

**VERGENNES TOWNSHIP**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2003

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
Member Absent:	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee

Minutes of the November 17, 2003 Regular Board Meeting stand approved as presented. Baird requested clarification of Board policy regarding procedure for and if board members can contact Township Attorney. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Baird, to approve bills as read. **Motion approved.** Agenda approved, as amended, renumbering agenda and adding 10. Dan Edwards – Lowell Community Trails Update.

**Guest – Dave Hildenbrand, Republican Candidate for 86th District.** Dave Hildenbrand introduced himself to the Board as a candidate for 86th District House of Representatives running for open seat of Representative Koetje whose term is up this year. At present, Dave is Chief of Staff for Senator Bill Hardiman and has lived in the area his entire life; is pro-life; and leans toward local government control.

**New Business:**

1. Proposed Meeting with Lowell Township. Linda Reagan, Lowell Township Clerk, and Stone have proposed that a meeting between Lowell Township and Vergennes Township is needed to smooth out procedures regarding sewer/water usage along Alden Nash and to establish communication between the two boards. Discussion occurred - Meeting will be held at Lowell Township at 7:00 p.m. on January 5, 2004.
2. Proposal to Apply for Grant – Alden Nash Corridor Study. Kendra Wills, United Growth for Kent County and MSU Extension Service, spoke regarding creating a project to study development issues including sewer/water, traffic, zoning, safety along Alden Nash. Alden Nash Corridor Study would educate public regarding impending growth and allow community a voice into the manner in which the development occurs. Open Space Citizen's Committee is holding an educational workshop to be held March 17, 2004, and the plan is to piggyback two additional meetings regarding Alden Nash. March 24, 2004 – in depth educational meeting – invite all public and particularly residents in the Alden Nash area. March 31, 2004 - consensus building session using option finder voting system software - present a generic piece of property with same attributes of the issues surrounding Alden Nash Corridor, present choices, and ask for preferences. Information/education/direction to current decision makers regarding future development along the Alden Nash Corridor. Wills and Stone would like approval from Vergennes Township Board to apply for grant dollars to fund the project. Baird noted his support for grant money for this project but not

- township dollars. Grant request due by December 26, 2003. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Stone to approve grant request to Lowell Area Community Fund for the Alden Nash Corridor Study. **Motion approved.**
3. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments. Baird noted he felt the people on the board at present have done a good job and attended all the meetings. Only received two applications for two appointments. No application from Bob Humphries. He was contacted regarding his interest but to date no response. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Baird, to appoint Bill Schreur Jr. for a three year term ending in 2006. **Motion approved.** Motion by Stone, seconded by Hoffman, to appoint Keith Rittenger for a three year term ending in 2006. **Motion approved.**
  4. Planning Commission Appointments. Motion by Wittenbach, seconded by Hoffman, to appoint Rick Gillette to Planning Commission for a three year term ending in 2006. **Motion approved.**
  5. Approval of Meeting Schedule for 2004. Planning Commission approved meeting schedule. Hoffman made request to move March 15, 2004 meeting to March 8, 2004. Schedule dates to be published and if no objections noted, meeting schedule for 2004 will be approved.
  6. Industrial Park Building Ownership Change. Jay Kilpatrick noted ownership change is okay – not breaking any laws – nothing in ordinance to restrict building ownership change. No clear action to follow in ordinance; need to add procedure in ordinance. Board agreed to pass this item to Planning Commission to add language to ordinance regarding tenancy changes in Industrial Park.
  7. Collection of Summer Taxes for LAS, GRCC & KISD. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Stone, to approve Vergennes Township collection of summer taxes for LAS, GRCC and KISD. **Motion Carried.**
  8. MTA Convention Attendance. MTA Convention to be held in Lansing, MI. Stone plans to attend 1-2 days – tuition only. Wittenbach to attend a few days also.
  9. Holiday Hours. Not open December 26, 2004. Open: December 22, December 29, December 31, 2003 and January 2, 2004.
  10. Dan Edwards – Lowell Community Trails Update. Dan has represented Vergennes Township at the Lowell Community Trails meetings for the last two years, and updated the board on progress of the committee. First stretch of trail planned to extend from Wittenbach Center to High School then along Alden Nash and connecting with Cooper Wildlife area. Also included in Phase I of the 2002 study is connection to the city parks system. Now at the point where if any action is to occur, trail agreement/commission of some kind must be established. Need to decide on options then go to three Boards for approval. The trail committee is recommending the simplest form of agreement between the three municipalities to allow the trail to operate. Then application for state and federal grants can be made and an entity set up for tax deductible donations. As a temporary measure, City of Lowell setting up a depository account for donations. There is also an effort to connect

West Michigan Trails to Alma/Greenville/Belding, which could enable a regional trail system.

No Citizens Comments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mari Stone, Clerk