

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD

Regular Meeting of February 11, 2008

12050 Old Belding Road

Call to Order/Roll Call

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

The Pledge of Allegiance followed

Board Members Present

Supervisor Frank Force , Clerk Jim Fues, and Treasurer Sabrina Freeman

Board Members Absent

Trustee Paul Knoerl, excused and Dennis Heffron (arrived at 7:30 pm)

Approval of Agenda

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman supported to approve the agenda as amended. All Ayes

Officers Report

January 7, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

S. Freeman moved and J. Fues supported to approve the January 7, 2008 Regular meeting minutes as written. All Ayes

January 22, 2008 Special Meeting and Budget Work Session #1 Minutes

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman supported to approve the January 22, 2008 Special meeting and Budget work session #1 minutes as written. All Ayes

January 31, 2008 Special Meeting Minutes

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman supported to approve the January 31, 2008 Special meeting minutes as written. All Ayes

Budget Amendments

F. Force moved and J. Fues supported to approve the budget amendments for FY 2007-2008. All Ayes (See attached budget amendments)

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman supported to approve the accounts payable in amount of \$21,996.95 (# 31735 - # 31762) All Ayes

Consent Agenda

F. Force moved and S. Freeman supported to approve the Consent Agenda. All Ayes

Public Comments

No public comments

Department Reports

Fire Department

For the month of January, 2008 there were 3 fires, 8 medicals, 2 trainings, 2 meeting and 6 non fires totaling 21.

Fire Administration Safety Committee

(See minutes dated January 23, 2007)

Zoning Officer Report

Supervisor F. Force reported there were no new complaints since the last regular board meeting.

Safety Board of Appeals

No meeting

Sewer Report

Supervisor F. Force gave a brief summary of events regarding the sanitary sewer overflows at Big Pine Island and Big Crooked Lake . He noted that a sewer meeting would be held on February 12, 2008 at 3:00 pm with the DEQ, Health department, Big Pine Island association and Big Crooked lake association to discuss the details of the two

sanitary sewer overflows and to answer any questions that residents may have in regards to the SSO'S.

Annitra Mallindine from 4830 Abrahams Dr. NE : Asked why she had to find out about the SSO by reading the article in the Grand Rapids press. Her second question was will the water be tested in the spring to make sure its safe. Supervisor F. Force noted that a better way to notify residents will be worked on in the future. Many options to notify residents sooner of issues like this one were discussed.

Supervisor F. Force read letters submitted by Sierra giving description and explanation of events, regarding the sanitary sewer overflows on Big Pine Island and Big Crooked Lake

(Dennis Heffron arrived at 7:30 pm)

Tom Manikowski from 12027 Mac Dr NE : Suggested the idea of immediate installation of dialers to minimize the impact of sewage overflow.

The township supervisor F. Force replied there has been a recommendation to install these dialers, pricing and options have been reviewed with Kennedy Industries, Inc.

Trustee D. Heffron commented that funds should have been set aside the past 20 years for replacement and repair of the equipment and to maintain the system.

Don Kurylowicz asked about the Sewer assessment that was collected seven years ago to repair the system. He asked the township board how the money was spent. He also encouraged the board to communicate any information regarding the sewer system to the residents.

Supervisor F. Force commented that some of the money that was assessed to the sewer users is still in the bank, and is being used for the mechanical upgrades on the twelve major stations. Some of the money is being spent to undo things that were incorrectly done by earth tech.

Don Kurylowicz also recommended that a report dispensing sewer information to the residents updating them on what repairs are being done, also how the funds are being disbursed.

Different ways for notification to lake residents was a topic of discussion.

Christ Stewart from 12320 Waterway Lane : Asked if the DEQ would handle testing differently if it were August 15 instead of February 15. He also asks if every time there is a power outage, should residents be concerned.

Dave Versluis from Sierra informed Chris that testing would be different and the Health Department would recommend water samples. Dave also noted that power outages create the biggest single risk regarding SSO's.

Scott Marks 12302 Waterway Lane: Asked if there would be an increase of algae bloom in the spring. He was concerned also about the increase in the lake budgets for the cost of needing more lake treatments.

Supervisor F. Force informed Scott that the topic of algae bloom was a concern that would be discussed at tomorrow's meeting.

Planning Commission

No meeting

Zoning Board of Appeals

(See minutes dated January 23, 2007)

Building Department Monthly Report for December 2007

The building department issued 3 building permits (2 - new house, 1 - other and 4 electrical permits, 7 mechanical permits and 2 plumbing permits, for a total of 16 permits.

Old Business

PDR (Purchase of Development Rights) Update

Trustee D. Heffron noted that there would be another application cycle at the end of March.

New Business

Construction Board of Appeals

S. Freeman moved and J. Fues supported to nominate Glenn Jonker to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two-year term. Roll Call: D. Heffron-yes, S. Freeman-yes, F. Force-yes, J. Fues-yes. 4-yes - 0-nays

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron supported to nominate Ronald Strauss as an alternate to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two-year term. Roll Call: F. Force-yes, S. Freeman-yes, J. Fues-yes, D. Heffron-yes. 4-yes - 0 nays

North Kent Transit & Senior Meals

Clerk J. Fues informed the board that these projects are funded through block grant funds and like all other state funds we receive, the expectation is that the funds may be less. The board will have to make a decision in the future whether the township would help fund these programs to continue them or not. He also noted that the township has not had to fund these programs in the past.

Oath Taking

Board was in favor of having all committee members, who are newly elected and reelected to take an Oath.

Parks and Recreation

Clerk J. Fues informed the board that the Parks and Recreation plan expires this year.

Board agreed that the Parks and Recreation Foundation should meet and establish a plan.

Auditing Contract

Clerk J. Fues noted that Siegfried & Crandall is our present audit firm. Their cost for 2008/2009 annual audit will be \$13,600.

Two new bids were received from other firms.

Joe Verlin from Gabridge & Company was present and gave a brief introduction of the company's interest in having Grattan Township as one of their future clients. Their cost for an annual audit would be \$4,750

The quote from Douglas Wohlberg, CPA was a three-year contract: 2008- \$3,900, 2009- \$4,050, 2010-\$4,250 for a total of \$12,200.

Board agreed to research references and review the two new quotes and make a decision at the next board meeting.

Clean Up Days.

J. Fues moved and F. Force supported to have the clean up day on Saturday, July 19, 2008 at 8 am - 1 pm for \$942.79. All Ayes

Moving the 63 rd District Court

Supervisor F. Force asks the board their opinion on the 63 rd district court moving from Rockford to Knapp's corner on the beltline. Majority of the board was in favor of keeping it in Rockford .

Board Member Communications

Bid Requests for Farm Land Lease and Lawn Care have been mailed.

Meeting Dates

Budget Meeting February 21, 2008 at 1:00 pm

Regular Meeting March 10, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Alternate Meeting March 24, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor Date

Recording Secretary,

Monica Burt