

Draft: 07/20/09
Approved: 08/17/09

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Board Meeting of July 13, 2009

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

M. Burt read the roll call. Members present: Supervisor F. Force, Clerk J. Fues, Treasurer S. Freeman and Trustee D. Heffron. Members Absent: Trustee P. Knoerl (excused)

Approval of the Agenda

No Changes were made to the agenda.

Officers Report ((Clerk's Report)

Approval of Minutes

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the amended minutes from the June 8, 2009 regular meeting. All Ayes. The motion carried.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$93,003.09 (checks 32727-32790) All Ayes. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Payroll

Treasurer's Report (all funds)

Correspondence

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. All Ayes. The motion carried.

Working Agenda

Hearing of the public

Tom Manikowski asks about the high amount of accounts payable to Professional Lake Management. Treasurer S. Freeman provided the invoices for him to view.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief L. Kirkbride reported 1 fire, 8 medical calls and 5 trainings for a total of 14 for the month of June, 2009.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

No Meeting

Zoning Officer Report

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Supervisor F. Force reported that Casey Patterson, the building inspector, is still filling in as zoning officer.

Safety Board of Appeals

See minutes dated June 29, 2009

Sewer Report

Supervisor F. Force reported the mechanical upgrade would be completed this summer by Grand Tech.

John Rydbeck of Infrastructure Alternatives gave a updated report on the sewer matters.

Planning Commission

See minutes dated July 1, 2009

Zoning Board of Appeals

No Meeting

Building Department

There were 1 new and 2 other building permits, 4 electrical and 1 plumbing for a total of 8 for the month of June.

Unfinished Business

PDR update

Trustee D. Heffron gave an update on the PDR topics. The Koning farm received funding.

Mowing Pump Stations

F. Force reported that C & R Lawn service would be mowing the sewer pump stations for \$152.00 per cut.

Dead Trees in Front Yard

Board agreed that the dead trees should be removed and agreed that no new trees would be planted at this time. Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride volunteered to remove the dead trees.

Sidewalk Repair

Board was in favor of repairing the cracks and separations in the sidewalk by temporarily filling them in. Supervisor F. Force noted the cost for replacing the sidewalks would be about \$5,000. Board agreed to look at the new budget and plan for the replacement cost.

New Business

Dock Ordinance Amendment – Section 5:13

Supervisor F. Force updated the board on the reason for wanting amendments to the dock ordinance. Board discussed different topics regarding the amendment to section 5:13. G. Converse commented that he was not in favor of allowing T's or L's in the channels or canals. Members of the board commented that they did not have enough information regarding the amendment to make the decision to approve the amendment.

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Board agreed to take a five-minute recess at 7:48 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

F. Force provided a copy of the amendment for Section 5:13 Channels and Canals to each of the board members along with G. Converse and Mr. Boman. G. Converse said that he was concerned about the end of the channels when you have converging property lines and that by allowing T's and L's in a channel could cause navigational problems. G. Converse has been asking the SBA and the township board if allowing T's and L's in the channels and canals is necessary or just allowing a straight dock would be a better solution for navigational purposes.

G. Converse also noted that Mr. Boman's desire was to be able to enjoy his property he purchased on the channel just as much as a property owner has on a lakefront property.

Mr. Boman recommended to the board not to regulate style but rather regulate the setbacks regarding property lines and placement of the dock.

F. Force made a motion to approve the amendment to the dock ordinance Section 5:13. There was no support for the motion.

J. Fues commented that he was ready to vote but noted that the other board members have expressed that they needed more time to evaluate the ordinance and review the current amendment.

J. Fues suggested that a special meeting be held to address this amendment after board reviews information. Dock Ordinance Amendment to Section 5:13 tabled. Board agreed to have a special meeting on July 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Wetland Committee

F. Force informed the board that the wetland committee of three members, should consist of one member from the planning commission and one member from the zoning board of appeals. Currently the wetlands committee does not meet those requirements. Board agreed when terms are completed for current members, the new members that meet the requirement be put on the committee.

Sewer Projects

F. Force noted that the following items are very important and have been recommended by Infrastructure to be completed this year for the Grattan Sewer System.

- A. Temporarily upgrade to the Grattan Waste Water Treatment Facility would consist of the addition of two new big gun sprinklers in the old orchard, increasing weekly discharge rate to 2.35" and add one extra month on the end of the irrigation season. This is all needed to keep the pond levels at acceptable

levels. D. Heffron noted a concern at the irrigation site, its affecting the crops in one of two ways, one being that water applied has washed the nutrients below the plant or the ground is being watered so much that there is a lack of oxygen in the soil. He was concerned about increased water being put on the current site. He noted that the evaporation rate has not been the same this year.

J. Fues ask if the township could contract the work to avoid paying a 10% fee to the sewer contractor. John Rydbeck informed the board that he would get the contractors to invoice the township. F. Force moved and D. Heffron seconded that the upgrade for the temporary irrigation site be approved and not to exceed proposed costs of \$14,474.20. Roll Call: D. Heffron/yes, S. Freeman/yes, J. Fues/yes, F. Force/yes. The motion carried.

- B.** Driveway at PS #16, Ratigan Lake
Board was in favor of waiting on this project.
- C.** Power Supply Extension at PS #3, Big Pine Island
Board agreed to get additional bids for this project.
- D.** Rebuild Irrigation Pump at Grattan/Vergennes
Board was in favor of getting additional bids for this project.

Crystal Township

F. Force noted that Crystal Township donated sewer parts that they had and he noted that some were high priced spare parts. F. Force recommended that the township send a thank you.

Infrastructure Alternatives Invoice

F. Force reviewed the invoice from Infrastructure Alternatives from the first month. Audience member ask what the budgeted amount was for Infrastructure Alternatives. S. Freeman said the budgeted amount is \$12,000/per month.

Partial Refund to Mr. Boman

F. Force noted that the application fee covers the fee's related to the meeting, members, transcriber, and administrative. Board agreed not to refund Mr. Bowman.

Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

July 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. – Special Meeting
July 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. – Alternative Board Meeting (if needed)
August 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. – Next Regular Meeting

Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Monica Burt
Recording Secretary