

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Budget Hearing of March 30, 2009

1. Call to Order

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

2. 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).

3. Approval of the Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2008 Township budget hearing as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2009 as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

**5. Working Agenda
Hearing of Public**

Tom Manikowski asked Board members to carefully consider sewer bids. He said at the recent Sewer Advisory Meeting the Infrastructure representative clearly stated 2900 hours would be required annually to do the job. He was concerned about who would pay if that provider is chosen and goes over those projected hours. He did not want sewer customers to receive another rate increase.

6. Budget Public Hearing

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to open the public hearing. All ayes. The motion carried.

John Brinkert was concerned about the lack of upkeep on Ashley Avenue for many years. He said there is only one spot on Ashley Avenue north of 6 Mile Road that is passable during the spring thaw and other wet periods.

Dave Benson would like to see the Township applying for grant money and provide information/materials to residents so they can educate themselves about issues. He would like to see the Township's many lakes protected.

P. Knoerl said the Township has been very successful with grants for the Fire Department. He explained that lots of grants are based on the median income of the Township. Grattan Township's median income is too high to be considered for some grants. P. Knoerl said State funding to the Township has been reduced over the past years. He also noted that two millage requests for road improvements have failed in the last 8 years.

F. Force read a letter from Dan Durkee regarding the poor condition of 5 mile Road between Lincoln Lake Avenue and Montcalm Avenue. He asked that that Township commit funding annually to improve the roads in the Township. F. Force read the Township's letter in response to Mr. Durkee.

Marc Middlestadt, Sierra Consultants, asked if the Township has ever considered making an audio recording of meetings and putting that file on the website because some things are being left out of the minutes. F. Force said not everything needs to be included in the minutes. P. Knoerl said the Township has considered purchasing video equipment, but there is not enough money in the budget. M. Middlestadt said an audio recorder would cost about \$50.00.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to close the public hearing. All ayes. The motion carried.

7. Budget Discussion

F. Force asked Board members to consider an amendment to the sewer budget to include 150 additional hours for additional duties for the Sewer Billing Clerk. Board members discussed the matter and agreed to take those costs from contracted services in the proposed budget.

P. Knoerl said the Township has projected the amount of money the Township will receive in State revenue at \$166,590. He said if the revenue payment is higher the Township may have additional funds available for road improvements.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the general fund budget as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the Fire Department operations budget as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the Fire Department equipment budget as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the Sewer Enterprise budget as amended. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

Draft: 03/31/09

Approved: 04/13/09

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the Repair Replace Capital Improvement Fund budget as printed. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the Big Pine Island Weed SAD as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

S. Freeman moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the Big Crooked Lake Weed SAD as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the Cowan Lake Weed SAD as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the Round Lake Weed SAD as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

8. Resolutions

J. Fues read the proposed resolution 09-006 designating a banking facility for the 2009/10 fiscal year. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the resolution as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues read the proposed resolution 09-010 adopting Roberts Rules of order for conducting township meetings fiscal year 2009/2010. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the resolution as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues briefly explained the proposed resolution 09-014 adopting General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2009/2010. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the resolution as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

9. Sewer Contractor Bid Discussion

F. Force asked Board members to postpone a decision on the sewer contractor until a later date so Board members have time to check references. Board members agreed.

P. Knoerl said J. Fues applied the number of hours Sierra Consultants worked on routine sewer operation and maintenance last year to the 4 sewer contract bid proposals. Those calculations show annual operation and maintenance costs for the 4 sewer bidders as follows:

B & B	\$ 99,287.50
Infrastructure	\$105,880.00

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Ryans	\$155,550.00
Sierra Consultants	\$118,157.50

Tom Manikowski said when Infrastructure was asked if there was any “wiggle room” in their proposal they were not even close to giving plus or minus 10 percent. He asked Board members to establish that Infrastructure can do the job for the proposed amount. T. Manikowski agreed that Infrastructure and Sierra Consultants are the two contractors the Township should consider.

10. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The next regular Board meeting date is April 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary