

Draft: 04/28/08
Approved: 5/12/08

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
April 14, 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, Treasurer Sabrina Freeman, Clerk Jim Fues, Trustee Dennis Heffron and Trustee Paul Knoerl

Board Members Absent - None

Approval of Agenda

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

Officers Report

March 10, 2008

D. Heffron moved and P. Knoerl supported a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2008 as presented. **All Ayes**

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron supported a motion to approve the accounts payable in amount of \$65,164.08 (Check #31869 - #31885) **All Ayes**

Consent Agenda

Payroll

Treasurer's Report

Correspondence

D. Heffron moved and P. Knoerl supported a motion to approve the consent agenda.
All Ayes

Working Agenda

Public Comments

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A resident informed the board that Byrne Avenue has not been graded for the past three months and the road is in terrible shape.

Department Reports

Fire Department

For the month of March, 2008 there were no fires, 9 medicals, 2 trainings, 1 meeting and 1 non fire totaling 13.

Fire Administration Safety Committee

No meeting

Zoning Officer Report

Supervisor F. Force reported there were a few junk car complaints recently.

Safety Board of Appeals

No meeting

Sewer Report

Supervisor F. Force informed the board that as the sewer administrator he gave approval to irrigate at the normal irrigation site at the Grattan treatment plant. This is an illegal discharge and subjects the township to possible fines. All activity that has been done was reported to DEQ. He also informed the board that a traveler irrigation system will be installed at the old orchard site, and will be used to get rid of additional water during the regular irrigation season. Flow meters and draw down test were a topic of discussion and board was in favor of getting quotes on flow meters. Procedures regarding the required amounts of water that Sierra was responsible to irrigate, and how that is going to be monitored in the future was discussed in detail.

Willow Lawn Trailer Park

Supervisor F. Force gave a brief overview of the recent discovery of the large amount of water and sand coming into pump station #1 on Big Pine Island, coming from the trailer park. The Township met with owners of the trailer park, and informed them that they may have to compensate the township for money spent if it's proven that their six inch lateral contributed to the problem. A smoke test will be done and evaluation will be coordinated with Sierra to discuss results.

Planning Commission

No meeting

Zoning Board of Appeals

(See minutes dated March 19, 2008)

Building Department Monthly Report for March 2008

The building department issued 2 building permits (1 – new house, 1 – other) and 1 electrical permits, 1 mechanical permits and 2 plumbing permits, for a total of 6 permits.

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Old Business

PDR Update

Trustee D. Heffron reported that a ceremony for the three farms that were preserved would take place this Saturday.

Kennedy

Supervisor F. Force updated the board on the status of the Michael M. Kennedy v. Grattan Township.

Migrant Housing

The board discussed the quotes received and the different options for the migrant housing, the septic system, replacing the roofs, moving the well controls and some inside repairs. After some discussion with the lessee, the Board was in favor of working with the current lessee. Clerk J. Fues will meet with lessee and rework the lease to have them responsible to do repairs and keep the migrant housing up to acceptable standards.

New Business

Fire Millage

Clerk J. Fues informed the board that if we do the fire millage this year we will be reduced by the Headlee act by one year. It's in the township's best interest not to do it until next year.

Lawn Care Bids

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron supported to hire Blue Grass Lawns for lawn care at the cemetery for \$42.00/per cut and C & R for lawn care at the Township Hall for \$45.00/per cut and \$45.00/per visit for Landscape maintenance. Finishing Touch was awarded to apply mulch at the Township Hall for \$1,575 and the Fire Station for \$1,080. **All Ayes**

Sewer Operations and Maintenance Review

Board was in favor of getting a detailed quote for the Sewer Operation Maintenance Review. The board was in agreement to schedule a meeting with Sierra to discuss rising operation and maintenance costs of the sewer system, and discussion of a three year plan and insurance reimbursement for lagoon costs.

Fireworks Permit

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron supported to authorize Frank Force to sign the Firework Display Permit for a product demonstration at Grattan Raceway on May 17, 2008, upon receipt of liability insurance for 1,000,000, naming Grattan Township as co-insured prior to signature. **All Ayes**

Fee Schedule-Land Combinations

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J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl supported a motion to approve the amendment to the fee schedule to reflect the land combination amount decrease suggested by the assessor. The new rate will be \$50.00 per transaction.

Roll Call Vote: P. Knoerl-yes, S. Freeman-y, F. Force-yes, J. Fues-yes, D. Heffron-yes. 5-yes – 0-nays

Fire Fighter

D. Heffron moved and P. Knoerl supported a motion to promote Stacey Madden to the level of firefighter for the Grattan Fire Department. **All Ayes**

Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

May 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm Regular Board Meeting
May 19, 2008 at 7:00 pm Alternate Board Meeting

Supervisor F. Force informed the board of the Kent County lunch on the grill.

Golf Tournament

A Golf Tournament will be held at Arrowhead Golf Course May 25, 2008 at 1:30. The proceeds will be going to the Veteran's Memorial Fund.

Farm Lease Bids

Clerk J. Fues asks Trustee D. Heffron to dismiss himself from this part of the meeting because he was one of the bidders for the farmland lease.

Clerk J. Fues opened sealed lease bids received from Greg Smith for \$2147.00 and a bid from Heffron Farms for \$3,287.00 per year with no notation changes to the contract.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl supported a motion to award the Farmland Lease Bid to Heffron Farms for \$3,287.00 per year.

Roll Call Vote: F. Force-yes, J. Fues-yes, S. Freeman-yes, P. Knoerl-yes. 4-yes-0-nays

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Jim Fues, Township Clerk

5-13-08
Date



Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

5-13-08
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Recording Secretary,
Monica Burt