, updating to Office 2010, and replacing an old computer with a new one because it was causing problems. The new server will be installed in November and the new tax program, Dot Net, will be installed at a later date. Hoffman stated that they may not want to change tax programs until after the tax season in April. Davidson said it would be good if the board could try to budget one new computer a year.

#### **Citizen's Comments:**

Stone mentioned the road commission dinner and asked who was planning to attend. Baird and Wittenbach replied that they are planning to attend. Stone said that she would RSVP for the two of them. Also, the Enworks open house is October 20<sup>th</sup>. Wittenbach, Stone, Hoffman, and Baird are all planning to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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