

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2014

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
Vern Nauta -Trustee
Rick Gillett -Trustee
Jean Hoffman -Treasurer
Mari Stone -Clerk

The agenda for the September 15, 2014 meeting was approved with additions of Al Baird Plaque, Hanson House Discussion, and Zoning Issue discussion. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim Wittenbach; seconded Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the August 18, 2014 meeting were approved as presented. The Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with the additions of paying the Staples bill, Mark Fleet's payroll bill and the last payment for the new fire truck. Board discussed the road commission payment for Grindle Road and decided to pay it in November. The motion was made by Jean Hoffman; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

A neighbor of the J & H Oil gas station informed the board that the storm water retention plan was not working and his property was being flooded. A J&H representative was at the meeting and gave the neighbor his business card and said that they would take care of the issue.

Public Hearing- Postema Signs and Graphics – J & H Sign Request

The public hearing opened at 7:15. There was no public comments and the public hearing closed a minute later

Public Hearing – Fahrni – Request to Build on Adjacent Lot in Rolling Creek Site Condo

The public hearing opened and 7:18. There were no citizen comments. The public hearing closed a minute later.

Unfinished Business:

1. Fahrni – Request to Build on Adjacent Lot in Rolling Creek Site Condo –

The board discussed the request to build on the lot and were in favor of it. They said that if the neighbors are okay with it, then they have no problem with the building. Gillett motioned to accept the request to allow Fahrni to build on the adjacent lot in the Rolling Creek Site Condominium development; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

2. Postema Signs and Graphics – J & H Sign Request - Board had no issues with the larger sized sign and agreed that it was more proportional than the smaller sign. Nauta motioned to approve the sign request for the J & H sign; seconded by Gillet. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Fireworks Permit – Ken Roth Farms: Board was asked to approve a fireworks permit for Ken Roth Farms on October 18. Board said it is the same event that has been held for many years, and all the required paperwork was in order. Wittenbach motioned to approve the fireworks permit; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

2. Al Baird Plaque: Hoffman reminded the board that there is money that was donated at the time of Al's death which was deposited in the trust and agency account to put a memorial plaque in the meeting room of the township hall. Wittenbach said he would take care of getting the plaque for the township hall. The remaining amount will be sent to the Alton Church Society.

3. Hanson House Update: The board was informed that the Hanson house damaged by fire on Lincoln Lake will be demolished within a month. Consumers Energy is about two weeks behind so the time frame is not firm. The township hall has received some comments from citizens inquiring about the house, so the board was glad the job was getting done.

4. Zoning Issues - Jeanne Vandersloot informed the board of an issue that began a while ago and is not being resolved. The property is on 12150 McPherson, which is in the Little Farms plat. There are farm animals being kept, which according to the ordinance is not allowed in a plat. Vandersloot had the owners fill out a special permit giving them some time to move the pens toward the center of their property, however the owner has not done this yet. Vandersloot sent them another letter and permit asking them to comply, but she wants the board's permission to authorize her to give the owners a ticket if they do not comply with the last letter. Wittenbach motioned to give Vandersloot authorization for the ticket; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

Vandersloot recommended to the board that they consider amending the ordinance and the board said they will take it up at the next meeting. She also said she would send the Accessory Building, Vacant Lot and Animal Plat ordinance to the Planning Commission so that they could discuss it as well.

Wittenbach informed the board about the recent Fire Board Meeting. He said it went well and said that the flooring was just redone and it looks good.

Stone informed board that she had the draft of the Master Plan of the Charter Township. She said it was a really nice plan, and includes things such as the sewer lines and the LARA trail way map.

Citizens Comments: There were no citizen comments.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
