

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of February 9, 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 Frank Force, Treasurer Sabrina Freeman and Trustee Paul Knoerl. Members absent: Trustee D. Heffron and Clerk J. Fues (excused). Office Manager Mary Kay Groening and Fire Chief Lou Kirbride also attended the meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

F. Force asked that item 5b under department reports, Sierra Consultants, be removed as there is nothing new to offer, and Senior Meals be added as item 5a under new business. P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the amended agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

5. Officers Report (Clerk's Report)

Approval of Minutes

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2009 Special Township Board meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2009 regular Township Board meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

F. Force asked that corrections to the February 4, 2009 Township Board Budget meeting be made. P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the amended minutes. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

There were no budget amendments.

Accounts Payable

There was no accounts payable presented for approval.

6. Consent Agenda

Payroll

Treasurer's Report (all funds)

Correspondence

Draft: 02/10/09

Approved: 02/19/09

P. Knoerl said there is a balance of \$203734.41 in the Sewer Administrative/RRCIF account and asked S. Freeman if the Township will be using about \$100,000 of that for improvements. She said that was correct. P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the consent agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

7. **Working Agenda**
Hearing of Public

Marc Middlestadt, Sierra Consultants, asked when the draft minutes from the February 4, 2009 meeting were made available. F. Force said he should check with J. Fues, Township Clerk.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief L. Kirkbride reported 1 structure fire, 2 personal injuries, 6 medical calls, 10 non fire, 1 mutual aid received and 5 training for a total of 25.

L. Kirkbride said the new pump at the fire barn will be ready for use tomorrow. He said the department has received a quote from Raymer for submersible pumps that could be used around area lakes as a source of water for fire fighting. The Board discussed the costs involved and how the pumps would be funded. T. Manikowski, BPI Lake Association President, asked how much lake residents would have to pay for the pumps. L. Kirkbride said the cost per household should not require a special assessment. P. Knoerl asked if there was money in the Fire Department's budget to cover the purchase. L. Kirkbride said he would like to purchase one pump and do a "demo" first.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

F. Force gave a brief review of the FASC meeting. There was a discussion regarding a HAZMAT ordinance and the use of Knock boxes (making entrance keys available to fire fighters) by local businesses and schools. L. Kirkbride said in the past the Fire Department has been provided those keys in case of an emergency. F. Force said officers were elected at the last FASC meeting.

Zoning Officer Report

There was no report.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

Discussion with Geoffrey List-MDEQ

F. Force gave a brief review of his meeting with Geoffrey List, MDEQ regarding the Grattan/Vergennes upgrade. Mr. List's 2 main concerns were the Discharge Management Plan and the timeline being considered by the Township. Board members discussed the matter. F. Force said the upgrade is definitely a condition of the permit and agreed to provide Mr. List with a timeline as requested.

Sierra Consultants

Draft: 02/10/09

Approved: 02/19/09

This item was removed from the agenda.

Requesting Bids

F. Force said he has requested information from companies who are interested in submitting a bid. He said when Township Clerk J. Fues returns from vacation he will prepare a bid packet. P. Knoerl said if the Township doesn't hear from any of the companies they should just send out the packets.

On Site Generators

F. Force said he received one quote for generators at pump stations. Board members discussed the cost differences between small and large generators and the advantages or disadvantages of generators run by propane, diesel or natural gas. D. Ver Sluis there would not be much difference between those power sources. He said all generators will require some maintenance. He asked why the Board was considering the purchase of more than one generator. F. Force the Board requested that information. D. Ver Sluis said the generator at pump station #3 at BPI is most needed and the purchase of any other generators would be a low priority.

Main Tech

F. Force said Main Tech has worked in the Township in conjunction with Sierra Consultants. He said the Township has a contract until July 1, 2009 with Main Tech. Board members agreed to continue that contract.

D. Ver Sluis asked if the Board was going to discuss Sierra Consultants. F. Force said that item was removed from the agenda. D. Ver Sluis asked if the minutes from the January 19, 2009 Board meeting had been approved. F. Force that had been approved at the beginning of the meeting. D. Ver Sluis asked if those minutes could be changed. P. Knoerl said the minutes have already been approved. P. Knoerl gave D. Ver Sluis a copy of those minutes.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There were no new or other building permits, 2 electrical, 1 plumbing and 1 mechanical for a total of 4 in the month of January.

Old Business

PDR update

There was no report.

Aerial Photograph Invoice

Draft: 02/10/09

Approved: 02/19/09

F. Force reviewed a copy of the March 2004 letter from Daryl J. Delabbio, County Administrator/Controller regarding the costs for local units of government. F. Force recommended payment of that bill. S. Freeman agreed. P. Knoerl asked if money was in this year's budget for this. S. Freeman said there was \$2,080.92 budgeted for that project in this year's budget. Board members agreed to spread the cost of this payment over 2 fiscal years (this year and next year).

Cable TV Committee Member

F. Force said the Township has received an application from Jennifer D. Medema for the Cable Advisory Committee. F. Force moved and P. Knoerl seconded to nominate Jennifer D. Medema for a 3 year term on the Cable Advisory Committee beginning in 2009 and ending in 2011. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

Prein & Newhof Moratorium

F. Force said a moratorium on any new business with Prein and Newhof, unless approved by the Board by motion, was put in place last year. He asked if that approval requires a motion and vote by the Board. P. Knoerl said he believed that moratorium stays in effect for a certain period of time or until the Board lifts the moratorium. F. Force said he will check on the conditions of the moratorium.

8. New Business

Mary Ann Thompson

F. Force said Mary Ann Thompson applied for a building permit for a new house on MAC Drive next to her place of residence many years ago. The new house was issued a sewer permit. No progress has taken place on that construction in some time and a request for a sewer inspection was not received by the Township. The sewer permit has been remained unresolved for many years. Recently the Township sent a letter to Ms. Thompson as well as a sewer bill for sewer charges from October 2004 thru March 2009. The Township received a letter in response from Ms. Thompson in which she agreed to pay for sewer from the date a well was installed at the property (Fall 2008). F. Force asked Board members for their guidance in this matter. T. Manikowski, BPI Lake Association President, said no one is living in the house at this time, but the home owner should pay for sewer from the time the well was installed. P. Knoerl said should agreed to bill charges from the date the well was installed if the owner agrees to pay that bill in full by a certain date.

Todd Bosch

F. Force asked for the Boards opinion on a request by Todd Bosch, whose house recently burned, for a discontinuance of his sewer bill. Board members discussed the matter. P. Knoerl was concern that the Board would be setting a precedent and was not in favor of the allowing that request. S. Freeman said she felt sorry for Mr. Bosch, but agreed the Township would be setting a precedent. F. Force said Township Attorneys also were opposed to allowing this request. Board members discussed the cost of disconnecting and reconnecting a sewer connection. It was agreed to turn down Mr. Bosch's request.

Zoning Enforcement meeting with Kent County

Draft: 02/10/09

Approved: 02/19/09

F. Force gave a brief report on Gregg Converse, Township Zoning Administrator, and Al Darzniek, Township Enforcement Officer's recent meeting with Tim Haagsma and Terry Porritt of the Kent County Road Commission regarding right-of-way usage and encroachment. F. Force said the Township will make the County aware of any usage or encroachment and send letters to property owners asking them to comply. If situations are not resolved, the Township will issue a citation. F. Force said the County will probably not help with any legal matters. P. Knoerl said the Township should begin by enforcing right-of-ways were residents have erected a structure.

Township trash pick up

F. Force moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve trash pickup for the Township on July 18, 2009 from 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

North Kent Transit

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to authorize the 2009/2010 budget to include \$7500 for North Kent Transit Services under account 101.738.600, Senior Programs-GRANT. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

Senior Meals

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to extend the support for the Community Development Block Grant for the Senior Meal Program in the amount of \$7000 for 2009-2010 funding. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried. It was noted that this money is not paid by the Township, but through a block grant.

Closing of Old Belding Road for Memorial Day

S. Freeman asked that the time of the meeting stated on the resolution be corrected to show ~~9:00~~ **7:00** p.m. P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve Resolution Number 09-005 as amended. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

Officer Salaries

Supervisor

S. Freeman asked that the month of the meeting date be corrected to read February. S. Freeman moved and P. Knoerl seconded to adopt Resolution Number 09-009 as amended to approve a salary of 17,500. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

Clerk

S. Freeman asked that the month of the meeting date be corrected to read February. S. Freeman moved and P. Knoerl seconded to adopt Resolution Number 09-007 as amended to approve a salary of \$20,000. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

Treasurer

Draft: 02/10/09
Approved: 02/19/09

P. Knoerl moved and F. Force seconded to adopt Resolution Number 09-008 as presented to approve a salary of \$17,500. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

Trustee

S. Freeman moved and F. Force seconded to adopt Resolution Number 09-011 as presented to approve a salary of \$3500.00 for each Trustee. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

Resolution for Certificate of Occupancy

P. Knoerl made a minor correction to Resolution 09-004. P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to adopt the amended resolution. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

9. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The next Sewer Advisory meeting is February 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. The next budget meeting is February 23, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting is March 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The alternate Board meeting date is March 23, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. The Township Board budget hearing is March 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Kennedy update

F. Force reported that the last appeal was filed after the deadline. Township Attorneys have not responded to that appeal because it was filed late.

10. Adjournment

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

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary