

**VERGENNES TOWNSHIP**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2005

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:05 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 May 16, 2005 Regular Board Meeting stand approved as presented. Stone noted costs to Dell Marketing signified storm danger to her computer; costs should be covered by insurance. Motion by Hoffman, second by Nauta, to approve bills as read. **Motion approved.** Motion by Stone, second by Hoffman, to approve Agenda as amended with the addition of 4. Pfizer Occupancy Permit; 5. Mile Split-Downes; and 6. Patty Gould-226 River Pine Drive. **Motion carried.**

**Unfinished Business:**

TDR Discussion/Recommendation. Nauta noted more questions arose after presentation from Grattan Township on TDRs. Their plan doesn't fit Vergennes Township - he is not convinced it is a viable option but the basis has potential. He suggested asking for recommendations/report from Open Space Committee. County Commissioner Jack Horton has suggested Wittenbach speak to a few people regarding TDRs. Schreur stated there needs to be public awareness/education on the issue. Motion by Nauta, second by Hoffman, to ask for recommendations/report/options regarding TDRs in Vergennes Township from the Open Space Committee. **Motion approved.**

**New Business:**

1. Bill Schreur-No Wake Zone for Lower Flat River from bridge on M-91 extending to city limits. Schreur cited newer outboards which can travel at high speeds in shallow water, environmental issues, i.e. shore/bank erosion, safety issues. He also noted that the DNR is generally in favor of such language because of environmental issues. Stone noted enforcement is an issue. Motion by Stone, second by Nauta, to hold a public hearing on the issue of a no wake zone for Lower Flat River and use Upper Flat River language as a springboard for creating a no wake zone ordinance for Lower Flat River. **Motion approved.**
2. ZBA Appointment. Motion by Hoffman, second by Baird, to appoint Roger Odell to finish out the term of Keith Rittenger. **Motion carried.**
3. Pfizer Occupancy Permit. The Fizer's and several neighbors on Wildview were present. After much discussion it was noted that residents of Wildview Private Road do not have a recorded and signed (by all residents on the road) Road Maintenance Agreement, and that they see the wisdom in having a Road Maintenance Agreement but wish to handle the issue

amongst themselves. It appears there has been much miscommunication between township and residents. Wittenbach noted that Pfizer occupancy permit was held up by the Board to 1) have the existing and newly split parcel owners execute a document regarding road maintenance which would be recorded and attached to each property deed and 2) make sure road is up to conditions specified by ordinance, excluding the cul-de-sac which was given a waiver at the October 2004 meeting of the Board. After learning that the maintenance agreement issue is not important to the neighbors, and as Pfizer has met the other criteria, Baird motioned to grant Pfizer an occupancy permit after an additional payment of \$500 escrow to Township to cover engineering costs not yet billed. Stone seconded, and the **Motion was approved.** Hoffman noted that copies of inspection/approval of the road specifications by township engineer are available to residents who wish to pick them up at Township offices.

4. Miles Split - Downes. Motion by Stone, second by Nauta, to allow split with stipulation that easement be used exclusively for the two parcels (five acre lot and six acre lot) and have verbage recorded on deed that property not to be split again. **Motion approved.**
5. Patty Gould – 226 River Pine Drive. Purchased land in August of 04 – did title search and found a clear title. Resident now informed a building permit cannot be issued – land was split by original owner with the knowledge that a permit would not be issued until the private road is brought up to current specifications (as in the Wildview situation). Gould is requesting Board to grant permit to begin work while the road issue is resolved. Township actions: will communicate with other residents regarding road upgrade; determine if there is an existing Road Maintenance Agreement; research regarding -necessary road upgrades determined by number of residents/homes on road. Send Township Engineer to River Pine Drive for review/recommendations and VanderSloot to provide necessary road improvement specifications to Patty Gould. Suggestions to Ms. Gould: contact the Carpenter’s who collect for snow removal and maintenance for road; inquire as to communication methods/association among residents; contact residents Mark Webber and John Wilterink; contact Township Board in a week regarding progress.

**Citizen Comments:**

Schreur to review Flat River Ordinance regarding wake control to determine how it works or doesn’t work and develop language covering Lower Flat River to be presented to the Board. He will also contact Sheriff regarding safety and enforcement issues. A public hearing will need to be held on this issue. If ratified, then there is a thirty-day effective period.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk