

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of August 17, 2009

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

F. Force led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

D. Timmons read the roll call. Members present: Supervisor F. Force, Clerk J. Fues and Trustee P. Knoerl. Members absent: Treasurer Sabrina Freeman (excused) and Trustee D. Heffron (excused).

4. Approval of the Agenda

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

5. Officers Report (Clerk's Report)

Approval of Minutes

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2009 regular meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2009 special meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

(There was a 2 minute break in the meeting at 7:03)

Budget Amendments

J. Fues explained the proposed budget amendments. He noted one minor correction of an incorrect account number. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve budget amendments with the corrected account number. All ayes. The motion carried.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$145,869.59 (checks 32791-32858 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda

Payroll

Treasurer's Report (all funds)

Correspondence

Draft: 08/20/09

Approved: 09/14/09

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

7. **Working Agenda**

Hearing of Public

Tom Manikowski said he was surprised the dock ordinance was not on the agenda. F. Force said the Safety Board of Appeals ~~need~~ NEEDED one more meeting to finalize revisions before sending the ordinance to the Township Board.

Department Reports

Fire Department

F. Force reported 2 fire, 3 personal injury. 14 medical calls, 1 false alarm, 1 non fire, 1 illegal burn and 5 training for a total of 27 for the month of July.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

Steve Christians gave a brief report. At the last FASC meeting members discussed hydrants and the fire millage. J. Fues recommended sending a letter of recognition to Colleen Smith, who recently retired from the Grattan Fire Department and made a generous donation of computer software to the Department.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force said Al Darzniek has returned to work. F. Force gave a brief report on a recent court hearing.

Safety Board of Appeals

P. Knoerl gave a report on the SBA's progress with changes to the Township's dock ordinance. He said the next SBA meeting probably be scheduled for the end of August.

Sewer Report

F. Force reported that the Township has received a letter from the MDEQ notifying the Township that they have 60 days to submit the new irrigation management plan for the Grattan/Vergennes site. The new irrigation system must be installed and operating by April, 2011. He expected work to begin on that site in the fall of 2010. He explained option #3 being considered for irrigation at that site. Board members discussed options for clearing trees from the proposed irrigation site and agreed they would need costs for those options before making a decision.

F. Force said the Township will begin incurring costs for this project and the Board must decide how sewer customers will pay. Board members said they will need the total cost of the project before that question can be answered.

Draft: 08/20/09

Approved: 09/14/09

John Rydbeck, Infrastructure Alternatives, gave a report on sewer operations and maintenance. P. Knoerl said it appears the ~~system~~ LAGOON LEVELS AT THE GRATTAN SITE will be in good shape at the end of the season.

F. Force said Fuller Septic has asked the Township if they would consider receiving septage at the treatment site. F. Force said he has been researching this matter and will visit a site in Leoni Township this week. He will report back to the Board at the September meeting. Tom Manikowski asked if the material received would be residential or commercial. F. Force said Fuller Septic said the material would be residential, but said the septage may need to be tested to verify that. P. Knoerl was concerned about the sludge levels in the lagoons and their ability to accept ~~addition~~ ADDITIONAL waste.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There were 5 other building permits and 2 electrical permits for a total of 7 for the month of July.

Unfinished Business

Outdoor Wood Burner Ordinance

F. Force said Planning Commission discussed the outdoor wood burner ordinance ~~at~~ AND agreed to return the ordinance to the Township Board with no changes. J. Fues said he would prefer that the ordinance not allow outdoor wood burners in the lake residential district. F. Force said Planning Commission members said setbacks in the ordinance should regulate that use.

F. Force moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the Outdoor Wood Burner ordinance as presented. Ayes: F. Force and P. Knoerl. Nays: J. Fues. The motion carried by a vote of 2-1.

Fire Millage

J. Fues said the Township had hoped to include the fire department millage at an election with other items in order to avoid the cost of a separate election. The only upcoming election is a school election and the Township would have to pay for that election if the millage were included on the ballot. He presented a resolution to move the millage term so millage renewals would be included with the Presidential primary ballot. Board members discussed the matter.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to accept the proposal for ballots and fire millage for operation and equipment as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

Fire Department Well: Change Order

Draft: 08/20/09

Approved: 09/14/09

Board members reviewed Prein & Newhof's April 23, 2009 letter requesting payment of additional charges for the Fire Department well. P. Knoerl moved and F. Force seconded to authorize payment in the amount of \$2564.64 to Prein & Newhof. Ayes: F. Force and P. Knoerl. Nays: J. Fues. The motion carried by a vote of 2-1.

New Business

Kent County Library

Representatives from Kent District Library gave a brief presentation on the county library system.

Vietnam Veteran's Resolution

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to support the resolution designating September 18, 2009 as Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day. All ayes. The motion carried.

Special Land Use Tracking

F. Force said the Township has been reviewing Special Land Use permits to see if all conditions are being met. He asked Board members how far back the Township should research old SLU's. Board members discussed and agreed to go back 10 years at this time.

Steve Christians

J. Fues discussed the possibility of hiring someone to track SLU's, write resolutions and other things the Township has been paying attorneys to do. He said this would help reduce applicant's escrow costs and reduce Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals expenses. Board members discussed the matter and agreed to have Steve Christians begin those duties now on an interim basis.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to post the position of Township Technical Writer with the job description as discussed and in the interim use Steve Christians until the position is filled. Pay rate for this position will be the same as office clerical staff. Roll call vote: ayes: J. Fues, F. Force and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 3-0.

Grattan Vergennes Sewer Easement

F. Force explained a realtor's request to have a 700' easement withdrawn at property adjacent to the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation site. F. Force said he found a copy of the easement, but is not sure why that easement was obtained. When the irrigation system was installed some clay was removed from the adjacent property. J. Fues asked if the land owner was paid for the easement. F. Force will check to see what payments and other considerations were made to the owner.

Budget Review

Draft: 08/20/09

Approved: 09/14/09

J. Fues said income from the State is going down.

Tom Lane- Sewer Usage

Board members discussed Tom Lane's letter requesting that sewer bills be stopped for his property. Board members agreed that the sewer line should be checked for infiltration and properly capped. F. Force will check on costs for that work.

Old School Building on Five Mile Road

F. Force said the Township has received another complaint about the old school building on 5 Mile Road. He said the Township is following the requirements of the Michigan State Building Code. The property owner has agreed to allow demolition of the building by the Township. The Township can also require that the property owner demolish the building. Board members discussed what costs would be involved for both options. P. Knoerl said the Township should follow steps required to have the owner demolish the building. F. Force will provide costs for both options at the September meeting.

8. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The alternative Board meeting date is August 31, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. (as needed).
The next regular Board meeting date is September 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary