

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 20, 1999

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
	Sue Geiger-Hessler	-	Trustee
	Mark Weber	-	Trustee

A motion was made by Hoffman, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 16, 1999, with a correction to the township millage rate from .9244 to .9243. Hoffman motioned, and Weber seconded, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held August 26, 1999. Hoffman motioned, Wittenbach seconded, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held September 15, 1999. Geiger-Hessler noted that she understood that this Special Meeting was to count surveys, and was not a meeting. All motions carried. Treasurer's Report was given by Hoffman and accepted as read. A motion was made by Weber, seconded by Geiger-Hessler, to approve the bills including the Williams & Works invoice for comprehensive plan. Motion carried. Drafts 3442 through 3494 were issued.

Unfinished Business:

1. Consideration of Recreation District/Community Pool Proposal - Wittenbach summarized the survey results reported in the September 15th minutes. Approximately 45 people were in attendance, with several asking questions and giving comments. Stone motioned to acknowledge the survey results and reject the Community Pool proposal. Hoffman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
2. 1998-99 Fiscal Year Audit Report - Township Auditor Phil Saurman was present, and gave a clean bill of health to the Township's finances, commenting that having \$275,000 of the \$400,000 budgeted for expenditures in the General Fund at this point in the fiscal year is good. Discussion on the lack of official record of fixed assets - Saurman commented that it is common for a municipality of our size, and is not required by law yet. A list is currently kept on paper, but Saurman gave a heads up on pending State law which will require a more formal method of recordkeeping and will probably need a software package. Weber congratulated Hoffman and Stone on a good report and accurate records. Motion by Weber to accept auditors report as presented, seconded by Geiger-Hessler. Motion carried.
3. Discussion Regarding an Ordinance Amendment Regarding Unclassified Uses - Industrial Ordinance currently allows a small list of permitted uses. Vandersloot noted that there may be many future businesses which would like to locate in the township that might be desirable and appropriate, but are not listed as a permitted or special use in the

ordinance. She presented proposed language that would allow other uses on a case by case method, with the Planning Commission making the decision. Stone motioned to direct the Planning Commission to work on an Ordinance amendment to allow for Unclassified Uses, Weber seconded, and the motion carried.

New Business:

1. Preliminary Approval of Private Road for Jan Bomers - Bomers was present to answer any questions. The name of the road is Sudan, and it will be an extension of a current private road. An item Bomers has pending is the acquisition of drainage easements from several of the neighboring properties. He stated that he will have no problems complying with recommendations in the September 7th correspondence from the township's engineer. Planning Commission had recommended preliminary approval at their September meeting. Motion by Stone, seconded by Weber, to grant preliminary approval to the extension of Sudan, subject to the recommendations of the township engineer in the September 7, 1999 correspondence. Motion carried.
2. Special Exception Use, Lincoln Lake Autos - Bob Wilczewski was present to answer any questions for the board. Planning Commission had recommended approval with the same conditions as granted to Affordable Towing (8/16/99) plus two additions. (attached) Geiger-Hessler motioned to approve the Special Use for Lincoln Lake Autos with the conditions as submitted by the Planning Commission with the addition of the words "A minimum of one..." to item number 8 concerning an annual review. Weber seconded, and the motion carried.
3. Fire Advisory Board Meeting Summary - Stone had attended the meeting held in August, and reported that Fire Chief Martin is looking into the Englehardt or Look Funds for a grant to replace 8 airpaks which cost \$3500 each. Each municipality will be asked to pass a resolution of support to include in the grant. He is also looking into the cost effectiveness of lease-to-own as compared to a loan or outright purchase for the pumper/tanker combo to be purchased in a couple of years. This is estimated at \$200,000, with Vergennes responsible for a third. In reference to the Private Road Ordinance currently under review by the Planning Commission, Martin asked Stone to pass along the importance of the maintenance of height and width for access by emergency vehicles.
3. Road Policy Discussion - A discussion was held regarding a sample mission statement for township road policy. Wittenbach read the original charge of the Road Advisory Board, and clarified that the RAB acts to gather information and advise the township board on future road projects, but does not set it's own policy. Stone read the mission statement, (attached) and there was general agreement that it summarizes the Township's philosophy. Discussion was held regarding the ability of a township to require paving of gravel roads by developers. Motion by Stone, seconded by Weber, to adopt the mission statement/township road policy. Motion carried.
4. Zoning Administrator Request Regarding 11855 McPherson - Vandersloot explained the problem; unsafe bridge only access point to remove huge pile of debris on property.

Owner has been offered many suggestions, none have been taken. After almost a year, the property is now for sale, and concern is that new owner may inherit the complaint/problem. Motion by Geiger-Hessler, seconded by Hoffman, to issue Civil Infraction to owner if he does not satisfactorily respond by October 8, 1999. Motion carried.

5. Historical Commission Discussion - It was noted that the Supervisor has been a member of the commission in the past, and that this had been an excellent means of communication between the board and this commission. There had been an applicant, Judy Baird, who had served in the past and expressed a desire to return to the commission. Stone motioned to appoint Judy Baird to the Historical Commission for the term vacated by Ron Rittersdorf, and to have Tim Wittenbach serve as Board Representative. Geiger-Hessler seconded, and the motion carried.

Citizens Comments:

Mac McPherson was present to give a report on the log from the tree cut on the corner of Bailey and Parnell. The committee had submitted several suggestions and two were outlined. First, a slab cut with the rings depicting a time line/calendar of historical happenings. The other is a slab cut for a clock face for the meeting hall. Cost for these is estimated at \$700 to \$900. McPherson will have more at the next meeting.

Wittenbach asked to address the Recreation District Agreement. After discussion, Stone motioned to not support the Recreation Authority as it pertains to the Community Pool proposal. Hoffman seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor. Stone further motioned that Vergennes Township entertain further discussion regarding other recreational facilities. Weber seconded, and Wittenbach called for a roll call vote.

Weber	yes
Hoffman	yes
Wittenbach	no
Stone	yes
Geiger-Hessler	no

Motion carried.

There was a question regarding a township wide Gypsy Moth suppression program. Wittenbach will get estimates for a township wide spray.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
