



REGULAR MEETING OF THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD

April 20, 2026

Minutes

- I. Supervisor Wittenbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge and Roll Call – Richmond, Gillett, Rasch, Wittenbach and Ford all present
- III. Rasch motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Richmond supported the motion. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - Approval of the March 16, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Township Board Minutes
 - Approval of the March 30, 2026, Special Meeting of the Township Board Minutes
 - Approval of Invoices
 - Payroll
 - Treasurer's Report
- V. Gillett motioned to approve the consent agenda with the updated Invoice list. Rasch supported the motion. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- VI. Public Comment – Lynn Afendoulis, Republican candidate for State Representative in the 90th District. She emphasized how much the state budget had grown since 2021 when she left office. She would like to cut the state budget.
- VII. Guest – Ken Yonker, County Drain Commissioner and Joel Morgan, Senior Engineer – Ken explained what the drain commission did, showing the history of the county drains, most of them being put in place by the early settlers of Kent County. He spoke specifically about the Vergennes township drains, what maintenance work is done, and how they are paid for.
- VIII. Public Hearing – Special Exception Use Permit – 1277 Alden Nash Ave NE
 - Opened at 8 p.m.
 - Zoning Administrator Ryan Carrigan introduced the SEUP need for an Accessory Dwelling Unit.
 - Susan Hessler requested clarification regarding what would happen if the property ownership changed, and that there would be no business operating from the ADU.
 - Closed at 8:07 p.m.

- IX. Unfinished Business – None
- X. New Business:
- a. Special Exception Use Permit, Accessory Dwelling Unit – 1277 Alden Nash Ave NE – John and Sally Hudson – Gillett motioned to approve the SEU permit for an ADU. Ford supported the motion. All members voted yes; motion carried.
 - b. Amendment to Existing Special Exception Use Permit - Railside Orchards Inc – 3550 Alden Nash Ave – Ford motioned to send the application on to the Planning Commission. Rasch supported the motion. All members voted yes; motion carried.
 - c. Designation of
 - i. Township Attorney – James Doezeema, Foster Swift – Wittenbach motioned to designate James Doezeema as the township attorney. Gillett supported the motion. All members voted yes; motion carried.
 - ii. Auditor – Vredevelt Haefner – Richmond motioned to designate Vredevelt Haefner as the auditor for the township. Rasch supported the motion. All members voted yes; motion carried.
 - iii. Engineer and Planner – Williams and Works – Wittenbach motioned to designate W&W as the township engineer and planner. Gillett supported the motion. All members voted yes; motion carried.
 - iv. Depository Institutions – Fifth/Third Bank, Mercantile Bank, Michigan Class, and Alton Cemetery investments at Lord Abbett, Consumers Power and Vanguard. Richmond motioned to designate the listed depository institutions. Wittenbach supported the motion. All members voted yes; motion carried.
 - d. Quotes for mapping the Fallasburg Cemetery – Ford motioned to accept the April 17 quote from Trimedia Environmental & Engineering to map the Fallasburg Cemetery. Gillett supported the motion. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- XI. Updates were given from - Board members, Election, Fire Authority Board, Building Department, Zoning and Planning, LARA, & Airport
- XII. Public Comment – there was none
- XIII. Supervisor Wittenbach adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Shantell Ford, Clerk

Approval Date