

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2011

As amended in italics

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
Jean Hoffman -Treasurer
Rick Gillett -Trustee
Al Baird -Trustee

Members Absent: Mari Stone -Clerk

The agenda for the September 19, 2011 meeting was approved with the additions of Laboite IFT Discussion, .Net Tax Assessing Program, and Fireboard Meeting Update with a motion by Rick Gillett; seconded by Jean Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the August 15, 2011 meeting were approved as presented. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with a motion by Al Baird; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Unfinished Business:

1. Proposed Ordinance Amendments

- Agritourism Businesses
- Accessory Buildings
- Accessory Dwellings, Mobile Homes

The Planning Commission proposed three amendments for the board to approve, Agritourism Business, Accessory Buildings, and Accessory Dwellings for Mobile Homes.

There was no discussion on the Agritourism Business amendment. Gillett motioned to adopt Ordinance 2011-2, Agritourism Businesses; seconded by Baird. A roll call vote was taken, and all approved. **Motion Carried.**

There was no discussion on the Accessory Building amendment. Baird motioned to adopt Ordinance 2011-3, Accessory Buildings; seconded by Hoffman. A roll call vote was taken, and all approved. **Motion Carried.**

Regarding the Accessory Dwellings for Mobile Homes proposed amendment, Hoffman asked why the parcel had to be 2 acres instead of 3 acres to build an accessory dwelling. It was determined that it was a number that the planning commission came up with. In all districts the requirement is 2 acres. Gillett motioned to adopt the Ordinance 2011-4, Accessory Dwellings for Mobile Homes; seconded by Baird. A roll call vote was taken, and all approved. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Chain Reaction Sports- Bicycle Event at Fallasburg-

The board was in favor of holding the Bicycle Event at Fallasburg Park. Wittenbach had an issue with the paint on the roads that the cyclists use for the events. Wittenbach talked to the road commission and it is considered graffiti. The board agreed with Wittenbach that it is not considerate to the community. Hoffman motioned to hold the Bicycle event on October 29th at Fallasburg; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

2. Plat Renewals- Scenic Views #4 - lots 40-66 and #5-lots 67-81-

Board had no comments on the plat renewals. Gillett motioned for the plat renewals for the Scenic views #4 lots 40-66 and #5-lots 67-81; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

3. Witt's Inn Request for SEUP-

Hoffman motioned to excuse Tim Wittenbach from the discussion; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Tim and Kathy Wittenbach requested that the board schedule a public hearing for the October Board meeting. They are applying for a Special Use Permit under the newly amended Agritourism Business Ordinance. They are looking to re-open the former bed and breakfast operation and add a small café for public use in November. Fire Code inspection is scheduled in the next couple of weeks, and they are hiring a contractor to build the front deck. Gillett motioned to set a public hearing for the October board meeting; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

4. Proposed PA 198 Property Tax Abatement Policy-

Board discussed the PA 198 Property Tax Abatement Policy. This policy would encourage small businesses in Vergennes Township. Hoffman motioned to discuss the policy at the next board meeting in October; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

5. Fireworks Permit- Ken Roth Farms-

The annual Roth Farm fireworks are scheduled for October 22nd. Board was in favor of granting the permit. Hoffman was concerned about Roth Farms doing fireworks past 10pm. Baird motioned to grant the firework permit for the Ken Roth Farms with a condition of no fireworks after 10pm; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

6. Laboite IFT Discussion-

Hoffman informed the board that Laboite has not paid taxes and currently has an IFT. Hoffman called the current owner several times and he did not return the calls. Hoffman motioned to revoke Laboite's IFT; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

7. .Net- New Tax Program-

Hoffman informed the board that in the next couple years the township is going to have to update their tax program. Currently the township uses the computer program BS&A. The Treasurer's

Association has worked out a deal for the .Net tax program. The price is \$2,187 a year with no interest for 5 years; this does not include a maintenance fee, but includes free training for the new program. In order for the township to get the deal, 5 other townships would have to agree to this program as well. The board discussed the possibilities of getting the new program now or waiting until the township needs to update the software. The board decided that they were in favor of purchasing the new tax program, with the requirement of it being the discounted price, if the price were to change then the board would wait to purchase it. Gillett motioned to purchase .Net software program at the discounted price, along with the necessary hardware; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

8. Lowell Area Fire and Rescue Authority Update-

Wittenbach updated the board on the LAFRA Meeting. He said that everything is being audited. *The authority went over budget, with over \$4,000 in unexpected expenses last year due to the purchase of the new suburban. The Authority originally thought that they were going to receive all grant money to pay for the suburban, but only received half. So the treasurer wrote a check for the amount still owed.* LAFRA also was considering getting a tanker. They applied for a \$3,000 grant from Homeland Security and are going to try to get another grant to pay for it.

Citizen's Comments:

Vandersloot wanted to bring to the boards attention a problem at the entrance of the township hall. The heavy rain has been washing out landscaping located by the door and the cement has sunk about 3 inches. There are 3 big cracks in the cement in front of the door. Jeanne is concerned about the safety of the elderly coming through the front door. Wittenbach said that he will look into the issue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk