VERNON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2026

The Vernon Township Board met on March 26, 2026, at 602 Vitality Drive, Fortville, Indiana. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

I. Attendance

Board Members Present:
Mary Beth Sears, Vice President
Larry J. Longman, Secretary

Board Member Absent:
Tim Plank, President

Township Officials / Staff Present:
Florence May, Township Trustee
Jeff Bellamy, Township Attorney
Stacy Nielsen, Deputy Trustee
Mark Elder, Fire Chief

A quorum was established with two (2) voting members present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the February 9, 2026 meeting were presented.

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mary Beth Sears and seconded by Larry Longman.
Motion carried 2 Aye / 0 Nay.

III. Legal Updates – Jeff Bellamy

a. Land Acquisition – Jacoby Farms Property

Discussion was held regarding acquisition of approximately 4.774 acres for a future fire station site located near 400 West and 700 North. The Board reviewed the previously approved amount of $185,000 and considered updated acreage, survey costs, and associated transactional expenses.

Recital: The Board previously authorized acquisition based on an estimated 3.5 acres at

approximately $50,000 per acre. Subsequent survey results increased the total acreage to approximately 4.774 acres, requiring an adjustment to the total authorized purchase amount.

Original Motion:
A motion was made by Larry Longman to increase the previously approved acquisition amount from $185,000 to $250,000.

Seconded by Mary Beth Sears.

Amended Motion:
Following additional discussion regarding survey costs and related expenses, the motion was amended by Larry Longman to increase the total authorized acquisition amount from $185,000 to an amount not to exceed $265,000.

Seconded by Mary Beth Sears.

Final Vote on Amended Motion:
Motion carried 2 Aye / 0 Nay.

b. Temporary Check Signing Authority (Resolution No. 2026-3-26A)

Discussion was held regarding the need for temporary check signing authority during Trustee absence and ensuring compliance with State Board of Accounts requirements.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-3-26A authorizing temporary check signing authority was made by Larry Longman and seconded by Mary Beth Sears.

Motion carried 2 Aye / 0 Nay.

c. Mediation Update

The Township Attorney reported that mediation efforts resulted in a favorable resolution. Specific terms remain confidential pursuant to a non-disclosure agreement.

No formal action taken.

IV. Township Assistance Guidelines

Discussion was held regarding modifications to Township Assistance Guidelines, including the potential use of consensual liens in limited cases involving property-related assistance, consistent with home rule authority and relevant case law.

A motion to approve the Township Assistance Guidelines as modified was made by Mary Beth Sears

and seconded by Larry Longman.

Motion carried 2 Aye / 0 Nay.

V. Additional Business

Discussion included potential Farmers Market programming and related contractual and insurance considerations.

No formal action taken.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Vernon Township Board is scheduled for April 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

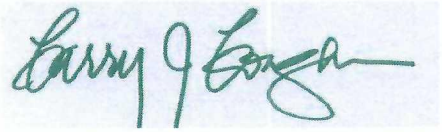
A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Beth Sears and seconded by Larry Longman.

Motion carried 2 Aye / 0 Nay.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Total Meeting Duration: 31 minutes.

Minutes submitted by:



Larry J. Longman, Secretary

Minutes approved by:

_____

Tim Plank, President

_____

Mary Beth Sears, Vice President

_____

Larry J. Longman, Secretary

_____

Florence May, Township Trustee

RESOLUTION 2026-3-26A

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF VERNON TOWNSHIP, HANCOCK COUNTY, INDIANA TO AUTHORIZE TEMPORARY CHECK SIGNING AUTHORITY

The Township Board of Vernon Township, Hancock County, Indiana (the "Board") met at a duly called and authorized meeting of the Board on the date set forth below, such meeting being called pursuant to notice stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting received by all Board Members and published according to statute, and the following resolutions were made, seconded and adopted by those present at the meeting, which constitute a majority of the Board.

WHEREAS, the Township Trustee expects to be out of the State beginning from MAY 11, 2026 to June 17, 2026 ("Trustee's Absence");

WHEREAS, the Trustee has a duly appointed Designee capable of performing all necessary acts provided pursuant to Ind. Code 36-6-4-18 until the Trustee returns except acting as a second signatory on checks in an amount greater than Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) [Checks in the amount of $5,000.00 or greater require two signatures];

WHEREAS, the Board has deemed it advisable and necessary to designate a second signatory to sign checks in an amount greater than Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) only for the temporary period of the Trustee's Absence; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Township Board President /Member Tim Plank / Mary Beth Sears be and hereby is, authorized and empowered to act as a signatory on Township checks exceeding Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) only for the period of the Trustee's Absence as identified herein and that authority will expire automatically upon the Trustee's return to the Township.

Dated this 26 day of MARCH 2026.

AYE	NAY
Mary Beth Sears	

ATTEST:

Florence May, Vernon Township Trustee