

**VERGENNES TOWNSHIP**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 18, 2000**

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:05 p.m. in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present:	Tim Wittenbach	-	Supervisor
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Susan Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee
	Mark Weber	-	Trustee

Weber, seconded by Hoffman, made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2000 regular meeting. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Weber, to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2000 Special Meeting of the Board. Motions approved. Treasurer's Report accepted as read. Motion by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Weber, to approve the presented bills. Motion approved. Drafts 4014 through 4062 were issued.

**Public Hearing – Increase in Property Taxes – Gypsy Moth Millage**

Hearing began at 7:12 p.m. Voters approved millage for three years to fund a gypsy moth suppression program. Limit of .5 mil per year. Board can set actual millage collected one year at a time. Weber noted that the spraying seems to be very effective, and he would like to see the program continued for the whole three year time period. There was no public comment. Hearing closed at 7:15 p.m.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Request from Open Space Committee – Planner Services. Open Space Committee met and discussed various ways to preserve open space within township. Request to Board to allow them an hour of the services of the Planner on October 2, 2000 when he will be at Vergennes Township to be part of the Planning Commission meeting that same day. Committee has questions and would like education from Planner on options available to them. Charge is \$85.00 per hour. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Stone, to approve cost for Planner's services for one hour with the Open Space Committee on October 2, 2000, prior to the regular Planning Commission meeting.

**New Business:**

1. Approval of Township Millage Rate for 2000. Motion by Weber, seconded by Hoffman, to approve millage rate for 2000 of 1.4129, which includes extra gypsy moth millage, voted for by residents. Motion carried. It was noted that Brian Kroll will do another survey of township for 2001 program to locate infested areas and provide a new set of maps locating areas which need to be sprayed.
2. Zoning Administrator Requests. Jeanie VanderSloot recommended the following:
  1. Flat River Ordinance needs amendments: stairs to river; landings, hand rails, maintenance agreement, etc. She has experienced some difficulty administering and interpreting. Motion by Stone, seconded by Weber, to refer Flat River Ordinance to Planning Commission for recommendations concerning amendments. Motion carried.

2. Supplements to the Ordinance on VanderSloot's computer rather than pay Municipal Code to update ordinance. Hourly compensation would be necessary – not part of Zoning Administrator's job. Tim Wittenbach to hold further discussion with VanderSloot regarding doing the supplementing, codifying, compensation, etc.
  3. Staff Meeting after Board Meetings – set time during regular work week hours for communication purposes. General consensus this is a good idea.
  4. J. Kilpatrick letter regarding zoning map. VanderSloot feels the present map is not clear. Williams and Works has parcel base map from master plan. Just needs to create the zoning overlay. Initial cost quoted as \$500 to enter into computer, provide a display size map, and a number of individual maps for distribution. Questions regarding later costs. Wittenbach to clarify costs to Township, and ask for cost comparison regarding Township purchasing software and keeping maps for future changes on Township system.
3. Consideration of Resolution Regarding Proposal 002. Proposal 002 to amend Michigan constitution to note that to override any change effecting townships must be by a 2/3 vote of both chambers of Congress. Board considered two resolutions: one advocated by "Let Local Votes Count" group of the Michigan Municipal League (cities and villages) for support of Proposal 002; and the other promoted by Michigan Townships Association to oppose support of Proposal 002. MTA feels language not written well enough to ensure that Townships not giving up control. Townships come under statutory law; cities and villages operate by "home rule", and majority of legislative changes would not affect them. With census figures due out in a few months, it could show a shift of population to townships, and communities will be reviewed for possible representative changes. Some townships feel the proposal is an attempt to preempt a power shift. Motion by Weber, seconded by Hoffman to adopt resolution to oppose support of Proposal 002. Motion approved.
  4. Request from Vergennes United Methodist Church – Fence at Cemetery. Church requested Township purchase materials and the Church would construct white fence with chain gate similar to that lining cemetery and Parnell Road which would separate Church parking lot (north end) from cemetery land. Cost of materials from \$300-\$500. There is money available in cemetery budget. Stone made a motion, seconded by Weber, to purchase materials for a fence that will be constructed, painted and maintained by the Vergennes United Methodist Church at the north end of their parking lot adjacent to cemetery. Motion carried.

**Citizens' Comments:**

Al Baird mentioned that a couple of residents still had a problem driving to their homes during the Corporate Challenge walk/run event at Fallasburg Park. The Board had requested residents be able to travel to and from their homes during the event with the event sponsors before giving approval for the event.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk