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Vergennes Township Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 19, 1998
As Amended

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Marsha Wilcox at 7:00 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

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

A motion was made by Hoffman seconded by Weber to approve the minutes of the September 21, 1998 regular meeting. An amendment to the minutes of the September 21, 1998 meeting under Citizens Comments was made as follows:

Motion made by Geiger-Hessler to present to the Kent County Road Commission a letter (including petition of residents for saving the tree and all reasons noted), supported by the Township Board, that a 4-way stop be erected at the intersection of Bailey Drive and Parnell Road, and that no decision on removal of the tree be made until the 4-way stop issue is resolved.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Hoffman and accepted as read. A motion was made by Hoffman and seconded by Weber to approve the bills. Motion carried. Drafts 2937 through 2984 were issued.

Permit Activity. 7 single family permits 9/98. 57 single family permits year-to-date.

*Presentation Regarding Senior Millage - On November 3 ballot. Report from Nick DeBoer, member of Senior Neighbors Millage Committee. One quarter mill millage will raise 3 million a year for 8 years. Represents approximately \$12.50 each year per \$100,000 home. Kent County to administer funds. Some of the areas where the funds will be used are in-home health aids; nutrition; home delivered meals; transportation; adult day care; volunteer opportunities; senior meals; respite care; hearing/vision services; outreach.

*Gil Wise - Community Pool Discussion. Informal "community-wide" pool committee. Support from Englehart Fund but the Fund not to pay for all. Residents of Lowell Township, Vergennes Township and City of Lowell to also share in the cost. Members from Vergennes Township Board, Lowell Township Board and City of Lowell Board on committee. Gil Wise and Jim Cook members from Vergennes Township. The committee will soon need to make decisions regarding a pool, hire a consultant, and draft a contract for a recreation district. No decision regarding location to date. Gil Wise resigning as Vergennes Township member on committee.

He will remain only as an at-larger member. Stone made a motion to accept Gil Wise's resignation as designated member from Vergennes Township on "community-wide" pool committee. Geiger-Hessler seconded, and the motion carried. By suggestion of Mari Stone and unanimous consent of the Township Board, Tim Wittenbach will replace Gil Wise along with Jim Cook to represent Vergennes Township on this committee.

* Lowell Fire Department - Bryan Kimball and Ron VanOverbeek discussed the need for an ARGUS thermo-imaging (night vision) handheld camera. \$18,000 cost for base model. Fire Department looking to area organizations for monetary support for purchase of camera. Matters to be looked into and decision at next month's regular township meeting.

Introduction and approval by the Vergennes Township Board of new Vergennes Township Zoning Administrator, Jeanne VanderSloot, effective October 1, 1998.

Unfinished Business:

1. Ratification of Construction Cost Change for the Hall Renovation. At regular Township Board meeting in September 1998, construction cost for renovation to the upstairs Township Hall of \$35,918 approved, but an error was found. First page not added into the final total *by contractor*. Actual total cost to be \$45,992.84. Total still under the original estimate and within the budgeted amount. Motion made by Geiger-Hessler to adjust the approved total cost for the Hall renovation as not to exceed \$45,992.84. Stone seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

New Business:

1. Amendment to Fee Schedule. Planning Commission still working on the fee schedule. There have been new discoveries of items which need to be added to the fee schedule. Amendment to Fee Schedule to be addressed at November 1998 Regular Township Board Meeting.
2. Planning Commission Recommendation Regarding Township Planner. Weber made a motion to hire Mark Daneman as needed on an hourly (\$65) basis for the rest of Fiscal Year 1998, as consultant to assist Planning Commission. Second by Stone, and motion carried.
3. Award of Snow Plowing Contract. Township received three bids: Luscious Landscapes; Hardings; Robert Griffin (lowest bid). Stone made a motion to accept the bid of Robert Griffin (\$250 per year) for snow plowing for the Vergennes Township driveway/parking lots. Weber seconded, and the motion carried. The Board mutually decided to bid for salting of driveway/parking lot on a per time basis.
4. Discussion Concerning Membership in Grand Valley Metro Council. Discussion centered on whether Vergennes Township is at the point where this kind of alliance is needed. There seem to be many benefits to larger jurisdictions closer to Grand Rapids.

None of the neighboring jurisdictions are yet a member. Decision by the Board to view the Grand Valley Metro Council video; review chart of their benefits; obtain list of members. Supervisor to present findings at November 1998 Regular Vergennes Township Board meeting.

5. Discussion Regarding Gypsy Moth Program Participation. 1998 cost to residents \$12.00 per acre. Program will only spray minimum of 40 acre block parcels. Program must have egg count by August 1998 or spraying not done the following spring. There was no agreement with Vergennes Township last year and spraying conducted anyway. Township does not require participation of its residents in the program. Large amount of paperwork involved which the Township Supervisor administers. Communication with residents essential. Tim Wittenbach agreed to administer the program. Motion made by Geiger-Hessler to *have the residents of Vergennes Township participate, if they wish to*, in the Gypsy Moth Program for 1999, seconded by Hoffman. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments:

Discussion regarding extremely poor condition of railroad crossing on McPherson Street. Wilcox contacted railroad eleven times to date with no results.

Mac McPherson and other residents of Township to attend Kent County Road Commission meeting on October 27, 1998 to represent need for four way stop at Parnell Road and Bailey Drive and address not removing tree at that intersection.

Richard Dwyer noted metro councils in other regions not living up to their representations and actually being detrimental to those areas.

Carmen and Roy Miller expressed dismay at manner in which Township handled their non-compliance with ordinance (two homes on one property) and issuing citation.

Thank you from the Vergennes Township Board to Tom Medendorp for participation on the Historic District Commission.

Request to provide copies of the township monthly bills to the public at each regular township meeting noted.

Also noted that *The Lowell Ledger* is the official paper for Vergennes Township publications.

After Citizens Comments, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

