

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 19, 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 November 19, 2007 was approved by Nauta; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the October 15, 2007 meeting were approved as presented. Treasurer's report read and approved. There was a motion to add the \$21,000 bill for the road commission by Baird; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion Carried.**

Guest – Jacob Sterling, Eagle Scout Project Recognition – Jacob Sterling designed and built a shed behind the Vergennes Township Hall to store tools and cemetery equipment. Sterling did an outstanding job on the shed. He spent approximately 60 hours on the shed alone and 230 hours of total labor went into constructing this project. The Board gave him a Certificate of Appreciation, and offered him their congratulations on a job well done.

New Business:

1. Rasch Request – Accessory Building Prior to Residence – Ed Rasch would like to build an accessory building on property he owns before he builds his house there. It would be 32 by 56 feet and used for storing tools and farm equipment. Normally a permit for a house must be pulled before an accessory building can be built. The house permit is good for two years. There was a motion for the accessory building to be built before the house as long as both permits are pulled at the same time by Hoffman; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**
2. Planning Commission Recommendations –
 - Ordinance Amendment – Conditional Rezoning Agreements - The rezoning agreements are a good idea and make it clearer for the developers and processes. There was a motion to adopt the agreements by Nauta; seconded by Baird. A roll call vote showed Wittenbach, Stone, Hoffman, Baird and Nauta in favor and none against. **Motion Carried.**
3. Airport Easement – Barron and Fegal Properties – It is currently unclear what the City of Lowell is doing with the airport. Barron and Fegal have been subpoenaed and must attend court on the 21st of November. The airport has said in the past

they will not expand but in the subpoena it says they will. The township has decided to talk directly to the city; the only contact we have had with them is through Jim Sowle when he came to a Board meeting last year. There was extended discussion with residents in attendance regarding general issues with the airport. Some of them included lost taxation, no determination of need, and unfair compensation. It was noted that the Lowell Area School District should be contacted because they could lose tax dollars and it was felt they should have a say in this. It was also noted that there has been a general lack of communication from the city regarding this action. There was a motion by Wittenbach to adopt resolution 4-2007 to include the following language: "Vergennes Township opposes the Resolution of Necessity and Declaration of Taking of properties in Vergennes Township by the City of Lowell for 'Avigation' Easements described as E12 and E13 in City of Lowell Resolutions 25-07 and 26-07 because of 1.) a lack of proven need, 2.) adverse effects on current township zoning and Master Plan, 3.) erosion of tax base, and 4.) lack of fair compensation for the property owners. In conclusion, this action will cause an adverse effect on Vergennes Township". The motion was seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.** The resolution will be sent to city officials, Fegal and Barron.

4. 2008 Meeting Dates – The Board meetings will be held every 3rd Monday of the month in 2008. The dates are January 21, February 18, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15. There was a motion to approve the 2008 meeting dates by Wittenbach; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**
5. Snow Removal 2007-2008 Season – Terry Smith was the only bidder for the job and he has done the removal in the past. There was a motion to give Smith the job by Nauta; seconded by Baird. **Motion Carried.** There was a motion to include a payment of half of the \$550 seasonal payment with this month's bills by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**
6. NKT/ Hope Network – Increase CDBG Allocation - \$1000 was allocated for the 07/08 year. The service is currently being used on a regular basis, and the allocation has already been surpassed - an increase has been suggested. The allocated amount in the past was \$5000, but that was reduced because there were no regular users. There was a motion to increase CDBG allocated funds for NKT/ Hope Network to \$5000 by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**
7. Rexford Request to Combine – Two Residences on One Parcel – Rexford wants to combine two parcels, but one parcel has an old unoccupied house on it. He agreed to tear it down by the end of June. The garage has already been removed. Rexford will sign an agreement stating legal action will be taken against him if he fails to remove the house by the end of June. He needs to combine the parcels by the end of the year to get the homestead tax. There was a motion to support the agreement by Nauta; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

8. AT&T Project Agreement – Last week, Betsy Davidson and representatives from A T & T came to the Township with information about a new plan for small businesses that uses a T1-line. The cost will be about \$90 more a month than currently paid but the cost will be offset by less visits from the technology assistant because the service will be more reliable. The Township needs to commit to this now so the service can be ready in April. There was a motion to do this service with AT&T starting in the new fiscal year by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**

Citizens Comments

Jacob Sterling's mother stated it was good to finally deliver something needed for the township and the cemetery.

Ellen Mork gave information regarding the proposed skate park in the City of Lowell. She is the Vice President on the Our Love Skate Park Committee. She said the park would cost about \$105,000 including concrete. She invited everyone to an informational meeting November 30th at 8 am at 865 Lincoln Lake. She is looking for support from the township and local citizens and businesses.

There have been lighting issues with Cumberland Woods and Impact Church. Pawsitively Canine and The Seventh Day Adventist Church also have lights that are very bright and obtrusive. It was suggested that covering the lights better would take care of the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Mari Stone