

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2008

Draft

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 pm in the Vergennes Township Hall.

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

The agenda for the November 17, 2008 meeting was approved with the addition of discussing Zoning Administration by Wittenbach; seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the October 20 meeting were approved with corrections (corrected spelling of Peggy Covert's name and the proper name of the Lowell Area Voice). The treasurer's report was not read. Bills were read and approved with the addition of a brief discussion of the Oblique Photography Project with a motion by Baird; seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

Guest Speakers-Consumers Energy, Forestry Work in Vergennes Township -John Hall and Dale Thompson

John Hall and Dale Thompson, representatives from Consumer's Energy Forestry Dept., opened up their presentation by stating that their primary concern was customer's satisfaction. Dale Thompson continued by reading out of the handout that was given to the board. He explained that the forestry companies that Consumer's energy uses are all based out of other states, but they hire out local foresters. Towards the end of the presentation, John Hall and Dale Thompson accepted questions from citizens and board. Stone requested written information for the Vergennes Township Newsletter.

Unfinished Business:

1.Fire Authority Services Agreement – Latest Draft for Consideration- The board was informed that the City of Lowell Treasurer was going to look into price comparisons for the fire department costs. A motion was made by Baird to have a public hearing next month about this issue. Seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

2.LCTV Fund Representative- Wittenbach asked Peggy Covert why Althoff of the Lowell City Council had voted against the bill. Covert stated that the Lowell City Council wants to use the Fund for the repair of the City of Lowell's roads. The board was reassured by Covert that the Lowell Area Voice would seek Vergennes Township's best interests. Peggy Covert also told the board that the City of Lowell's town council has decided that there will be four representatives total for the townships of Lowell and Vergennes combined who will listen to concerns and present ideas to the city council. The City council will still exercise control over this group even though they are to represent the townships. Stone proposed that instead of the Fund being used for Lowell City roads only, that it be shared among the three municipalities (City of Lowell, Lowell Township, and Vergennes Township) for road improvements. Peggy

Covert also explained that the current representation to the Lowell City Council from Vergennes and Lowell townships is supposed to be based on population percentages, but is not currently set up that way. She also said that people are ready to make a referendum referring to the Fund if surrounding townships are excluded. Stone asked if a citizen could represent the township instead of a board member as the City of Lowell stated needed required. It was decided by the board to put into unfinished business for next month.

New Business:

1. Snow Removal 2008-2009 Season-After considering different possibilities presented to the board, the board decided to use Zack Beachum for snow removal. Zack Beachum's price for the season is \$500. Wittenbach motioned to hire Zack Beachum for snow removal during the 2008-2009 season. Seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

2. Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2009-Wittenbach motioned to accept the Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2009. Seconded by Stone. **Motion Carried.**

3. 2009 Meeting Dates-the board decided to put off discussion until December.

4. Review of Appointments and Terms of Office-Stone gave a handout of appointments to the board to review. The board discussed which appointments needed to be reviewed and decided to discuss those at the December meeting.

5. Zoning Administration-

(A) Indoor Recreation Facility on 3 Mile Road- Shane Beach presented before the board that his friend Betsy Devon wants to open up an indoor sports recreation facility on her property. A special use permit was requested for a large steel structure by Shane Beach. The structure would be 40,000-50,000 sq ft and be used as a sporting facility. Food and drink would be available at this facility to members and the general public. It was decided that this issue will be discussed further at a future meeting.

(B) Wood Pellet Production Facility-David Woods, the requester of this zoning change, was not present at this meeting. Discussion was based upon previous conversation between Wittenbach, Janine Mork, and David Woods. David Woods would like to build a wood pellet production facility in Vergennes Township. The board decided that dust, chemical usage, noise, water usage, fumes, and size of land were all issues that should be considered. David Woods would like to know if the board would consider this is a viable business venture. The board would be willing to entertain this issue further at future meeting.

(C) 4 Mile Road Easement Issue-Jan Devries told the board that she was not able to get a loan because the private road, Happy Hollow Road, leading to her residence is not a legal county road. She proceeded to ask the board if there was anything the board could do to legalize Happy Hollow Road. The board was also informed by Jan Devries that multiple people own the road and that it does not belong to just one person. Janine Mork said that she was receiving some old township maps that may show an easement on them pertaining to this issue. Sharon Vanlewen, Jan Devries sister, stated that she would be willing to sell an easement to Devries that would touch 4 Mile Road and resolve this issue.

(D) Victory Woods Drive-Janine Mork told the board that the contractor is done with a list of items, but hasn't built the erosion blankets yet. The swale is currently draining onto the Ollens' property; the Ollens are fine with the swale draining on their property. Janine Mork informed the board that the swale doesn't look like it has been done right

despite the contractor saying otherwise. Stone requested that a memo be drawn up to tell the contractors what to do and what date it has to be done by. A motion was made by Stone to have Jim Dusma, the Township's attorney, draw up a letter and send it to Fuhr. Seconded by Nauta. **Motion Carried.**

(E)Henschke House-Janine Mork talked to the daughter who told the Township to stop harassing them. The daughter also said that they are trying to work it out right now. No significant information was given by the daughter to the township despite the fact the Henschke's were supposed to give a progress report. The daughter did say that they were preparing to sue the builder for not building the house right. Stone will be writing a letter to the magistrate requesting that he resolves this issue. It was also decided that Janine Mork would write a letter to Jim Dusma, the township's attorney, briefing him on current status of this issue.

(F) Janine Mork had two other things she wanted to discuss with the board.

1. Janine Mork showed the board the new township maps. She also informed the board that the base parcel maps are given out freely now. She continued by informing the board that they needed to buy the Archview software and that there would be a government entity discount. Stone motioned to buy the Archview software. Seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Carried.**
2. Janine Mork asked the board to have a setback thermostat for back room of township hall. Board approved with no motion.

There were no Citizen's comments

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51

Respectfully Submitted,
