

MINUTES OF VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD

October 20, 1997**need to add pg numbers

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Jim Cook at 7:15 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present:	Jim Cook	-	Supervisor
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Sue Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee
	Mark Weber	-	Trustee

A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Geiger-Hessler to approve the minutes of the September 15, 1997 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Hoffman and accepted as read. A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Cook to approve the bills. Drafts 2462 through 2498 were issued. Motion carried.

Permit Activity. Two single family permits September 1997. Thirty-nine single family permits year-to-date.

Zoning Officer Report - Larry Marvel, Forest River Drive. Marvel was sent a letter in July telling him that his plans to add an extension to his driveway encroached the 10 foot setback requirement, and that he should contact Deb Rashid, Zoning Officer, at the township office prior to further action. Marvel poured the driveway anyway. Discussion concerned the fact that Mr. Marvel was forewarned, and had never contacted Ms. Rashid about his plan. It was felt that a fine of \$100 (the result of a simple Civil Infraction ticket) would be a bargain, and was not enough to justify the deliberate action by Marvel, considering that if he had asked for a variance of the ZBA it would have cost him \$300. The board felt that the driveway portion that encroaches should also be removed. Stone made a motion to issue a civil infraction ticket for appearance before a judge, in order to request a fine and removal of driveway. Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Supervisor Cook noted that Item 7 (Request for Public Forum Concerning Home Based Businesses) would be deleted from the Agenda at this time. Planning Commission needs next few meetings to deal with other matters. This agenda item will be reactivated at the January 5, 1998 meeting of the Planning Commission. This meeting will be widely published. Langworthy and Township attorney will be in attendance and a list of questions from concerned residents will be submitted prior to the meeting. The process for the next few months will be as follows: continue work on the draft ordinance;

question/answer session; informal hearing; formal public hearing; recommendation to the Board; adoption.

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Old Business:

1. Final Approval for Valleywood Site Condominium Project. Planning Commission recommended preliminary approval of Valleywood. Kevin Rude met all conditions of approval. An agreement has been drawn up between Sundry Development and Vergennes Township requiring engineering approval during actual construction on lots 8 through 14 because of the steep grade. This agreement will be registered as an attachment to the Master Deed for the project. Cook made a motion that the Board issue final approval for the Valleywood Site Condominium Project. Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Master Plan - Update and Request for Proposals. Notice mailed to seven planners. November 12, 1997 deadline for return of proposal. Planners have been urged to use Grand Valley Water Resource Institute for the mapping portion of the proposals. Township Board to meet with the Planning Commission at 6:00 p.m. before the November Board Meeting to pick the final three planners.
3. City of Lowell Request for Renewal of Consent Agreement Concerning Cable Television. Board has been waiting for four months to receive an amended agreement. After contacting City of Lowell, an agreement was promised by next month's Board meeting.

New Business:

1. Temporary Dwelling Agreement Approval and Adoption. A motion was made by Stone and seconded by Geiger-Hessler to approve and adopt the Temporary Dwelling Agreement Form which includes the requirement of a bond, and allows 30 days after a certificate of occupancy is issued for the new home for removal of the temporary dwelling. Motion carried.
2. Requests - Ron Osborne, 976 N. Washington - Would like to continue to live in a house which is already on his property while building a new home behind it. A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Stone to grant Building Permit contingent on execution of Temporary Dwelling Agreement by Osborne.
 - Rick Rexford, Beckwith Drive - Would like to continue to have parents occupy a recreational vehicle on his property for 5 or 6 continuous months in the summer. They have a variance from the ZBA which would no longer be in effect because it only allows "3 consecutive weeks." Cook will follow up with the Rexfords, and Stone will have Rashid check the ordinance for allowances which

may apply to this situation and advise. This matter was tabled at this time.

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3. Snow Removal Contract. Two proposals: Luscious Landscapes (\$300.00 for season-no per time price) and Hardings (\$395.00 with discount if paid by 11/1/97 or \$25.00 per time). Luscious Landscapes takes care of Township cemeteries and there have been no complaints. Snow removal in previous years approximately \$375.00 for season/each time @ \$25.00. Motion made by Geiger-Hessler to enter into a contract with Luscious Landscapes for snow removal for \$300.00 for the season. Motion seconded by Hoffman. Motion approved.
4. Qualified Voter File Equipment Agreement. The State QVF equipment is being provided to the Township at no cost by the County. The Township is receiving \$.45 per name from the State for updating Township voting records. County would like that money to offset expenses of QVF. Stone made a motion to enter into Qualified Voter File Equipment Agreement with Kent County and Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Stone estimated that the future annual cost will be approximately \$300 yearly, which includes licenses and maintenance plus the \$10.00 @ month Internet charge.
5. Community Pool Discussion. Jim Cook and Gil Wise met with Messrs. Bleke and Pasquale regarding the community pool. Next meeting already scheduled and will consist of 2 individuals from the two townships; 2 from the City of Lowell; and 1 from outlying townships (those with children attending Lowell Area Schools). Cook and Wise will attend as representatives from Vergennes Township.
6. Discussion Concerning a Fire Charges Ordinance. Stone requested a sample ordinance from the Michigan Township Association. Vergennes Township has an ordinance in place, but no stated charge for out of control fires resulting from Unpermitted Burns. Owner liable for all expenses/damages for unpermitted burns or not following conditions of permit qualifications. Historically, Township has not been able to recoup any fire charges. Fire charges are rising. \$10.00 per firefighter per call--usually 7-8 firemen per call. There is a need to make decision on what to enforce, beyond control of person, no charge and/or malfeasance, charge. List exemptions. Plan for collection of fees, i.e. tax lien. Request Frank Martin to inform township of any unpermitted burns which go astray and the number of firefighters sent to the scene. It was suggested that we advertise each spring that persons responsible for unpermitted burns so that residents will know that they must reimburse the Township for cost of fire run. Permits are currently available at no cost and contain information on do's and don'ts. These stipulations would affect unpermitted burns only, not annual permits which are obtained from Frank Martin, Lowell Fire Chief. Consensus was to delve further into this subject

for discussion at a later meeting.

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Claudya Muller, Director of Kent District Library, indicated that Vergennes Township residents used 16 of 17 library branches, and borrowed 15,000 items. Three residents are legally blind and active users of the Kent District Library. Library Board meets once a month, and the seat in district 4 is up for renewal. Joy Smith, of Bailey Dr., has been nominated.

Russell Geldersma, McPherson Street, have inquired about the possibility of a temporary residence (mobile home) on property to allow for living quarters for family members for eventual family caretaking. Double-wide agreeable to them. Present ordinance allows mobile home on property with certain width limit; special assessment use; enables Township to set condition. This matter to be looked into further.

Stone presented two bids for two Township signs; at the front and at the entrance door. (1) A.J. Signs bid on Sandblasted Redwood, \$1,300 (Front) and plywood vinyl, \$200.00 (Entrance); (2) Details in Motion, Grattan company [30% discount], Cedar, \$324.00 (Front) and vinyl core board, \$130.00 (Entrance). Hoffman made a motion to accept the bid from Details in Motion for a cedar front sign and a vinyl entrance door sign and it was seconded by Weber.

The west side of the parking lot has been surveyed in consideration of a possible enlargement of the parking lot.

Citizens Comments:

Al Baird indicated that there were probably more fire/rescue calls to automobile accidents than to actual fires. Stone stated that it actually was more of a 50/50 split. It was noted that any fire charge ordinance would be for unpermitted burns. A fire charge millage was mentioned as a possible way of collecting fees for fire runs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully

Submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk

