

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2004

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
	Mari Stone	-	Clerk
	Jean Hoffman	-	Treasurer
	Al Baird	-	Trustee
	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee

Minutes of the July 19, 2004 Regular Board Meeting were accepted as presented. Hoffman gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion by Nauta, second by Baird, to approve bills as read. **Motion approved.** Motion by Nauta, seconded by Stone, to approve Agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

Guest: Phil Saurman, Township Auditor

Saurman gave the Board a report on the 03-04 Audit. He noted that we have a good fund balance, comprising 80-85% of the 04-05 Budget. There were no discrepancies to report. Encouraged the Board to continue to support an environment that doesn't accept fraud. Reviewed new Building permit system and new Property Tax system, commenting they are examples of good practices. Encouraged cross training.

New Business:

1. **Pat and Lynn Quinlan, of Precise Engineering**, were present to explain a program they are considering joining to abate taxes for tool & die industries. It is a means to make tool and die industries more competitive, and keep U.S. businesses in general competitive and efficient. This is a pilot program – if they apply, per statute, they have to be part of a coalition; all coalition members' municipalities must approve.

Ray DeWinkle, of The Right Place Program, was also present supporting this 15 year tax free renaissance zone. He said that Precise has experienced a downturn as result of global competition , and the tax abatements will be important to their continuation. Single Business Tax is the largest tax in this category. The amount of local tax they currently pay to Vergennes is 2/10 of 1% of our budget. The local municipality has all the say in this application – county has none. Local and County taxes are not reimbursed. School District, KISD, and KDL are. He said they would continue to work on this project, and will keep the Board informed as they go.

2. **Tom Richards, Lowell Light and Power** – They are considering expansion of their facilities at the end of North Washington, and are inquiring about a possible annexation of that property owned by the City in Section 35. Richards told the Board that Federal compliance regulations require reporting that would be less complicated if the city owned

property were in the city. As the result of prior annexations, this parcel(s) are surrounded on all sides by the city, but is on the township rolls. The property is exempt, except for a rental unit on the property, which is assessed as Personal Property for which the city pays approximately \$425 a year. We will have MTA attorneys look over the situation and revisit in September. Asked about their service area in Vergennes, Richards said that they have 35 or 36 electric customers, and about 250 cable.

3. **Lowell Area Trailways** – Vergennes Representative Dan Edwards was present to report on their current activities. A latest draft of the joint agreement was reviewed. He said that we will be asked to sign sometime in the Fall, and if there were any questions or comments on the draft, to let the committee know. This agreement will give parameters and definition to the Lowell Area Recreation Authority, and allow the organization to start fundraising for the trail. Edwards then explained a possible partnership with the North Country Trails Association and LARA. The pair would like to apply for grants to hire a full time person to fundraise. 20% of that person's time would be dedicated to LARA, and there would also be other benefits in associating with NCT.

Motion by Hoffman, supported by Nauta, to support the grant proposal. All in favor.

4. **North Kent Transit/Hope Network 04-05 Contract Approval** – Discussion was held regarding the history of the service, paid for with CDBG funding. **Motion by Baird, supported by Nauta, to approve the 2004-05 North Kent Transit/Hope Network vendor contract in the amount of \$3000.00.** Motion carried.
5. **Beer/Wine Ordinance Draft Discussion** - Vandersloot was present to review the latest version. Removed all reference to liquor or spirits to reflect the “no spirits” status of the Township. Added a clarification on applicant's conviction of felony or misdemeanor. Several other words were changed. It was decided to add language mirroring the State Liquor Control Commission in regard to buffer from schools and churches of 500’.
6. **2005 Road Projects** – Reviewed the gravel road program over the last five years. It was noted that the remaining few sections of gravel roads equal less than 5 miles. We will firm up the list for the September Board Meeting. Stone and Wittenbach will look into the KCRC estimates from '03 for the rest of gravel and Fallasburg paving. Regarding Fallasburg Park Dr. – RC wants us to decide if we will pave this or not next year. Stone to get possible dates and times for a meeting with the RC.
7. **POW-MIA Recognition Day Resolution** – Stone **motioned to adopt Resolution 2-2004**, recognizing September 24, 2004, as POW-MIA Recognition Day. Wittenbach supported, and the motion carried.

Citizens Comments

There was a general discussion regarding junk on 2-mile. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk