

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Wittenbach.

Members Present: Tim Wittenbach – Supervisor
 Mari Stone – Clerk
 Jean Hoffman – Treasurer
 Al Baird – Trustee
 Vern Nauta - Trustee

Nauta, seconded by Stone, made a motion to accept the agenda as amended with the addition of following two items: 4. Fill-in Employee for Janine Mork; and 5. Letter to Township Board/Steve Kropf. **Motion approved.** The minutes of the regular Township Board meeting held April 21, 2003 were accepted as presented. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Baird, to approve bills as presented. It was noted the cost for fire runs nearly doubled. These fire runs are caused by many without burn permits. April notice in Lowell Ledger stating Burn Ordinance and need for burn permit in township caused more permits to be issued. The Board would like to be more proactive next year and publish in Township newsletter as well as local newspaper. Baird opposed to requesting resident causing fire to pay for fire run. **Motion carried.**

Unfinished Business:

1. **Telecom Right-of-Way Act – Resolution.** Jim Doezema recommended passing Resolution 1 – Telecom Right of Way Act. He indicated there was no "down side" to passing resolution. This is statutory money owed to the township, but resolution must be passed to receive money as well as filling out some registration forms. May 31st of each year the Metro Authority sends payment to township based on a formula regarding footage of telecommunications traveling within township right of way. Board has many questions regarding who are the entities, what is the chain of events, what is the benefit. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Baird, table this matter another month. **Motion carried.**

New Business:

1. **Site Plan Review – AT&T Communication Tower Co-location.** AT&T made presentation to Planning Commission who recommended approval. Motion by Stone, seconded by Nauta, to grant site plan approval as presented to AT&T Communication Tower Co-location on Consumer's 144' tower located on north side of Vergennes west of Boynton. **Motion approved.**
2. **Discussion – Murray Lake Dock Ordinance.** Joyce Oberlin, member of the Grattan Board of Safety, explained to the Board how they enforce their dock ordinance. The Murray Lake Association would like Vergennes to adopt a similar ordinance to cover the south portion of the lake located in Vergennes Township. Oberlin explained that the ordinance basically regulates the number and placement of docks, and that the Safety

Board does not look for violations. They only act on complaints and then the Zoning Administrator or a member of the Safety Board investigates the complaint. Vergennes Township attorney counsels a separate/stand alone dock ordinance rather than an addition to the Zoning Ordinance. The Board doesn't have a problem with the Grattan Dock Ordinance, and believes it would be beneficial to be consistent. However, the Board needs to determine pros and cons of a stand alone dock ordinance, what entity would cover administration/enforcement of a dock ordinance and legal questions surrounding such an ordinance. Matter tabled for further discussion.

3. **Discussion Historic Ordinance.** Discussion regarding responsibilities of Historic District Commission. Ordinance purpose is to safeguard, stabilize, and unify preservation of historic areas in township. According to the ordinance, one of the functions of the Historical Commission is to identify and designate historical property within Township. Craig Wood, a member of the commission, was present and agreed to call a meeting and discuss this project. Motion by Hoffman, second by Nauta, to reappoint Tom Medendorp to Historic Commission for three year term. **Motion Approved.**

4. **Fill-in Employee during Receptionist Absence.** Hoffman indicated that Renee Lesiewicz, Western Michigan University graduate with a marketing degree, is willing to fill in for receptionist who will be recuperating from surgery in June. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta, to hire Renee Lesiewicz at \$8.00/hour for this three to four week period. **Motion approved.**

5. **Steve Kropf – Correspondence to Board.** Discussion of Steve Kropf request for comments regarding his desire to operate a farm/lawn sales and service and/or small implement dealer from existing buildings on Kropf Orchards property. Not a current permitted use in township ordinance. Kropf would like the ordinance amended to allow for this use. Hoffman made a motion, seconded by Stone, to send this matter regarding a lawn and garden sales business to Planning Commission for review and recommendation. **Motion carried.**

Citizens Comments:

Nauta noted that he attended the recent Open Space Citizens Committee workshop which included a very good presentation regarding various ways to develop land.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Township Clerk