

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of June 9, 2008

1. Call to Order

Township Supervisor Frank Force called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

F. Force led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

D. Timmons read the roll call. Members present: Supervisor, F. Force, Trustee, P. Knoerl, Clerk, J. Fues. Members absent: Treasurer S. Freeman (excused) and Trustee, D. Heffron. Township Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride also attended the meeting.

4. Approval of Agenda

F. Force asked that a discussion of the dock ordinance and migrant housing be added under Old Business and a discussion of the proposed jail millage be added under Board Communications. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the amended agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

5. Officers Report (Clerk's Report)

Approval of Minutes

F. Force moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2008 Township Board meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2008 Special Township Board meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

There were no budget amendments.

Accounts Payable

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$39108.73 (checks 31978-32008 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried

6. Consent Agenda

F. Force moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the consent agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

7. Working Agenda

Hearing of the Public

There were no public comments.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride reported 4 personal injury accidents, 14 medical, 1 service, 8 non-fire, 1 mutual aid, 3 trainings and 2 meetings for a total of 33.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

There was a discussion about the Homeland Security grant application. L. Kirkbride said the application has been submitted. The FASC committee will discuss ISO ratings. He said there is a seminar regarding ISO's in South Haven June 25, 2008. FASC discussed charging for fire runs and unanimously were opposed.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force reported on a junk complaint on Lessiter Avenue and an illegal dock on Big Pine Island.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting. P. Knoerl said the next meeting will be June 25, 2008 followed by a meeting of the cable committee.

(D. Heffron arrived at 7:16 p.m.)

Sewer Report

a) Grattan Lagoons

F. Force said it appears the lagoons should be okay by May 2009. The new State DEQ permit now authorizes the discharge of 41,000,000 gallons this season and has added another month to the permit allowing the Township to irrigate until the end of November. Board members discussed whether to use the traveling irrigator. The labor costs to operate this system would be costly. Board members agreed not to use the traveler and irrigate heavily over the season maximizing discharges during good weather.

There was a discussion about the purchase of flow meters. P. Knoerl said the flow meters should have no obstructions to avoid clogging the lines.

D. Heffron said the Township should check costs and ask Sierra Consultants to make sure they are comfortable not using the traveler and what flow meters they recommend as they will be responsible.

F. Force said the Township received Sierra's review of why the sewage overflow occurred. The report however is not on Sierra's letterhead or signed. The DEQ wants the Township to put this report on Grattan Township letterhead and signed by the Sewer Administrator. Mr. Force said he did not feel comfortable doing this without first receiving a signed report from Sierra on their letterhead. Board

members agreed. Board members were also concerned that the number of irrigated gallons keeps changing in reports from Sierra. J. Fues said repairs at Willow Lawn Trailer Park should help decrease inflows into the lagoons.

b) Willow Lawn Trailer Park

F. Forces stated that repairs to the sewer lines in the trailer park are almost completed. The 6” drainage pipe has been disconnected from the sewer system and inspected by Sierra Consultants. Board members discussed how the number of gallons entering the sewer system from this drainage pipe went unnoticed and agreed that this disconnection should help with lowering the lagoons.

There was a discussion about the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation field and lagoons. P. Knoerl suggested getting a quote from Valley Irrigation for project. He said the Township should also start looking into how this project will be financed. J. Fues said the Grattan/Vergennes lagoons should also be monitored closely.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting. Board members discussed Tom White’s request to eliminate his PUD (Slayton Hills).

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There were 2 new building permits, 8 other building permits, 4 electrical, 6 plumbing and 4 mechanical for a total of 24 for the month on May.

Old Business

PDR Update

D. Heffron said the group is currently seeking grant money for agricultural land preservation. Three farms in Vergennes Township are being considered for the PDR money.

Dock Ordinance

F. Force said the Township Board previously looked at the dock ordinance, but recommended amendments were never made. J. Fues read the dock ordinance as previously agreed upon and Board members discussed the matter.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to authorize resolution 08-01, amending section 5.6 as stated. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

Migrant Housing

F. Force explained the high cost of upgrading the septic system at migrant housing on Township sewer property as required by Kent County. A temporary tank for this season would cost \$2,200.00. Board members discussed and agreed to seek bids for the demolition of the migrant housing, capping the well and filling in the septic tank. D. Heffron believed the farmer leasing the land could

get grant money to cap the well. The Board agreed to cancel the farmer's contract and refund money if needed.

New Business

Headlee

J. Fues said the Township has the opportunity to hold a hearing to reduce the Headlee decrease. He was not in favor of this and Board members agreed.

Senior Meals and North Kent Transit

Board members discussed the renewal of contracts from Kent Community Development department for Senior Meals and North Kent Transit. J. Fues said these are the only 2 services block money can be used for and cautioned that next year the Township may have to budget for these services. P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the signing and reissuing of the Senior Meals service contract from 7-1-08 thru 6-30-08. All ayes. The motion carried. P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the signing and reissuing of the North Kent Transit service contract from 7-1-08 thru 6-30-08. All ayes. The motion carried.

Vergennes Comparison

J. Fues said he recently contacted Vergennes Township Supervisor Tim Wittenbach and received a copy of their annual budget. After comparison of their budget and Grattan's he would like to schedule a meeting between the two Townships to discuss ways the Townships can improve. Board members agreed and asked Mr. Fues to arrange the meeting.

Revenue Sharing

J. Fues informed Board members that a 4% increase in statutory revenue sharing has been eliminated from the State's general government budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. J. Fues said this means the Township will probably not receive as much money from the State. P. Knoerl said the Township did not plan on receiving that money.

Sierra Consultants

Board members agreed to request in writing a meeting with Sierra Consultants to discuss escalating costs, decreasing operating and maintenance costs and revising the Township's contract with Sierra.

Main Tech Contract Renewal

F. Force reviewed Main Tech Services, Inc.'s proposed new billing rates. Board members discussed and agreed to decline the rate increases.

8. Board Member Communications

Meeting dates

The alternative Board meeting date is June 23, 2008. The next regular Board meeting date is July 14, 2008.

F. Force explained the proposed renewal millage for Corrections and Detention in Kent County. That millage renewal request will be on the August 5, 2008 ballot.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, D. Heffron declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary

.