

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD

Regular Meeting of January 7, 2008

12050 Old Belding Road

Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Frank Force called meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed

Board Members Present

Supervisor Frank Force , Clerk Jim Fues, and Trustee Dennis Heffron

Board Members Absent

Treasurer Sabrina Freeman and Trustee Paul Knoerl, excused

Approval of Agenda

D. Heffron moved and J. Fues supported to approve the agenda as amended. All Ayes

Officers Report

December 10, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron supported to approve the December 10, 2007 Regular meeting minutes as amended. All Ayes

December 19, 2007 Special Meeting Minutes

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron supported to approve the December 19, 2007 Special meeting minutes as written. All Ayes

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron supported to approve the accounts payable in amount of

\$17,701.27 (# 31649 - #31683) All Ayes

Consent Agenda

D. Heffron moved and J. Fues supported to approve the Consent Agenda. All Ayes

Public Comments

Mr. Kurylowicz asked why a copy of the check register was not with the agenda. Clerk Jim Fues reported that it was completed the day of the meeting. Therefore, offered Mr. Kurylowicz a copy.

Mr. Grile noted there was not a figure in the December 19; Special Board minutes that pertained to what it would cost to repair the existing system. He thought it would be cheaper to repair the existing system compared to the four replacement option costs. Supervisor F. Force offered to obtain the approximate cost for the repair of the existing system.

Mr. Grile also suggested that the profit from harvesting the walnut trees on the property could be used towards fixing the existing drip system.

Trustee D. Heffron noted wildlife has done damage to the existing system. He also noted this was an experimental system and did not perform to how they thought it would.

Trustee D. Heffron commented that proper care was not given to the trees and the value will not be as great as a properly cared for tree. Mr. Grile asked if this information is determined by a forester, Supervisor F. Force informed Mr. Grile that the engineers hired a forester to inspect both the North and South site trees. The forester then gave a opinion that the trees would not be as profitable because they were not cared for.

Trustee D. Heffron noted he has two timber men coming to inspect the trees to see what value they have. Supervisor F. Force is in favor of saving the trees and reworking the existing system if practical. He also stated that he must consider the people paying the sewer bills as well. Mr. Grile asked if the system could be repaired in sections. He also noted that the permit on the existing system could be renewed. Supervisor F. Force states that the DEQ (Department of Environmental quality) has demanded that the existing system be replaced. Trustee D. Heffron noted that part of the permitting states the water should be distributed evenly and the existing system is failing to do this. Supervisor F. Force stated there is a lot of investigation that must still be done before a decision can be made. He also noted that during the permit process that starts January 24, 2008 different questions will have to be presented to the DEQ to evaluate what options are acceptable with the DEQ.

Mr. Kurylowicz asked if any repairs are being planned for the pump station in front of his property. Supervisor F. Force states, probably not, and that similar problems have been reported at other pump stations also. He then informs that this particular pump station gets a lot of sewage that has been sitting for extended periods of time, giving this pump station a greater aroma than other pump stations. Supervisor F. Force notes that a chemical treatment system can be used on pump stations to reduce this problem, but

informs this treatment cost several thousand dollars. Supervisor F. Force agreed to get a price on this chemical treatment system and report it at a future board meeting.

Mr. Nowak had a concern about the chairman making more motions than allowed regarding the December 10 regular board meeting, according to Roberts Rules of order. Supervisor F. Force noted that he is required to nominate for the planning commission and tries to encourage other board members to make motions. Mr. Nowak also commented on choices made pertaining to the trees on the sewer property.

Department Reports

Fire Department

For the month of December, 2007 there were 5 fires, 11 medicals, 2 trainings, 1 meeting and 4 non fires totaling 23.

Fire Administration Safety Committee

(See minutes dated December 26, 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

F. Force reported mechanical work on pump station #10 is now finished, and is the most important pump station to have guide rails back into it.

Planning Commission

No meeting

Zoning Board of Appeals

(See minutes dated December 19, 2007)

Building Department Monthly Report for December 2007

The building department issued 2 building permits (0 - new house, 2 - other and 4 electrical permits, 4 mechanical permits and 1 plumbing permit, for a total of 11 permits.

Old Business

PDR (Purchase of Development Rights) Update

Trustee D. Heffron reported that another cycle for applicants working on PDR funding will take place this spring. He also noted that the Agricultural board had a meeting with the city of Wyoming waste water system representatives. Wyoming is looked upon as having one of the best sewer systems around. The DEQ says this system could be a role model for other communities. There was a presentation made to the county commissioners informing them that Wyoming, land applies their sludge. Trustee D. Heffron spoke with one of the commissioners who said he never realized how agriculture impacted his district. He also stated that Wyoming is talking about possibly putting in a million dollars a year towards this program.

Sewer Application Forms

Supervisor F. Force informed the board that he would like to keep the dollar amounts on the sewer application forms.

Sewer User Rate

Supervisor F. Force stated that they will have to consider changing the sewer user rate. He asked the board for their recommendation on ways to communicate and distribute information to the users of the sewer. Trustee D. Heffron suggests a mailing. He also suggested they put it on the cable and the township website. Notifying lake associations would also be a good form of communication. Meeting format and agenda options were also discussed. Trustee D. Heffron would like to see the board arrive at a more specific indication of the price for the irrigation system replacement cost.

Trustee D. Heffron suggests that the replacement of the pumps is not necessary. He also noted that the public should be informed that the pricing on the sewer replacement options are estimations and that the board should work on specifying a more accurate amount. Trustee D. Heffron states the public should know what is required to get the permit from the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality).

Clerk J. Fues is concerned that they, (meaning Prein & Newhof) stated the current irrigation system could not be repaired. Supervisor F. Force made it clear that it could be repaired, but could cost more in labor to repair the existing system than to replace it. Supervisor F. Force noted there could be more existing possibilities there, than we are aware of. Trustee D. Heffron states it would be cheaper to replace the existing system than to repair it. The question was asked whether we could abandon the old system, or would it have to be completely removed, and would this be environmentally sound and reasonably safe. The board members were concerned that the cost of repairing the existing system would not be known until going about the repair.

New Business

Walleye Rearing

The Department of Natural Resources wants to use the lower Grattan Sewage Pond as a walleye rearing pond sponsored by West Michigan Walleye Club. Supervisor F. Force states one of the positive outcomes is that a fair amount of the fish would be put in area lakes. The downside is the liability issues, which would be examined carefully. He was assured by the Conservation Club that they would have insurance covering any liability.

Trustee D. Heffron states that the minnows might be sucked into the irrigation pumps and create more problems.

Supervisor F. Force will gather more information and topic will be brought to board for approval.

Committee Term Periods

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron supported to accept Resolution #08-001 as written. To establish a uniform term start date for all Grattan Township committee and board members.

Roll Call: D. Heffron-y, F. Force-y, J. Fues-y. 3-y/0-n

Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron supported to nominate Glenn Jonker to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a regular three year term. Term Starting January 1, 2008

Roll Call: F. Force-y, J. Fues-y, D. Heffron-y 3-y/0-n

Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

Budget Meeting January 22, 2008 at 10:00 am

Regular Meeting February 11, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Alternate Meeting February 25, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor Date

Recording Secretary,

Monica Burt