

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2007

Tim Wittenbach called the regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board to order at 7:00 pm in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present: Tim Wittenbach Supervisor
 Mari Stone Clerk
 Jean Hoffman Treasurer
 Al Baird Trustee

Members Absent Vern Nauta Trustee

The agenda for the April 16, 2007 meeting was approved with changes by Wittenbach; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Approved.** The minutes for the March 19, 2007 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report read and approved. Bills were approved as presented by Baird; seconded by Hoffman.

Unfinished Business

1. Jacob Sterling, Eagle Scout Project - Jacob presented the Board with plans and an estimate to build a 10 x 12' storage building in the NE corner of the Township parking lot. The building will have a vented skylight, locking, swinging doors, ramp at entrance, shelving at the back wall of building and plywood in the attic area for extra storage. \$3000 is budgeted for the project. Construction will begin April 21 and take approximately three Saturdays to complete. Board ok with plans. Ok to start 4/21.
2. Forestland Holdings Update – Mr. VanderWerff's was in attendance with his wife and son. He asked for delay on approval of project start, and expressed dissatisfaction with the process to date. Per Wittenbach, the township engineer has worked with Mr. DeVree on the plan revision dated April 11, and approves of the changes. DeVree explained what he has done to work with VanderWerff's and how the road is being engineered so there is less water on his property than there has been in the past. VanderWerff's is concerned about the amount of sand in the culvert, and wants provisions to have this cleaned out completely upon completion of project. DeVree believes the drainage pipe is too low but was placed at that elevation per VanderWerff's request. The plans were reviewed by all parties and a lengthy discussion was held. The Board agreed that the road should be built per the revised plans dated April 11, 2007 and according to the memo dated April 16, 2007 by Williams and Works. Motion by Hoffman to approve preliminary plans for private road construction, seconded by Baird. **Motion carried.** DeVree suggested letting the township engineer decide about the sand in the pipe when the road receives final inspection and if Dave Austin feels pipe needs to be cleaned out, he will do it. He noted that he doesn't want to open the door for extra work/expense beyond what has been approved.

Hoffman motioned to amended the original motion to include having the township engineer decide if the pipe needs to be cleaned out before final approval is given by the township. Baird seconded. **Motion Carried.**

New Business

1. Letter of Support for community wide recreation assessment and plan – There is a joint request for funding from Lowell Area Community Fund for \$35,000. Does the township support this request? Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Wittenbach, to provide letter of support for request for funding. **Motion carried.**
2. GIS discussion – Orthophotography update – Stone attended a meeting regarding aerial maps to be produced for the County. Currently we are getting maps that show “top down” view. It is possible to obtain oblique photos that show NSEW views that you can zoom in on. We could get program on our computers that allow us to zoom in/out and manipulate. If we are not Regis members, we would only be able to get township views. Regis members are able to access entire county. Kent County needs to make decision on which views to have done. If most municipalities want obliques, entire county would get them. This project is due to take place in spring 2008. Stone suggested township attend Regis demos in May or June before making any decisions. J. Vandersloot proposal with grant will be placed on hold till after Regis demonstrations. Board members ok with this plan.
3. High speed internet discussion – a resident would like to put a petition in the Township offices to garner interest for high speed internet. Stone felt a better medium for the petition would be our website. All agreed to pursue getting high speed Internet in township.
4. Designation of Township Attorney, Auditor, Engineer and Planner – Motion by Stone, seconded by Wittenbach to appoint Jim Doezema of Foster, Swift, Collins and Swift our township attorney, Phil Sauerma of Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols and Carter our township auditor, Dave Austin of Williams and Works as township engineer and Jay Kilpatrick of Williams and Works as township planner. **Motion carried.**
5. Approval of Designated Depository Institutions – Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Baird to approve Huntington Bank, Kent County Money Max, 5/3 Bank and ICNB as approved depositories. **Motion carried.**

Citizens Comments

Amy Hill, who lives at Bailey and Heim, expressed concern about Iola Doty’s property on Bailey (Bailey House). There is old furniture in yard; windows that were boarded up are open again. She has called the sheriff when she saw activity there. Noted that owner is looking at putting property on market.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk