

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Budget Hearing Regular Meeting of May 11, 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, Trustee D. Heffron and Trustee P. Knoerl. Members absent: none. Township Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride also attended the meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

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

5. Officers Report (Clerk's Report)

Approval of Minutes

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2009 regular Board meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2009 special Board meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

There were no budget amendments.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$128,427.00 (checks 32617-32618, 32620, 32621-32641, 32643-32674, 32675-32678 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

6. 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.

Draft: 5/15/09

Approved: 6/08/09

7. Working Agenda
Hearing of Public

There were no public comments.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief L. Kirkbride reported 1 vehicle, 1 fire, 2 personal injury, 4 medical calls, 2 service calls, 1 fire alarm, 2 non fire, 1 mutual aid, and 5 training for a total of 19 for the month of April. L. Kirkbride gave an update on fire fighter trainees, discussed the proposed fire millage and the possibility of purchasing a dedicated repeater to improve fire fighter communications.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

This was covered in the Fire Department report.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force explained the Township's temporary procedure while the Enforcement Officer, Al Darzniek, is unavailable.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

F. Force reported a SSO on May 7, 2009 at 7581 Ravine Dr. The emergency light at the pump station was not working. It was suggested that all pump station emergency lights be checked. F. Force said Infrastructure will be checking all lights and compile a list of any problems. D. Heffron asked if irrigation has begun. F. Force said he was told the equipment was ready to go in April, but mechanical problems delayed irrigation. Irrigation began May 11, 2009.

F. Force explained irrigation option 2. Board members discussed this proposal and agreed to submit the discharge management permit with option 2 irrigation proposal.

Planning Commission

D. Heffron reported that the Planning Commission approved Tom Skipper's request to sell landscape materials at 10025 Belding Road, scheduled a public hearing to review a request for an addition to a home on a non conforming lot at 12026 MAC Dr., amended the proposed outdoor wood furnace for review by the Township Board, discussed the proposed ambulance substation and Township follow up on special land use conditions and agreed that procedures for sewer disconnections should remain as written in the sewer ordinance.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

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Building Department

There were 6 other building permits and 1 electrical permit in the month of April.

Unfinished Business

PDR update

D. Heffron said the PDR application cycle has ended. He said the County may consider land in Grattan Township for bio solid disposal.

Kennedy Update

F. Force said the Kennedy case has been closed. Board members asked if the Township will be reimbursed by Mr. Kennedy for court costs. F. Force said that appeared unlikely. Board members agreed the site should be reinspected when the Enforcement Officer returns to work.

New Business

Brittany Howorth- GTFD Trainee

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve Brittany Howorth as a fire fighter trainee. Roll call vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Resolution

D. Heffron moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve resolution 09-019 to name the new Township park Seeley Creek Park. Roll call vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Change Order- Prein & Newhof- Fire Department Well

Board members discussed payment of Prein & Newhof's additional costs (\$2,564.64) during installation of the fire department well. D. Heffron requested more information on the matter at the next Board meeting.

Kent Conservation District Work Crews (General Repairs on Treatment Sites, Ditches, Township Hall, etc., Tree and Old Irrigation System Removal at Grattan and G/V Irrigation Sites, Fence Repair at both Treatment Sites, Parking Area at Seeley Park)

F. Force and J. Fues were recently contacted by the County regarding work crews available to townships and municipalities to work on conservation and natural resource enhancement projects free of charge June-September 2009. Stimulus money is funding this project. Board members discussed and agreed to submit an application.

Revenue Sharing Notice

F. Force said he received notice from the State of a proposed reduction in revenue sharing of 4.8%.

MRWA Membership

F. Force provided information on the cost (\$300.00) and benefits of the Township becoming a member of the Michigan Rural Water Association. Board members

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were in favor of the proposal. As the membership cost is under \$500.00, it does not require Board approval.

County Emergency Call Center Dispatch Fees

F. Force informed Board members that the County needs an additional \$2,000,000 in revenue for the emergency call center dispatch fees. The County is considering billing the 21 townships based on their percentage of usage. F. Force said townships will be billed for these charges, but the townships may lobby for other ways to calculate those bills.

Online Taxes and Assessments

S. Freeman said the Township is ready to initiate online access to tax and assessing information thru the BS&A website. The township treasurer's office currently spends a lot of time answering phone requests for this information. Users will be charged a fee to access the information online. She said some title companies and mortgage companies already have accounts with BS&A. She said township residents will still obtain that information free of charge by calling the township. Sewer inquiries will still be handled by calling the township. Board members agreed to proceed with this.

Lawn Mowing and Snow Plowing Pump Stations

Board members discussed going out for bids for lawn mowing and snow plowing at sewer pump stations. In order to have an accurate number of pump stations that need mowing it was agreed to see how many pump stations are currently being mowed by residents. F. Force will check into that and report back to the Board.

Approval of Farmland Preservation Applications

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve Joseph Jakeway's PDR application for parcels 41-12-05-400-003 and 41-12-05-400-002 totaling 75 acres. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve Phillip Heffron's PDR application for parcels 41-12-11-100-024 and 41-12-10-226-003 totaling 57 acres. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve Phillip Heffron's PDR application for parcel 41-12-01-300-019 totaling 11 acres. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve Gerard Poulias' PDR application for parcels 41-12-19-100-025 and 41-12-20-100-023 totaling 100 acres. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve Dennis Malone's PDR application for parcel 41-12-25-200-002 totaling 156.5 acres. All ayes. The motion carried.

Kent County Treasurer- Land Sale

J. Fues said the township has received an option from the county to purchase 4 acres with wetlands on 7 Mile Road. Board members discussed and agreed not to consider the offer.

Employee Handbook Update

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve amendments to the employee handbook. All ayes. The motion carried.

Sewer Administrative Fee

Board members discussed the fee and agreed not to make any changes to the fee.

Kent County Road Commission

Board members reviewed proposed road repairs on 5-Mile Road and Tiffany Avenue. D. Heffron said a lot of the road problems are caused by drain problems. Board members agreed to sign paperwork authorizing the road work with a notation in the remarks asking for a review of the area by the County Drain Commissioner.

8. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The alternative Board meeting date is May 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Sewer Utility Building Maintenance

F. Force said 2 township office workers recently cleaned the sewer utility building. They have offered to continue cleaning the facilities. Board members discussed the matter. F. Force said he will check Infrastructure's report to see how much time they have listed for cleaning the utility building. D. Heffron suggested preparing an inventory of needed repairs. F. Force said all locks will be replaced within the next few days.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary