

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2004

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

Member Absent:	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee
----------------	------------	---	---------

Minutes of the September 20, 2004 Regular Board Meeting stand approved as presented. Motion by Hoffman, second by Wittenbach, to approve bills as read. **Motion approved.** Item #4 – Fizer added to the Agenda and item #2 under Unfinished Business was deleted. Motion by Baird, seconded by Hoffman, to approve Agenda as amended. **Motion carried.**

Public Hearing:

Opened: 7:03 p.m.

Beer and Wine Ordinance. No comments from public.

Closed: 7:05 p.m.

Unfinished Business:

1. Consideration of Beer and Wine Ordinance. Vergennes Township is a spirit dry township – unable to issue a liquor license – approval must come from the Liquor Control Commission. This Ordinance gives township procedures/guidelines to follow if a request for a beer and/or wine license request is received. Motion by Stone, seconded by Hoffman to adopt Vergennes Township Beer and Wine License Ordinance, 2004-10, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Hoffman, Baird, Stone, Wittenbach

No: -0-

Motion Carried.

New Business:

1. County Fire Truck Purchase. A \$50000 grant was received from the Lowell Community Fund toward the purchase. \$48,000 will be divided three ways (Lowell Township, Vergennes Township, and City of Lowell) – each paying approximately \$16,500 over a three year term lease agreement. First payment due July 2005.
2. DeWitt – Private Road Discussion. A private road was not constructed at the time the property was split in 2000. Building permits have been issued for two of the four parcels and a road needs to be constructed. Board wants a plan from the owners. Michelle DeWitt questioned Board as to viability of creation of a second driveway as opposed to construction

of a private road – according to the Ordinance two houses can share a driveway. Board consensus is that this could be an option assuming driveway distances from each other is within the required distances allowed by the Kent County Road Commission. Board agreed that **within two weeks, residents to 1) bring to Board “on paper” a solution to the driveway/private road problem along with “written and signed” agreements to the solution by each concerned party, and 2) should the solution include two shared drives, bring in rewritten deeds incorporating easements to accommodate the second driveway.**

3. Henschke – Building Permit. In reference to September 2004 motion/minutes, Board requires final plans in order to issue building permit. Board concerned that not enough decisions have been made on the construction phase of the Henschke home to enable finished construction within the time limit of the building permit; thus, mobile home on property longer than allowed limit. Resident indicated septic tank in process; Consumers drawing up work plan for electric; driveway construction in process; two week window for a telephone; no electrical permit yet nor well. Board counseled resident on need to acquire a \$5,000 bond to cover removal of mobile home if such a need arose. Board indicated they needed final blueprints in order to issue building permit and until building permit issued, resident cannot move mobile home onto property.
4. Fizer Request Regarding Wildview Private Dr. Applied for a property split and was advised that the Private Road needed to comply to current Ordinance requirements. Began process with Zoning Administrator. Was told the road needed to be upgraded, and subsequently contracted with road construction company. Resident at that time assumed everything was in order, although did not understand that he needed inspection and approval of Township Engineer to demonstrate road up to specifications and built properly. Resident would like a variance which would allow him to receive building permit as he has sold his house, and needs to begin building the new one. Road built in 1987 and current cul de sac is not able to accommodate/satisfy the current radius requirement, although Fire Department has verified that they can safely negotiate the current turn around area. After discussion, there was a motion by Stone, seconded by Hoffman, to issue building permit with a signed agreement from the Fizers that they may not occupy the new home before the road is approved by the township engineer certifying that requirements of the Private Road Ordinance have been accomplished, with a waiver of the cul de sac requirement, and also that an escrow account in the amount of \$500.00 be established to cover township costs for this approval. **Motion carried unanimously.**
5. Girl Scout Request to use Town Hall. Seventh Grade Girl Scout Troop requested use of Township Hall for three specific dates and in exchange they will provide a community service for Township. Stone to supervise community project; possibly election night escorts. Motion by Stone, seconded by Baird, to allow Troop to use the hall on specified dates. **Motion approved.**

Citizens Comments

Ken Klein, senior at Lowell High School, as a government project, queried the Board regarding the process and or steps necessary to extend Alden Nash from Bailey Drive through to Vergennes Road. Supervisor Wittenbach stated that 1) there would have to be a justification to warrant the cost of the extension, 2) Alden Nash was part of an engineering study in the past and it would be very costly – tiling necessary across the creek, 3) disruption of a natural trout stream, 4) many of the adjacent property owners do not approve of an extension, and 5) receive a citizen initiated petition with all township residents' signatures. Ken also asked how the new elementary school would be affected by the extension of the road. Supervisor Wittenbach indicated that would be a justification to extend the road however that only fulfills one of the necessary points to even begin thinking about construction of Alden Nash through to Vergennes Road. Very low end of Township's road projects.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk