

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2009

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
Al Baird - Trustee
Vern Nauta - Trustee
Jean Hoffman - Treasurer

The agenda for the September 21, 2009 meeting was approved with the additions of Butch Visser and the fee schedule and the Fitzgerald's by Nauta; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the August 17 meeting were approved with the correction of "hard waste" changed to "yard waste". The payment of invoices was approved with a motion by Hoffman; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**

Unfinished Business:

1. Victory Woods Private Drive - Final Approval – Scott Osborne asked Jeanne Vandersloot to look into some gouges in the road, and she brought back pictures to show the Board. The road had passed the Township Engineer's inspection without mention of the gouges, so the board could not be sure that they occurred before the engineer's approval. Also, Mr. Fuhr owes escrow money to the township. Stone motioned to table this issue until next month to give time to Mr. Fuhr to pay the escrow money; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. Lighting Ordinance Amendments - Adoption - Citizens representing both sides of the issue were present, and much debate was held. The Board reviewed the Planning Commission's recommendations, and also considered wording offered by the Open Space Citizen's Committee. Hoffman motioned to adopt the lighting ordinance with the committee's recommendations; seconded by Stone. During the ensuing discussion, the Board questioned Jeanne Vandersloot about the differences between the ordinance proposals by the open space committee and the planning commission, which are mainly in the definitions. After this, there was more discussion with concerned citizens. At this point, Hoffman motioned to withdraw her previous motion; Stone seconded. **Motion Carried.** The board, after further discussion, decided to schedule a special meeting. Hoffman motioned to have the Board meet with Vandersloot to discuss it; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

2. Fireworks Permit - Ken Roth Farm - The board had no discussion regarding this annual request. Wittenbach motioned to grant permit; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

3. Fitzgerald Request - The township had granted their request for a Private Road Variance to allow for a split but it turns out that they were not deeded any in their purchase. Hoffman

motioned to contact the Fitzgerald's regarding their options; seconded by Wittenbach.
Motion Carried.

4. Butch Visser - M&E and Plumbing Fee Schedule - Cascade township has not raised Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing fees for ten years. They are raising all application, re-inspection and final fees from \$30 to \$50, and adding a gas inspection fee to the plumbing permit as listed in the current MDELEG Bureau of Construction Codes standard applications. They are asking Vergennes to also adopt the new fees. Wittenbach motioned to amend the Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical fees as outlined above; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

The Citizen's comments were as follows:

Peggy Covert told the board that the "Lowell Area Voice" citizens group is looking for a location to compost yard waste.

Jeanne Vandersloot took pictures of Thomas Reiger's property during the annual inspection as outlined in his agreement with the Board on August 18, 2003. He has several trucks on his property along with other scrap. Jeanne sent a letter to Mr. Reiger regarding the accumulation of junk. Reiger agreed to keep a \$5,000 assurance bond in the name of the township until a residence is constructed on the property. However, he submitted a Letter of Credit instead, and it was brought to the board's attention that the line of credit is not in the name of Vergennes Township.

Jeanne Vandersloot sent a letter to Patrick Howard to tell him that he needs to get rid of the trailer. Mr. Howard has moved into his newly built house. The township is sending a second letter to him and Jeanne Vandersloot will give the board a report of this issue next month.

The board decided that they would meet to discuss the lighting ordinance on October 7, 2009 at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,
