

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 20, 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
	Vern Nauta	-	Trustee

Motion by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman, to approve as written the minutes of the September 15, 2003 regular meeting with amendment to No. 5 - Fire Bill Discussion: addition of "responsible party" at the end of the sentence. **Motion approved.** Approval of the Agenda for October 20, 2003 as written with the additions of Items No. 1, 2, and 3 under New Business. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Nauta to approve bills as read. Stone noted that payment to Gerald Roark encompassed July, August, and September 2003 permits at 50% per June 2003 Board decision. **Motion approved.**

Unfinished Business:

1. Ordinance Amendment – Lawn and Garden Center Uses. Discussion regarding changes, i.e. removed "50 hp or less" which gives more flexibility to the Board when granting or denying special use permit. Planning Commission recommended Board adopt Lawn and Garden Center Ordinance Amendment. Motion by Nauta, seconded by Stone, to approve **Ordinance 2003-6** regarding Lawn and Garden Center Uses as recommended by Planning Commission.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Wittenbach, Baird, Hoffman, Nauta, Stone No: None

Motion carried.

2. Continuing Discussion Regarding Liquor Control Ordinance. Jeanne Vandersloot report noted that Vergennes Township is a "spirit dry township". No hard liquor – beer and wine only. Township has 1 on premise license and 2 off premise licenses. Arrowhead already has one on premise license. The two off premise licenses could be used for convenience stores, party stores, etc., but only for beer and wine sales. Discussion regarding the need to address the issue with an ordinance at this time. Motion by Baird, seconded by Stone, to table this matter indefinitely. **Motion approved.**

New Business:

1. Road Commission. Jeff Kocsis of the Road Commission was present and gave notice to the Board that gravel production (22,000 tons) on Burroughs will begin October 27, 2003 by permit issued by the Board in 2002 for a one time run lasting approximately two weeks with production only during hours permitted by township ordinance. Notice to be sent to residents living near pit.

Road Commission also applying for special use permit to start production on Cumberland in the amount of 20,000 tons. Public Hearing set for November 3, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. (before Planning Commission meeting) as long as the five day notification can be met. Public notice to be sent to adjoining properties and published a minimum of 5 days ahead of Public Hearing. Motion by Wittenbach, seconded by Nauta, to hold Public Hearing regarding special use permit for Road Commission production on Cumberland to be held November 3, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. if that date enables publication five day advance notice of public hearing to be met. **Motion approved.**

2. Building Inspector Fee Schedule. Schedule has never been adopted by Board. Building Inspector used same form as used in Ada Township. Proposed schedule basically the same as the old with the addition of a demolition fee and addition of new section entitled "other residential construction." Motion by Baird,

seconded by Hoffman, to adopt Building Inspector Fee Schedule as presented. It was noted that additional ordinance language and fees should be developed for multi-dwelling units after research into minimum square footage requirement for multi-family buildings. **Motion carried.**

3. Discussion regarding meeting between Lowell and Vergennes Township Boards. Wittenbach to contact Lowell Township suggesting a meeting between the two governing boards to discuss sewer and water situation in Vergennes Township as well as a dialogue concerning property along the sewer lines.
4. Carl Rasch – it was noted that the Rasch's are interested in participating in the Kent County PDR program regarding land preservation.

Citizens Comments

Discussion amongst Board members regarding motion of a member of Open Space Citizen Committee who also sits on the Vergennes Township Board and voting on the motion; correspondence to the Michigan Township Association regarding same; using Township funds for Township Attorney to do research regarding issue without all pertinent facts; and Township Board member acting without consensus of all Board members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk