

# **VERGENNES TOWNSHIP**

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

**October 18, 1999**

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
	Mark Weber	-	Trustee
	Susan Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee

A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Weber to approve the minutes of the September 20, 1999 regular meeting. Motion carried. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Weber commented that he thought the Budget Comparison Report was valuable to see every month rather than quarterly. Motion to approve bills including Williams & Works invoice for Comprehensive Plan Project made by Weber and seconded by Geiger-Hessler. Motion carried. Drafts 3495 through 3535 were issued.

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Discussion Concerning Uses of Oak Tree Sections. Mac McPherson as spokesperson for a committee consisting of himself, Pete Gustafson and Doug Olin made two recommendations to the Board regarding the log from the oak tree cut down from the corner of Bailey Drive and Parnell Avenue. First, it was suggested that a slab cut be used with its rings to depict a time line of historical events dating back to 1840. Approximate cost: \$700-\$900; approximate size: 3'-4' in diameter/8" thick-100/150 pounds). It was noted that approximately 140 rings were counted. The slab would sit upon a stand. Second, another slab cut to be used for a clock face for Vergennes Township Hall (approx. cost: \$350; approx. size: 18-20" wide). Motion made by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Stone, that the Township pay the cost of creating the clock and apply to Englehardt Lowell Area Community Fund for revenues to pay for the historical/timeline as this item could be used for the entire community; i.e. placement at Lowell Library and in the Lowell Area Schools for a period of time. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

1. Consideration of Snowplow Bids. Robert Griffin plowed last year for \$250 per season-no salt. Board happy with his work. This year's bid: \$300 for 10 trips-no salt mentioned. Most reasonable. Terry Smith has cheaper season rate (\$500)-no salt. Wittenbach mentioned that he could salt the parking lot. Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Weber, to approve the hiring of Robert Griffin for snowplowing at the Township Hall. Approved unanimously.
2. Gypsy Moth Discussion. Wittenbach reported that cost to survey entire township will be \$6,000 as indicated by proposal from Brian Krull, Aquatic Consultation Service. They will walk the entire township and include with their written survey a map of the entire township indicating problem areas. At that time, Board will know the extent of the area needing spraying. Cost of spray is approximately \$12.75-\$15.00 per acre. Necessary to enter a three year commitment. Must accomplish survey before November 5. Proposal language must be submitted to the County later in the fall for the proposition to be printed on the ballot. Weber made a motion to approve

\$6,000 expenditure by Aquatic Consultation Services to produce survey and map of areas to be sprayed for gypsy moths and to accept proposition as presented by Township Attorney to be put on the ballot after amending wording “throughout township” to “some areas of township.” Geiger-Hessler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

3. Office Space – Phase Two. Two quotes (Custer and Kentwood Office Supply) on addition of office space. Will create offices for both Zoning Administrator and Supervisor. Kentwood bid substantially lower. Stone suggested purchasing two desk chairs from Custer as they would match current chairs. Motion made by Hoffman to accept the Kentwood Office Supply bid at \$2,902.57, and to order the two office chairs from Custer for \$175.00 each. Seconded by Geiger-Hessler. Motion carried.
4. Recommendations Regarding Possible Ordinance Amendments. Jeanne VanderSloot went over various sections of the Ordinance which may need possible amendments. These details are mainly to clean up the Ordinance and clarify areas which may result in confusion. They include the following sections: 201.304 B 5, also, 201.308 and 9; 201.305 B 1; 201.404 B; 201.602 D; also, additional language regarding other structures used as accessory buildings. Weber made a motion, seconded by Hoffman, to send these matters plus three recommendations from the September 21, 1999 Zoning Board of Appeals to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation to the Board. Motion carried.
5. Discussion Concerning Zoning Administrator Recommendations. Three items discussed: 1.) Covered Bridge deals with a split of the property (6 ½ acres) into two lots. Civil infraction issued, but an agreement reached between two lawyers at pre-trial hearing. Wittenbach made motion, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to approve survey for property split and finalize agreement as reached between two attorneys. Several issues of concern: Question as to why ZBA never heard this case. Owners have never formally applied for a split. Large discrepancy between Ordinance requirements and what presented survey lists for road frontage, and concern that acceptance of this discrepancy would set a precedent. Motion withdrawn. Decision to confer with Township attorney on what would be best.
  - 2.) Driveway at 13367 Forest River. Wittenbach stated that as the Zoning Board of Appeals determined the driveway is in violation of the ordinance from the beginning, a ticket should be issued and the matter proceed to Court where a judge will make a final ruling in this matter. Weber agreed, noting that Township needs to enforce the Ordinance. Jim Doezema said it was a gray area as there was no driveway definition within the Ordinance at the time the cement was laid. Stone pointed out that there is now a driveway definition, and wondered how other similar violations will be handled. Wittenbach made a motion, seconded by Weber, to order a municipal civil infraction ticket to owner of 13367 Forest River Dr. regarding the driveway, asking for the removal of the cement to the setback allowed within the Ordinance. Motion approved, with Hoffman voting no.
  - 3.) Talisman Dr. final approval: Township granted preliminary approval to Talisman Dr. in May, with conditions that the road must comply with the ordinance before any occupancy allowed. Lee Hovey angry as he was under the understanding that his road as constructed by Bieri Brothers was acceptable. Letter from Prein & Newhof outlined items not complete. Hovey concerned that items will cost him approx. \$6,000: engineering drawing, cul de sac widened to 80’ from 60’, test records regarding core samples, compaction, 10-12” gravel. He felt that since the road has been in existence and used regularly, several of these items do not need to be done. Motion made by Wittenbach, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, that approval is granted to Talisman

Drive with Hovey's agreement that all requests in the October 14, 1999 Prein & Newhof letter will be met. Motion carried.

**Citizens Comments:** Wittenbach noted two charts on display in the meeting room, indicating all properties sold in Township over a two year period, and breaking down sales into acreage, site condo, residential, etc. There has been a 3-4% increase in SEV during this period.

Update on Master Plan. Public Hearing scheduled for November 22, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Band Room. Copies available for viewing at Lowell Public Library and Vergennes Township Hall.

Township Internet access and possible web page was discussed. It was suggested Township apply for a grant to accomplish this through Englehardt Fund. Another suggested grant request was to preserve other Township land in a conservancy similar to the Wege Natural Area.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. with a motion made by Geiger-Hessler and seconded by Stone. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mari Stone, Clerk