

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD

Budget Work Session # 2

February 21, 2008

Call to Order

Supervisor Frank Force called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Board Members Present

Supervisor Frank Force , Treasurer Sabrina Freeman , Trustee Paul Knoerl and

Trustee Dennis Heffron

Board Members Absent

Clerk Jim Fues, excused

Approval of Agenda

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman supported a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

All Ayes

Accounts Payable

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman supported a motion to approve the accounts payable in amount of \$10,874.05 (# 31763 - # 31778) All Ayes

New Business

Cable Service

A member expressed his concern that outlying members of the community are not able to get high-speed internet service. Trustee Paul Knoerl gave an explanation regarding the contract that Grattan Township has with Comcast. This contract sets specific service areas. The service area is based on the population density. Anyone wanting the service would have to pay for the line to be run to their home. Board agreed to review the Comcast contract before renewing in the future.

New Candidate for Firefighter

F. Force moved and P. Knoerl supported a motion to appoint Larry Mercer to be a new fire fighter on the Grattan Township Fire Department. All Ayes

Discussion of Budget

Items in the general fund that were discussed were annual audit, building & grounds, PDR (Preservation Development Rights) legal fees, assessor, and building department.

Supervisor Frank Force ask if the board would be interested in making the ZBA and PC committee's a five member board instead of seven.

Board was in favor of keeping seven members on both the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission committee's.

Sewer Budget

Don Kurylowicz stated that Trustee Dennis Heffron has a conflict of interest regarding the Sewer budget, because of a land lease he has currently with the township, and a bid submitted for the three-year land lease that is up for renewal as an open bid process.

Trustee Dennis Heffron agreed to dismiss himself from the budget discussion on the sewer portion of the meeting discussion.

Supervisor Frank Force reviewed details regarding seven new dialers and floats for the sewer system, for better prevention of SSO's (Sanitary Sewer Overflow)

The cost for the dialers from Kennedy Industries, Inc would be \$12,000 and for the twelve floats; the cost would be \$3,600.

The sewer usage rate increase a topic of discussion, also in discussion were options to upgrade the sewer irrigation site. The proposed budget was adjusted to reflect a proposed increase to the sewer rate. The rate is currently \$75.00 per quarter and with this proposed increase, it would be \$125.00 per quarter.

A resident suggested that the sewer land that is leased from the township not only have a flat rate for the lease cost, but also have a 10 to 15% profit share cost from the crops grown on that land.

A resident also recommended that residents be encouraged to take their portion of responsibility to help maintain the sewer system.

Trustee Paul Knoerl suggested that a newsletter be issued once a year or more, and be dedicated to sewer issues only, to update residents on current sewer issues and the history.

Board Member Communications

March 10, 2008 Regular Board Meeting

March 20, 2008 Public Meeting to discuss Sewer Issues

March 24, 2008 Public Hearing of Budget Meeting

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Franklin J. Force, Supervisor

Recording Secretary, Monica Burt