

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2001

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
	Al Baird	-	Trustee
	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee

The minutes of the August 20, 2001 regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board approved as written. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Baird, to approve bills as read. Motion carried.

Public Hearing – Request for Tax Abatement, Precise Engineering.

Open Hearing: 7:05 p.m. No comments. Close Hearing: 7:06 p.m.

New Business:

1. Precise Engineering PA 198 Tax Abatement Application. Precise Engineering is constructing an addition that will tie two existing buildings together. Precise Engineering attempts to hire locally from surrounding areas. Precise Engineering cites international competition, cash flow, construction to relieve overcrowding as reasons for the tax abatement request. Currently have 52 employees. Precise Motion by Baird, seconded by Nauta, to grant Precise Engineering a twelve year tax abatement. Motion approved.
2. Tom Richards – Lowell Light and Power/Consumers Energy New Transmission Line. Informational meeting regarding Consumers Energy plans to make way for more capacity availability to Lowell Light and Power. Current transmission into Lowell is 30 years old. Lisa DeLacy and Bob Savoy, Consumers Power, Jackson, explained the process for procuring site, feasibility, route, and acquisition of guy wire and tree rights to property on route. Approximately, 4.2 miles on new route rests in Vergennes Township. Route chosen follows Bowes Road west to corner of Bowes and M-21, north on Alden Nash to existing Attwood line, west to approximately center of Section 33, continuing north to 2 Mile, and then west, which will connect to two substations already in existence on 2-Mile. The two substations will be overbuilt to handle new high voltage wire. Right-of-way acquisition will begin this Fall with completion slated for Fall of 2002.
3. Frank Martin, Chief, Lowell Fire Department. Board concerned about repetitious calls, large number of responding firemen – had also asked for update on equipment purchases. Martin noted that he has teams of firemen (9 on a team) on

duty for a full week. Average number of individuals responding is seven. There are Med 1, Med 2 and Med 3 (nonlife-threatening) calls. Must respond to Med 1 and Med 2 and do not respond to Med 3 calls unless an ambulance is unavailable. It was noted that some townships have reimbursement ordinance for certain fire and rescue calls. Board not ready to implement such an ordinance at this time. Possibility for a reimbursement agreement between Fire Department and Township. Martin to forward information from insurance company that provides list of reimbursable calls.

Martin discussed purchase of equipment; replacement for old tanker is still in the works. Lowell Community Fund turned down first application for \$100,000 towards purchase of new truck. Second application pending. Hoping to have delivery of new truck by July/August 2002.

4. Roger Odell – Request to Amend Special Exception Use Permit. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Baird, to approve amendment to Roger Odell's special exception use permit. Motion carried.
5. 2002 Gypsy Moth Agreement. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman, to approve 2002 Gypsy Moth Agreement and payment of \$6,450 (consultant, mapping). Motion approved. 2003 will be the last year of the three year millage voted in for Gypsy Moth treatments in the township.
6. Request for Fireworks Display Permit – Ken Roth and Michigan Pyrotechnics Arts Guild Representative. Michigan Pyrotechnics Arts Guild has been together for three years; also belong to a national guild. On October 20, 2001, they will hold a meeting, have a meal, and shoot fireworks. Most of their fireworks reach heights from 300-600' with 1500' at the highest. Concern expressed for livestock in area. MI Pyrotechnics representative to provide a letter to be mailed to surrounding livestock owners informing them of the October 20 date. Baird made a motion, seconded by Nauta, to approve and sign Kent Roth's permit for fireworks display for October 20, 2001 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Motion carried.
7. Review of Community Commercial Zoning Standards. - Board not ready to adopt at this time. Planning Commission has recommended adoption of amendment to Commercial District to add uses permitted by right, and new district to be developed which uses “community commercial” zoning standards. Amendment intends to clarify vagueness, keep a community appeal to buildings, smaller businesses, room for special exception uses. Doezema/Kilpatrick to be contacted regarding adult uses and regulations of them. Stone noted that in the 1999 community survey a large percentage of residents were against any further commercial development within Vergennes Township.

Hoffman reported that Dick Cooper withdrew his request for re-zoning and requested refund of remaining escrow monies.

Household Hazardous Waste Pick Up Day, October 13, 2001. In cooperation with the City of Lowell and Lowell Township. Ten Vergennes residents used the service in 2000. Household chemicals only, no farm chemicals.

Citizens' Comments:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk