

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of October 12, 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, Treasurer Sabrina Freeman, Clerk J. Fues, and Trustee P. Knoerl. Members absent: Trustee D. Heffron (excused). Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride also attended the meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

F. Force added an update on sewer disconnections as item 7 under unfinished business. P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the amended agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

5. Officers Report (Clerk's Report)
Approval of Minutes

Minor corrections were made to the September 14, 2009 minutes. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the amended minutes. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

There were no budget amendments.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$181,795.95 (checks 32895-32945 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda
Payroll
Treasurer's Report (all funds)
Correspondence

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Approved: 11/02/09

P. Knoerl asked if the correct combined balance of 2 sewer accounts was about \$200,000. J. Fues said the amounts in those accounts are confusing because Infrastructure bills are late. Board members discussed this matter.

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

7. Working Agenda
Hearing of Public

There were no public comments.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride reported 1 brush fire, 2 personal injury accidents without extraction, 11 medical calls, 5 non fire, 1 mutual aid given and 5 training for a total of 25 in the month of September. He gave a brief report regarding fire department activities. He said the department has no more free smoke detectors for residents. J. Fues said there may be funds available thru Family, Friends and Neighbors (FF&N) to purchase more detectors. J. Fues said FF&N receives income from the community paper drive for purchases to benefit the community.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

F. Force said the committee has been trying to encourage fire fighters use of physical fitness equipment at the fire station. L. Kirkbride said Spectrum Health provides physicals specifically for fire fighters. F. Force asked how tree removal at the Grattan irrigation site is progressing. L. Kirkbride said 30-40 trees have been removed.

Zoning Officer Report

Board members reviewed a report of inspections from the Zoning Officer.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

John Rydbeck, Infrastructure Alternatives (IA), gave a brief report on operations and maintenance of the sewer systems. He provided copies of reports showing breakdowns of the August 2009 invoice and May, June and July invoices. There was a discussion about rebuilding and repairing pumps. J. Rydbeck identified those pumps operating below design capacity. He said pond #1 at the Grattan/Vergennes site has been drawn down substantially for a visual observation. Some solids were observed in that pond. Kent Trierweiler, IA, will

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provide information about how much space those solids are taking up. F. Force asked how much it would cost to dredge the pond. J. Rydbeck will check on costs and see when dredging might be needed. J. Fues asked about grease removal from pump stations. J. Rydbeck said the grease must be broken up and vacuumed out of the pump stations. J. Fues asked IA to provide a list of contractors they would like to work with for grease removal. He said the Township will try to negotiate a contract to see if the costs for grease removal can be reduced. P. Knoerl suggested an article in the next Township newsletter reminding sewer customers not to add grease to the system.

F. Force asked if the Township should be more proactive about keeping trespassers off treatment sites. Board members discussed this. F. Force gave Robert Carlson, IA, permission to put staked signs in the access drives.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission approved a request by Lori Kuiper, 12079 MAC Drive, for expansion on a non-conforming lot. That matter will be reviewed by the ZBA at their October 21, 2009 meeting. A request for a special land use to expand a non-conforming structure by Charles and Charlene Mac Donald, 4245 Bedaki, was denied.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There were 4 new building permits, 4 other building permits, 2 electrical permits, 2 plumbing permits and 4 mechanical permits for a total of 16 for the month of September.

Budget Review

Board members reviewed this fiscal year's budget to date. J. Fues said the Township expects revenue sharing to continue to decrease, but Township budgeted for that in anticipation of a decrease.

Unfinished Business

PDR Update

There was no report.

Outdoor Wood Burning Ordinance- correction to August minutes

F. Force said there was a procedural error in the Board vote on the Outdoor Wood Burning Ordinance. At the August 2009 meeting only 3 members were in attendance when a motion to approve the ordinance was made. The vote on that motion was 2-1. If only 3 Board members are in attendance, a unanimous vote is required for a motion to pass.

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F. Force moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve an ordinance to regulate the placement, installation and use of outdoor furnaces. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, F. Force and P. Knoerl. Nays: J. Fues. The motion carried.

Rebuild G/V Irrigation Pump- \$4000

Board members discussed rebuilding the irrigation pump at the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation site. It was noted that a redundant pump is required. It was agreed that this repair could wait until April or May 2010.

Cost of Rebuilding Sewer Pumps

F. Force said the Board previously authorized F. Force to approve repairing sewer pumps, but recently Board members have indicated they would like to approve those repairs. F. Force said this would slow down the repair process. P. Knoerl said he would like to review repairs costs if they are over budget. F. Force said in some situations the repair cannot wait a month for Board approval. Board members agreed to proceed with a repair if there is an emergency, but they would like to review any other repairs. P. Knoerl said at this time there is enough money in the budget for one pump repair a month.

Infrastructure Alternatives

F. Force said the 6 month trial period for Infrastructure Alternatives (IA) will expire November 7, 2009 and the Board must consider how to proceed. F. Force said the Sewer Advisory Committee discussed this at their last meeting and recommended giving IA another 6 months to see if operations and maintenance costs level out. P. Knoerl said IA has done a great job thus far. He said the Board will have a clearer idea about how much money will be available in the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year when the Township receives IA September invoice. He said irrigation numbers look good. S. Freeman said the Township's contract with IA says the Township will notify IA in writing regarding extending the contract. Board members agreed to discuss this at the November 2, 2009 meeting. F. Force will send a letter to IA regarding the 6 month extension.

F. Force asked Board members to consider reversing 13% of operation and maintenance revenue put into repair and replacement. P. Knoerl, J. Fues and S. Freeman were in agreement that this money should continue to be added to the repair and replacement account.

P. Knoerl asked if bid packets for the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation upgrade had been mailed. It was noted that those packets were mailed and bids are due at the Township office by November 4, 2009.

North Kent and Senior Meals

J. Fues said Grattan Township's Kent County Block grant will be reduced over the next 4 years. He said the Township currently uses that money to fund North Kent Transit, Senior Meals and possibly one other item. He said in the future the

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Township will either have to cut back on those services or use Township money to fund them.

New Business

Educational Fees for Inspectors

Board members discussed a request by the Township's Building, Electrical and Plumbing/Mechanical inspectors for the Township to pay for classes required to keep their licenses current. F. Force said \$200 per year for each inspector has been requested. It was agreed that money budgeted for inspector mileage costs would cover the cost of this expense. An amendment to the budget will be presented at the next meeting.

St. Patrick's Liquor License

J. Fues said he received and signed a request from St. Patrick's church for Township approval of the temporary liquor license request to the State. He noted the Board previously agreed to allow the Clerk to sign this State paperwork stating the Township has no issue with the State approving the temporary liquor license.

Grattan Academy Bus

J. Fues said Grattan Academy requested permission to temporarily park its school bus in the Township parking lot. Board members discussed safety issues when parents are picking up students at the end of the day. It was noted that there does not seem to be as much congestion now that the school has bussing. Board members agreed to continue to allow the school bus to park in the Township parking lot near the recycle trailer.

8. Board Member Communications

F. Force informed Board members of the following upcoming events. The Kent County Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast November 6, 2009, 8:30 a.m. and Kent County Dinner Meeting, November 3, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Dates

The alternative Board meeting date is October 26 at 7:00 p.m. as needed. The next regular Board meeting date is November 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary