

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 20, 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
	Vern Nauta	Trustee

The agenda for the August 20, 2007 meeting was approved with no changes by Nauta; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the July 16, 2007 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report read and approved. There was a motion to approve the bills by Hoffman; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

Guest- KDL annual update – Jane Arenson gave a brief update of the Englehardt branch activities. They added a wireless connection and more internet workstations, created more book displays, increased program attendance by 48%, added 5000 items to their collection, saw an 11% increase in circulation, a 9% increase in visits and a 27% increase in questions answered. For the whole KDL system, 16,000 children signed up for the summer reading program, many of the children reading 20 hours or more a week. The library said they had an excellent year.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Rockford Ambulance Contribution – Approval/Budget Amendment** – Last month the Board voted to support Rockford Ambulance and give them \$16,000 to build a new building. This \$16,000 was not budgeted for, so a line item needed to be added under Ambulance services to Rockford. There was a motion to add a line item for \$16,000 under Fire and Rescue for Rockford Ambulance by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. **Grand Lux Banquet Center – Site Plan Review** – The site plan submitted to the board was up to date on everything except the retention pond. The size, shape and depth of the pond were changed after one boring hit water after two feet. September 15 is the planned groundbreaking for the facility and March 16, 2008 is the proposed grand opening. Motion to grant preliminary approval of the Grand Lux Banquet Center site plan contingent on Township Engineer's approval of the changed retention pond by Stone; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.**

2. **Schreur Request – Vacate Hirdes Street** – Because of a new site condominium project, the Schreurs would like to vacate Hirdes Street as a public road, eventually using it as a private road in the new project. There was a motion to vacate a short stub know as Hirdes Street by Wittenbach; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion carried.**
3. **Kent County PDR Update and Request** – Kendra Wills, Kent County Land Use Educator and PDR Program Coordinator, and PDR Board Members Denny Heffron, Vice Chair, and Gary Rolls, Chair, presented information about the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights Program. Wills updated the board on current funding, applicants in Vergennes, a land preservation education project by United Growth for Kent County, and offered some support options for the board to consider. She noted that the update to our Comprehensive Plan, adopted in May '07, qualifies Vergennes for state PDR grant funds. Heffron and Rolls reviewed recent preservations, and the creation of a “Parnell Corridor” incorporating areas in northern Vergennes and southern Grattan with 4 farms preserved and the possibility of Peter Wege’s land going into permanent ag conservation easements. Heffron also spoke about development tools Grattan uses to support preservation.
4. **Building Inspector Request – Assistant/Backup** – Mark Fleet, Vergennes Township building inspector, requested a backup inspector. He said in the winter it is difficult to make it to the inspections before dark. He requested his brother Scott Fleet be his backup. Scott is well qualified and it would only take a few months to get him up to speed on what to do. Mark would continue to be the Building Official, approving permits and final inspections, but he would have assistance on routine issues. There was a motion for Mark to move forward with his assistant plans by Stone; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**
5. **Fireworks Permit – Fred Hay, applicant; Ken Roth, landowner** – The Roths have hosted the fireworks display for Mr. Hay’s Pyrotechnics Club for several years and there have been no major concerns. As long as neighboring landowners receive notification of the event everyone has been okay with it. Mr. Hay has forwarded his insurance listing Vergennes Township as additional insured, made application for the permit and will send letters as in the past. There was a concern, because of its growing popularity, that parking would be an issue. A field will be available to park in. There was a motion to grant the fireworks permit by Baird; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Alticor Request – Walk/Run at Fallasburg Before Annual Picnic** – Tom Boehre, the global wellness director at Alticor, requested permission to hold a walk/run on the roads around Fallasburg Park the morning of September 8, 2007. He said there would be volunteers spaced along the route to keep the participants on one side of the road. Township approval is needed for the Road Commission Permit. Alticor is also working with the Kent County Sheriff Department to ensure safety of everyone. The chosen route will keep disruption of traffic to a minimum. There was a motion to approve of the planned run/walk by Stone; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

7. **POW-MIA Recognition Day Resolution** – Friday, September 21, 2007 is planned to be POW-MIA Recognition Day. There was a motion to adopt the resolution by Wittenbach; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**
8. **Discussion – 2008 Road Projects** – Fallasburg Park Dr. paving project will be completed soon. Wittenbach will follow up with KCRC's Jerry Byrne to get suggestions on any gravel roads that need attention next summer. The Board will discuss again in September.

District #5 County Commissioner Sandi Parish was present for the meeting, and noted that while Kent County has not contributed directly to preservation of farm land, they do pay for Kendra Wills' salary and therefore do support preservation efforts. She also told the board that there is generally more inclination to fund PDR when you can point to successful efforts like the Parnell Corridor.

Keene Township sent out a public notice to Vergennes residents near the former Kentree Polo Field just over the township line in Keene. Owners are creating a field sports complex. Parking, dust and access are issues. There is a public hearing on September 4th with regard to the project approval.

Community Fund – The money the township has been granted from the Lowell Area Community Fund for a printer and software is available until June of 2008. There was discussion regarding the countywide Orthophotography/Oblique Photo project scheduled for spring 2008. It is believed that software that comes with the new aerial photos can be used for many of the same benefits the LACF grant was written to provide. Vergennes representatives will attend meetings to be scheduled for input on the county project and discuss the outcomes at a future board meeting.

Citizens Comments – None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Mari Stone, Clerk