

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD

Regular Meeting of July 14, 2008

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

F. Force led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Approval of the Agenda

F. Force added migrant housing and property tax resolution under new business. P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the amended agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

Officers Report (Clerk's Report)

Approval of Minutes

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2008 regular meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

S. Freeman noted a correction of the check numbers approved for accounts payable. P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2008 special meeting as amended. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

There were none.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$18,191.67 (checks 32038-32077 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

(D. Heffron arrived at 7:08 p.m.)

Working Agenda

Hearing of the Public

Jackie Vander Ploeg, Grattan sewer customer, was concerned about what has been going on with the Township's Engineering firm. She said the Engineering firm is irresponsible and wasteful. F. Force disagreed with that. J. Fues said the Township is looking at all its vendors. F. Force said the Township currently has a moratorium on spending for engineering while those evaluations are conducted. J. Fues said the Township's engineering firm was a part of the Township's lawsuit with Earth Tech and helped the Township get a settlement in that case. P. Knoerl explained that the bulk of money spent on engineering was for a sewer rate analysis and \$20,000 for a study of the irrigation replacement at the Grattan/Vergennes site required by the DEQ. J. Vander Ploeg asked if the rate study was something the Township could analyze. D. Heffron said that study provided the Township with an inventory of all equipment in the system as well as age of the equipment, cost of replacement and expected replacement date.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride reported 3 personal injury accidents, 16 medical, 1 service, 1 false alarm, 2 non fire, 5 trainings and 2 meetings for a total of 30.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

P. Knoerl said the FASC discussed ISO ratings for the Township. Steve Christian is the acting Chairperson until Scott Vaughn returns from military service.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force reviewed the Zoning Officers July 2008 report of the status of 6 complaints.

Safety Board of Appeals

P. Knoerl said the Safety Board of Appeals reviewed changes in the Township Dock Ordinance.

Sewer Report

This matter was discussed later in the meeting.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There were 2 new and 2 other building permits, 4 electrical, 3 plumbing, and 6 mechanical permits for a total of 17 for the month of June.

Kent District Library

Representatives from the KDL gave a brief report on services provided to Township residents and usage of the library system by Grattan residents. F. Force thanked the group for attending the meeting.

Old Business

PDR Update

There were no updates.

Sewer

Grattan Lagoons-Traveler

F. Force presented an irrigation report for the Grattan lagoons. M. Middlestadt said he did not believe the Township would need the traveler based on irrigation rates thus far this season. D. Heffron said he never thought the

traveler was necessary, but needed to hear Sierra agree. Dave Versluis, Sierra

Consultants said his May 2, 2008 memo said Sierra did not feel the traveler was

necessary also. Board members said the traveler was put on site because of

conflicting irrigation predictions from Sierra and Prein and Newhof. There was a

discussion about what to do with the traveler. It was agreed to keep the traveler

on site if full payment for its rental is required.

Sierra Consultants

F. Force said he met with Dave Ver Sluis to discuss reduction of the Township's O & M costs. The Township would like to see a 10% reduction of O & M costs and an explanation of the 15% administrative fee. Mr. Ver Sluis said Sierra will detail what the administrative costs include and have office staff do some of the administrative jobs M. Middlestadt currently performs. He also agreed to amend their contract with the Township to make lawn mowing and snowplowing charges easier to understand. P. Knoerl suggested having the

Township contract lawn mowing and snow removal. M. Middlestadt said he would like to continue doing snow removal as he knows where it is most crucial to have that done. Mr. Ver Sluis said he did not want to discontinue using Main Tech's services. D. Heffron was concerned that both Sierra and Main Tech were on site at the same time. There was a discussion about this matter. It was agreed to provide Mr. Heffron with copies of weekly O & M reports. P. Knoerl said after Township investments to upgrade the sewer system there have been fewer call outs, but O & M costs continue to increase. Mr. Ver Sluis said O & M costs are close to budget. Last year's costs were a little under budget and this year's costs are a little over. He said he is willing to look at things to see what can be done.

Flow Meters/Mission Dialers

Mr. Ver Sluis said he is in favor of using mission dialers and the Township should see cost reductions with their use. P. Knoerl said emergency calls, which are the most costly, have gone down dramatically over the past 6 years. Mr. Ver Sluis said he will work with F. Force to see why O & M costs are not decreasing. Board members discussed an annual budget cap on capital improvements. J. Fues stated that those improvements already require Board approval if over \$500.00. He would like to see a breakdown from Sierra of costs for improving the system versus regular maintenance.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to gain a consensus from the Board to allow F. Force and J. Fues to work with Sierra Consultants to reduce costs. All ayes. The motion carried. That meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

F. Force said he met with Mark Hemeyer, Kennedy Industries, to obtain more information about flow meters. Mr. Hemeyer said if Mission dialers are installed at both #1 pump stations the dialer will provide flow amounts as well as pump run times and other information. Board members discussed the matter and agreed to request a quote from Kennedy for the 7 Mission dialers already purchased put on hold, including

installation, plus an additional 2 Mission dialers not yet purchased. M. Middlestadt noted a phone line is not required for mission dialers. M. Middlestadt and D. Ver Sluis said that would be a good investment. Sierra agreed to use rain gauges to check the amount of irrigated water hitting the ground.

Grattan/Vergennes Irrigation Upgrade

F. Force reviewed his memo regarding Michigan Valley Irrigation's quote for installation of an irrigation system at the Grattan/Vergennes treatment site. He noted this may require amending the Township's State discharge permit. Sierra Consultants can amend the permit. D. Versluis suggested getting bids from other vendors. He said he has also worked with KKK Irrigation. P. Knoerl recommended getting a quote from KKK Irrigation.

Williams & Works Estimate

Board members discussed Williams & Works \$3000.00 quote for a complete inflow/outflow study and agreed it was not necessary at this time.

New Business

Fire Department Well

Board members reviewed bids for a new Fire Department well from Raymer and Peerless. F. Force said the lower bid is still \$10,000 over the Township's budgeted amount. J. Fues said another vendor did not receive information about the bidding from Prein & Newhof. He would like to give that company a chance to bid on the proposal. P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to award the contract for the Fire Department's new well to Raymer. D. Timmons read the roll call. Ayes: P. Knoerl, S. Freeman, F. Force and D. Heffron. Nays: J. Fues. The motion carried. J. Fues said he had no problems with Raymer, but questioned how the Township's Engineering firm handled the bidding process.

Road Improvements through Community Block Development Grant

J. Fues informed Board members that CBDG money can be used for road repairs in the Township. Board members agreed to look into this matter.

PDR Endorsement

D. Heffron said the endorsement hopes to show support for the PDR program throughout the County. F. Force moved and J. Fues seconded to endorse Kent County 's PDR program. All ayes. The motion carried.

Township Mileage Rate

P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve a resolution establishing the Township's mileage rate at \$.585 per mile, as recommended by the Federal government, effective 7-1-08. All ayes. The motion carried.

Migrant Housing

Bids for demolition of migrant housing on sewer property from Johnson Excavation and Hall Trucking and Excavation were opened and read at the meeting. J. Fues said a bid from Rick Anderson was received late. Board members discussed the 2 bids. P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to award the contract for demolition to Hall Trucking and Excavation including requirements for 2 wells being capped 4' below the surface and confirmation of hauling away all materials and grading per KCHD requirements. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

There was a discussion about salvageable materials on the site.

Property Tax Resolution

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the resolution for property tax for 2008 as presented. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The alternative Board meeting date is July 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is August 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Diane Timmons

Recording Secretary