

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Budget Meeting of February 4, 2009

1. Call to Order

Township Supervisor Frank Force called the budget meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

D. Timmons read the roll call. Members present: F. Force, J. Fues, S. Freeman, D. Heffron and P. Knoerl.
Members absent: none.

3. Approval of the Agenda

J. Fues added accounts payable as item A under new business. F. Force asked to move new business to item 4 on the agenda and add public comments under new business. J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the amended agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

4. New Business

Accounts Payable

J. Fues presented accounts payable for approval. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve accounts payable (checks 32458-32491 inclusive) in the amount of \$26,828.09. All ayes. The motion carried.

Sierra Resolution

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Letter of Intent

P. Knoerl read the resolution to terminate the operation and maintenance agreement for wastewater treatment facilities and to authorize notice of termination (Sierra Consultants) out loud. P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the resolution to terminate Sierra Consultants under the terms of Section 6.03 of the Agreement titled Operation and Maintenance Agreement for Wastewater Treatment Facilities with Sierra Consultants, which is titled "Termination Without Cause", and states the Agreement may be terminated by either party "for any reason" by the giving of 90 days written notice to the other party. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried. F. Force will send the termination of services letter to Sierra Consultants. ~~with~~ A copy of the resolution WAS OFFERED TO DAVE VER SLUIS AT THE MEETING.

D. Ver Sluis asked if this decision by the Board had anything to do with the criminal complaint filed by Sierra. F. Force said he has been advised not to comment on that matter. ~~Both~~ D. Heffron ~~and~~, P. Knoerl, J. FUES AND S. FREEMAN said that matter had nothing to do with their decision.

Going out for Bids

P. Knoerl said Sierra Consultants can bid on the contract. Board members discussed the bidding procedure and materials provided to interested applicants. J. Fues said all bids will be sealed. P. Knoerl said the Township will accept bids for 3 weeks. J. Fues said he will contact interested parties prior to mailing the bid packet to see if they are still interested in bidding. J. Fues said each contractor will be asked to provide 2 bids, one for time and materials and another for a fixed monthly rate. There was discussion about what would be covered in the fixed monthly rate. Board members agreed to read the proposal and revise if necessary. There are currently 3 possible bidders, Sierra Consultants, Kent County Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to authorize the Clerk to go out for sealed bids for the Operation and Maintenance agreement for the Grattan Township sewer system. D. Timmons read the roll call. All ayes. The motion carried.

Draft: 02/04/09

Approved: 02/09/09

5. Budget Review

Board members discussed payment for aerial photos of the Township. It was noted that if payment is not made the Township will not have access to maps provided by the County. It was agreed to leave that item in the budget for now and have Township Assessor Matt Frain attend the February 9, 2009 regular meeting to further discuss this matter.

D. Heffron said the County may be asking for funding from Townships for the PDR program. He said the County will probably not be making those requests for another fiscal year. It was agreed to move \$5000 from legal to the PDR funding.

S. Freeman said she would like to increase the percentage of O&M revenue transferred to Repair and Replacement. The percentage rate being currently used is 7%. P. Knoerl agreed.

F. Force said he recently met with ~~Jeff~~ GEOFF List, DEQ, regarding improvements to the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation site. Mr. List said those improvements are a condition of the ~~IMP~~ IRRIGATION PERMIT renewal. F. Force said the Grattan/Vergennes ~~IMP~~ IRRIGATION PERMIT has expired and the Grattan ~~IMP~~ IRRIGATION PERMIT will expire this year. Permit renewals will need to be submitted, probably this spring. Board members discussed funding of the Grattan/Vergennes improvement. There was discussion about the possibility of low interest rate loans or grants being included in the stimulus package.

Board members agreed to schedule another budget meeting on February 23, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary