

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2010

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
Mari Stone -Clerk
Jean Hoffman -Treasurer
Al Baird -Trustee
Rick Gillett -Trustee

The agenda for the September 20, 2010 meeting was approved by Gillett; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the August 16 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report and bills were read. The board noted that the quarterly fire bill was not listed on the invoices. They were motioned to be approved with this addition by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach.

Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Final Approval – Triple Oak Dr, Private Road - Steve Hansen was the representative present for the final approval of Triple Oak Drive. Jeff Brinks from Williams and Works signed off for final approval of the construction. Township Engineer Dave Austin has also approved. The board asked if a stop sign had been ordered. Hansen stated that a stop sign had not been ordered, but that he would take care of that. The board also informed Hansen that the road was not allowed to have the word trail in its title according to road commission rules. He said that it would be no problem to rename the road "Triple Oak Drive". Stone motioned to give final approval for "Triple Oak Drive" conditional on the installation of a street sign with "Triple Oak Drive" and a stop sign; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

2. Final Approval – Alden Nash West – Phase III Private Roads - Steve Hansen was the representative present for the final approval of Phase III for Alden Nash West. A street sign and street lights are on their way to the project. Four lots have been sold as a part of Phase III and are waiting on the board's approval. They will begin building 2-3 houses immediately. The board told Steve Hansen that the easement documents for the LARA Lowell Area Trailway are needed before October 15. Hansen said that this would not be a problem. Hansen also requested the deadline for final paving of the entire project be moved out to August instead of April as previously agreed. Gillett motioned to approve, with the stipulation that Hansen provide the LARA easement rights by the 15th of October, and that the required final paving date be moved from April to August 30, 2011; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Fireworks Permit – Ken Roth Farm - The township has received annual requests for a fireworks permit since 2002. They have their proper certificate of insurance and need the board's approval for the permit. Baird motioned to grant approval; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

2. Board of Review Vacancies - The board of review has a series of vacancies that need to be filled. The board decided, without a motion, that they would run ads to look for new appointees.

3. Miscellaneous Zoning Issues – Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator - Jeanne Vandersloot brought several zoning issues to the board's attention.

- Beth Cosmos, who lives at 1065 Alden Nash., is interested in utilizing the property at 970 Alden Nash SE, which belongs to Peter Wege. Mr. Wege's land agent, Terri McCarthy, was present as an official representative for Mr. Wege. Ms. Cosmos wants to establish an educational mind, body, and spirit clinic at the house on the property. She has the proper training and credentials and has worked at St. Mary's hospital. She wishes to provide education about holistic healing methods by having classes for approximately 10-15 people and by bringing in speakers. The property is zoned R1 and cannot be used for commercial purposes, so it would need to remain an educational endeavor. The board decided, by common consent, that they would have no problem in working with her further. Her next step would be to make applications with the Zoning Administrator.
- Mike Harding's application for use of his storage building on his property located in Jordan Meadows Site Condominium - The site condominium master deed does not allow commercial activities to be conducted on the property. The board was primarily concerned that the neighbors/association members be informed of the business activity, and the Harding's have supplied a signed letter from the residents stating as such.
- The storage of railroad ties/cars on tracks – There has been significant progress in the removal of both the railroad ties and the train cars. The purchase of the rail bed from Greenville to Lowell has a closing date of October 20, 2010.
- 12150 McPherson - has been foreclosed on and people have inquired of its status. The trailer is full of mold and must be demolished. One of the inquiries concerned replacing the trailer with a used mobile home that does not comply with ceiling height and foundation requirements for mobile homes. The board does not want to change any part of the ordinance and stated that the owners must ask for a variance.
- 2626 Lincoln Lake Road – Nothing new, but Vandersloot will continue to monitor and attempt to contact the owner. Regarding 705 Montcalm, Mr. Dawson has complied with the township's requirements.

4. Assessor Report and Request - Wittenbach motioned to approve purchase of an additional software license; seconded by Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

5. Snowplow and Lawn Care Bid Policy - The board discussed combining an annual snowplow and lawn care bid. They decided that October 1st would be the date that both bids would be put out, and that the awarded contracts would be for one year.

6. Fallasburg Historical Society Update - Doris and Edwin Roth were the representatives for the Fallasburg Historical Society. They updated the Board about their recent activities and efforts to preserve historical buildings near the covered bridge. They came to request fiscal aid from the township to repaint the schoolhouse. The board said that they would not be able to directly assist, but that they would support an application to the Englehardt fund for assistance of the society's efforts.

Citizen's Comments:

The board discussed the Lowell Fire Commission meeting. The minutes and financial reports showed the commission's budget and noted that it had recently been granted FEMA money. The meeting also showed that fire runs have been up a little in the area. There are currently 28 people on the payroll. Reforms have been implemented in the on-call rotation, and a new Suburban has been purchased as an emergency response vehicle.

Craig Wood asked what the status was on the request for a resident-access boat launch in the backwater area from the park to the dams. Wittenbach has been in communication with the County Parks Director, and is working toward acquiring access for area owners in the spring and fall to launch and take boats out of the water.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
