

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of November 3, 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, Treasurer Sabrina Freeman, Clerk J. Fues and Trustee P. Knoerl. Members absent: Trustee D. Heffron. Fire Chief L. Kirkbride and Township Webmaster G. Burns also attended the meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

F. Force added a discussion of Apex and recycling household batteries as items 7 and 8 under new business. 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

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2008 regular Board meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2008 special Board meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

There were none.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$50,147.99 (checks 32272-32311 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda (Payroll, Treasurer’s Report (all funds) and Correspondence)

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

J. Fues said everyone should review their budgets to see if any amendments are needed to balance their budgets.

**7. Working Agenda
Hearing of Public**

There were no public comments.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief L. Kirkbride reported 7 medical calls, 1 service call, 8 non fire, 5 training and 2 training meetings for a total of 23 in the month of October. He reported that the DNR will soon be releasing grant money and said fire alarms provided by Homeland Security will be installed this month. The Fire Department will receive a stipend for each alarm installed.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

L. Kirkbride said the committee continues work on the ISO rating preplanning stage. He said the Fire Department should be ready to apply for the new rating by spring of 2009.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

F. Force reported another sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) at pump station #6 at Big Pine Island caused by an unreported power outage. He said Big Pine Island has frequent isolated power outages. He contacted Consumers who is investigating the problem, but he has not yet heard back from them. Although a final report has not been

issued, it appears that very little if any sewage reached the lake. The pump station does not yet have a mission dialer installed. F. Force said all mission dialers should be installed in a month.

F. Force also reported that while cleaning grease at pump station # 16 a Plumbers truck sank into the lawn and had to be towed. He said he did not agree with the towing bill. F. Force said he would like to add a gravel drive at that pump station to make access easier. He received an estimate of \$1000.00 for that work. Board members discussed the matter and agreed to consider the gravel drive at a later date when cash flow is better.

Board members also discussed the cost of installation of 11 redundant floats at some pump stations. The installation of these floats is a DEQ requirement. Board members agreed to consider this matter at a later date.

F. Force said Sierra Consultants has requested a meeting with Board members. J. Fues said he was not interested in scheduling a meeting if an Administrative fee would be charged by Sierra Consultants. F. Force will try to schedule a meeting with Sierra and F. Force, S. Freeman and J. Fues.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There were no new and 1 other building permit, 3 electrical, 0 plumbing and 3 mechanical permits for a total of 7 in the month of October.

Old Business

PDR update

There was no report.

Fire Station Well

F. Force Raymer Company began drilling. When they first reached water there was not enough pressure to get enough gallons per minute and with F. Force and L. Kirkbride's approval they continued drilling. At 350' they struck bedrock and shale and pulled back up to 80'-100'. The shallower well depth will reduce the cost of the project.

Township Website

Board members and G. Burns reviewed the proposed layout of the new website. G. Burns suggested a few minor changes. P. Knoerl said G. Burns could use the website and advise Betsy of Addorio of any changes she would like made. J. Fues said he would like the Township to consider reciprocating business links on the website in the future.

New Business

Red Flag Rules

Board members discussed Red Flag rules for identity theft. J. Fues said he did not believe Grattan Township would need to adopt a resolution regarding this matter as all payments for utilities (sewer) are billed in advance. J. Fues said he will discuss this matter at next weeks meeting with the Township's CPA firm and if needed he will have something to review at the December Board meeting.

Cell Tower Lease Reduction

F. Force said the Township has received a lease extension term sheet from Cingular Wireless lowering the Cingular's monthly rent payment to the Township. Board members discussed the matter. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the monthly rent reduction from \$1000.00 to \$800.00. D. Timmons read the roll call. All nays. The motion failed.

Resolution to Change Meeting Days for the Board of Review

Board members reviewed a proposed resolution establishing an alternate date for the July and December Board of Review. P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the resolution as presented. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

FASC Statement Regarding Insurance Payment for Emergency Calls

F. Force read a letter of opinion from the FASC regarding insurance payment for emergency calls. The FASC approved by motion that there should be no charges for emergency calls. J. Fues said although he disagrees with the opinion, he supports the FASC.

John Brooks Letter

F. Force distributed copies of John Brooks' October 20, 2008 letter regarding bids on 3 Township used computers. Board members discussed the matter and read J. Fues' letter explaining the procedure. F. Force agreed to write a letter to Mr. Brooks and include a copy of J. Fues' letter.

Parks and Recreation Plan

F. Force said the current Parks and Recreation Plan will expire December 31, 2008. If that plan expires the Township will not be eligible for grants. F. Force said he has a volunteer to update the plan if the old plan can be provided in pdf format and former Chair Tom Nederveld agreed to Chair a committee. P. Knoerl will contact residents via e-mail to see if any are willing to serve on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

8. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

Snow plow bid meeting will be set by J. Fues. He will notify all bidders of the time and date of that meeting.
The alternative Board meeting date is November 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
The next regular Board meeting date is December 8, 2008.
Special meeting with Sierra Consultants will be scheduled by F. Force. He will let Board members know when that meeting will be held.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary