

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD

Regular Meeting of September 8, 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, Trustee P. Knoerl and Trustee D. Heffron. Members absent: none. Township Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride also attended the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the amended agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

Officers Report (Clerk's Report)

Approval of Minutes

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2008 regular meeting as printed. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

J. Fues reviewed proposed budget amendments totaling \$1469.00. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the budget amendments. All ayes. The motion carried.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$30,436.76 (checks 32184-32207 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

Working Agenda

Hearing of Public

There were no public comments.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride reported 1 personal injury accident, 10 medical calls, 1 false alarm, 11 non fire, 1 mutual aid, 2 training and 1 training meeting for a total of 27 in the month of August.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

F. Force said FASC members continue to work on requirements for the Township's ISO evaluation and rating. He reported that the amended bid for the new well has come in close to the budgeted amount. The well should be completed this year. Mr. Force said DNR grants will be available in October. FASC members reviewed a proposed outdoor wood stove ordinance resolution under consideration by the Planning Commission. L. Kirkbride said plans for a pizza fundraiser for the purchase of training equipment are nearly complete. Mr. Kirkbride also said Township firefighters have passed tests and now will be responding as Basic Level EMS.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force briefly reviewed the list of current complaints.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

F. Force said irrigation of the sewer lagoons has been running at nearly 100%. D. Heffron said the DEQ's method of measuring the number of gallons irrigated by the amount of water leaving irrigation guns is flawed. The correct measurement should be how many gallons are hitting the ground. Dave Ver Sluis, Sierra Consultants, said the Township should ask the DEQ for an amendment to the Irrigation Management Plan (IMP) to add more irrigation guns. Board members agreed. Mr. Ver Sluis will provide the Township with a quote for making this request to the DEQ. He said the DEQ will not make any changes until the permit is renewed.

There was discussion about the installation of flow meters. It was agreed that the Township could not afford flow meters at this time. F. Force informed Board members that Grandtech indicated the old flow meters currently installed could be restricting flow

of water. Members discussed the matter. D. Ver Sluis said this is not an acute issue. He said old flow meters probably are not harming pumps. F. Force agreed to pricing for removal of the old flow meters at both pump stations #1.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

A meeting was held in August for approval of minutes only.

Building Department

There were no new and 2 other building permits, 7 electrical, 3 plumbing and 8 mechanical for a total of 20 in the month of August.

Old Business

PDR update

D. Heffron said the County Agricultural Preservation Board will be taking a group out east the fall. Mr. Heffron said he will be attending. He said another county has passed a millage for agricultural preservation. Because that county has dedicated money for agricultural preservation it will have an advantage for State and Federal funding.

Sewer

G/V Permit Renewal-Soil Borings

F. Force reviewed sodium and chlorine levels at sewer treatment sites. Board members noted high levels at monitoring wells 3 and 10 and discussed possible reasons for those high levels. D. Heffron asked if anyone has checked the location of the wells (low area) or the possibility that a line is broken in that area. F. Force said the Township will provide sewer customers educational information about ways to decrease sodium and chloride in groundwater in the Township's newsletter. Mr. Ver Sluis will provide a quote for quarterly ground water sampling and annual soil sampling.

Sierra Consultants

Board members reviewed Sierra Consultant's amended sewer operation and maintenance agreement. F. Force said the Township receives weekly reports and did not believe quarterly reports are not necessary. Board members said the only real savings is the reduction of administrative charges from 15% to 5%. J. Fues said the emergency call out increase will eat up most of that increase. P. Knoerl would like all information entered in

a preventative maintenance software program. Board members will review Sierra's contract proposal and discuss further at the next meeting.

Irrigation Upgrade at Grattan/Vergennes

Board members discussed the matter. It was agreed that F. Force will provide budget estimates for the upgrade and S. Freeman will report on loans for the project at the next meeting. D. Ver Sluis said the Township should ask the DEQ to allow the Township to begin irrigation April 1 st at the Grattan irrigation site. This would allow more time to irrigate while the Grattan/Vergennes treatment facility is being upgraded.

Citizen Planner Update

J. Fues said reminder letters were sent to those who had no taken the Citizen Planner course. Everyone is now enrolled in the course.

Employee Handbook

J. Fues said it is time to update the Township's employee handbook and will send the revised handbook to Board members via e-mail for their review. Discussion of the revised handbook will be on the October agenda.

New Business

Mission Dialer Quotes

F. Force presented a bid from Grandtech, Inc of \$800.00 for installation of each Mission dialer. He said Prein and Newhof's bid was \$10,000.00. The Township currently has 9 Mission dialers ready to be installed. Board members discussed the matter. F. Force moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the installation of 9 Mission dialers by Grandtech, Inc. @ \$800.00/unit with a payment due of 12-1-08. All ayes. The motion carried.

Fire Department Call Out Rates

F. Force asked Board members if they would like to consider increasing payment for Township firefighters call out rates. J. Fues said the current rate is \$17.00. Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride said in the past fire fighters have been opposed to a raise, saying they would prefer the money be used to purchase equipment. Board members discussed the matter. J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to adjust the call out rate from \$17.00 to \$20.00. D. Heffron said the Fire Department should bill Township resident's insurance company if they have fire coverage. It was agreed to discuss that matter at the next Fire Safety meeting.

Township of Excellence Conference

Board members discussed the matter and agreed they were not interested at this time.

Migrant Housing Property

F. Force said all migrant housing buildings are gone and the wells have been set down and filled. The property is now available for some other use. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to add this additional 1.5 acres to the current lessee and at the time of the next bid increase the total acreage by 1.5 acres to a total of 41.5 acres. Ayes: F. Force, S. Freeman, P. Knoerl and J. Fues. Nays: none. Abstain: D. Heffron. The motion carried.

Used Computers

Board members agreed to take sealed bids for 3 used computers. Notices will be placed on the door at the Township and on the website. J. Fues will conduct the bid process and will not bid on any of the computers.

Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The alternative Board meeting date is September 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is October 13, 2008.

Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Diane Timmons

Recording Secretary