

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of April 13, 2009

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

F. Force led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

M. Burt read the roll call. Members present: Supervisor F. Force, Treasurer S. Freeman, Clerk J. Fues, Trustee P. Knoerl and Trustee D. Heffron.

Approval of the Agenda

Assessor's contract and Lawn care bids added to the agenda.
S. Freeman moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the agenda as amended.
All Ayes. Motion Carried

Officers Report (Clerk's Report)

Approval of Minutes

P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the March 9, 2009 regular Township Board minutes as presented. All Ayes Motion Carried.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the March 30, 2009 Budget Hearing minutes as presented. All Ayes Motion Carried.

D. Heffron moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the April 9, 2009 special Meeting minutes as presented. All Ayes Motion Carried

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$15,975.37, (checks 32606-32616 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Payroll

Treasurer's Report (all funds)

Correspondence

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

Draft: 04/19/09

Approved: 05/11/09

Working Agenda

Hearing of Public

Several residents ask questions regarding sewer issues.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride reported 2 brush fire, 1 structure fires, 1 personal injury accident, 5 medical calls, 3 non fire, 1 mutual aid and 4 training for a total of 20 for the month of March. Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride gave an update on the ISO Evaluation and smoke detector installations.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

Supervisor F. Force gave an update on the meeting held on March 25, 2009

Zoning Officer Report

No Report

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

Supervisor F. Force gave a brief update. He also noted that he contacted the Michigan Rural Water Association and if a membership is paid, they could provide services free of charge that the township currently pays for. A \$300 membership fee was not approved by the board.

Planning Commission

See Minutes dated April 1, 2009

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There was one building and one electrical permit for the month of April 2009.

Old Business

PDR update

D. Heffron stated that applications are being taken and three farms in Vergennes Township applying for matching funds

Prein & Newhof Moratorium

Board agreed that the moratorium regarding Prein & Newhof no longer exists. J. Fues recommended that the township explore other engineering firm services and pricing.

Fire Millage

Draft: 04/19/09

Approved: 05/11/09

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to put the fire millage on the November ballot for a term of three years. All Ayes Motion Carried.

Resolution Eliminating Contractor Registration Fee

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to adopt Resolution 09-002 (an update to Resolution 06-015) eliminating registration fee for general contractors operating in Grattan Township. This is exclusive of contractors working on sewer systems.. Roll Call All Ayes

New Business

Sewer Contractor Discussion

Supervisor F. Force gave a presentation on the cost of the sewer system for 2005 to 2009 fiscal years. Sewer costs, sewer contracts, sewer budgets and other topics regarding sewer operation and maintenance were discussed in detail.

Tom Manikowski is a resident from Big Pine Island Lake and a member of the sewer advisory committee. Tom made a personal request to the board to maintain Sierra's contract for one more year. He supported that comment by saying positive things about Sierra's service over the past year and that he did not think it was a good idea to change contractors at this point. He asks the board to make their decision on the behalf of the residents and lake associations and not numbers.

Trustee D. Heffron requested to the chairperson to take a three-minute break at 8:53 pm Meeting reconvened at 8:56 pm.

J. Fues requested that board discuss cost of bids so that they stay within the budget. He noted that the estimate for Infrastructure Alternatives was higher than budgeted amount. Supervisor F. Force commented that he had conversation with Infrastructure Alternatives and they will be able to work with Grattan Township to stay within the budgeted amount, but with no guarantees. That will be determined in the first 60 to 90 days when they evaluate the system. J. Fues asked if \$168,000.00 was the correct amount. Supervisor F. Force said that is the correct amount, F. Force also noted that it will be determined if they can do that in 90 days. J. Fues ask if not, then what. Supervisor F. Force said we would address it then.

P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to award the sewer O & M contract, on a six Month trial basis, effective May 7, 2009 to Infrastructure Alternatives of Rockford, Michigan,. This would be based upon the terms of the "Operations and Maintenance Agreement for Wastewater Treatment Facilities" draft contract #2, dated 2/26/09, and with the stipulation, that the following sewer O&M total budgeted, line item, costs for the 2009/2010 fiscal year are not exceeded.

590.536.805 Sewer O&M DEQ Required Lab Testing	\$15,510.00
590.536.934 O&M Secondary Contractor	\$24,000.00

Draft: 04/19/09
Approved: 05/11/09

590.536.935 O&M Primary Contractor		<u>\$144,000.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$183.510.00

Roll Call Vote All Ayes Motion Carried.

Supervisor F. Force informed the board that after the six-month trial period, Infrastructure Alternatives and the Sewer Advisory Committee recommended a two-year contract. (Note: the first six months will be part of the two-year contract)

Multiple Application Fees

Board members agreed in keeping the procedures the same on the application fee's regarding the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Sewer Ordinance Amendment Regarding Unlivable Structures

The sewer advisory board recommended that the ordinance be amended regarding hardships such as an unlivable structure due to a fire. They recommended they not be charged for sewer. Board agreed to have the Planning Commission consider amending the current language to address these special situations, and make a recommendation to the township board.

Murray Lake School Expansion

Murray Lake School is putting on a school expansion and Supervisor F. Force asks board members if it would be necessary to charge them for a sewer hook up fee. Board agreed not to charge for hook up fee. Billing adjustment will be made to include two additional Reu's (residential equivalent unit)

Sale of Township Property to Rockford Ambulance

Further information will be collected before any decisions will be made.

Discuss Grattan Township Group Annuity Plan/Employee Personnel Manual

Board agreed to make changes to the Employee Personnel Manual and have a resolution to support those changes at the next meeting.

Resolution Authorizing EMS Medical Licensees

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to adopt resolution 09-018 Authorizing EMS Medical Licensees to be employed by the Grattan Fire department. Roll Call All Ayes

Resolution Authorizing Township Signatures for Special Events

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to adopt Resolution 09-017 authorizing the township supervisor, clerk or treasurers signature for applications for special events. Roll Call All Ayes

Resolution Authorizing Payments Prior to Board Approval

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to adopt Resolution 09-016 Authorizing payments prior to board approval. Roll Call All Ayes

Draft: 04/19/09
Approved: 05/11/09

Resolution Updating Township Fees

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to adopt Resolution 09-003 Updating certain Township fees and charges (re: resolution 08-025) Roll Call All Ayes

Renewal of Assessors Contract

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve Supervisor F. Force to enter the contract for the assessor as presented with Matt Frain for the next fiscal year 2009/2010. All Ayes Motion Carried

Lawn Care Bids

P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to award the spring clean-up, to the township hall, museum, and fire station and the lawn mowing for the township hall, cemetery, museum and fire station to C&R Lawn Service for 2009. All Ayes Motion Carried

J. Fues moved P. Knoerl supported to award Lakeview Lawn Care to do the mulch (if the decision is made that it needs to be done) All Ayes Motion Carried

Board Member Communications

Appreciation Dinner April 17, 2009
KCRC Lunch May 26, 2009
Kent County Farm Bureau Pig Roast- August 24, 2009 (RSVP by Aug.14, 2009)

Meeting Dates

April 27, 2009 Alternate Board Meeting
May 11, 2009 Next Regular Township Board Meeting 7:00 PM

Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Monica Burt
Recording Secretary