

**GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting of November 2, 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 and Trustee D. Heffron. Members absent: Trustee P. Knoerl (excused).

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

D. Heffron moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the agenda as printed. All ayes. The motion carried.

**5. Officers Report (Clerk's Report)**

**Approval of Minutes**

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2009 regular meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2009 special meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

**Budget Amendments**

S. Freeman explained proposed budget amendments and Board members reviewed. J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the budget amendments as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

**Accounts Payable**

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$63,133.19 (checks 32946-32982 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

**6. Consent Agenda**

**Payroll**

**Treasurer's Report (all funds)**

**Correspondence**

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

**7. Working Agenda**  
**Hearing of Public**

There were no public comments.

**Department Reports**

Fire Department

F. Force read the October Fire Department report out loud. There were 3 brush fires, 1 structure fire, 6 medical calls, 1 false alarm, 1 non fire, 1 mutual aid, and 3 training for a total of 16 in the month of October.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

F. Force gave a brief report on the last Fire Administration and Safety Committee meeting. The committee discussed ISO wells, pump stations and alternative water supplies, the fire millage renewal, the radio and dispatch update, the FEMA grant and guidelines for firefighters and promotions for officers.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force said junk vehicles and scrap metal have been removed from the Harris property on Lessiter Avenue. All junk must be removed by the end of the year.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

F. Force advised Board members of a power outage at Murray Lake 11-01-09 when a tree fell on a power line. Infrastructure Alternatives (IA) was onsite most of that day with generators to run the pump stations.

John Rydbeck, Infrastructure Alternatives (IA), reviewed activity for pump stations that over the past 6 months have been problematic. He said the driveway to BPI #3 is in poor shape. He recommended improving that driveway and the installation of a generator receptacle at the top of the driveway to use during power outages. He also said there have been many high level alarms at ML #11. IA has been trying to locate the source of high flows to this pump station. J. Rydbeck said there does not appear to be a correlation between high water levels and rainfall. F. Force agreed to send a letter to all home owners using this pump station asking them to evaluate their discharge usage. J. Rydbeck advised Board members that both pumps at Ratigan Lake PS #15 are running below designed levels. IA is looking for the most cost effective way to repair the pumps. J. Rydbeck said one 12" and one 8" gate valve at the Grattan site need replacing. There are some 8" valves and one 12" valve in inventory, but if used, that inventory should be replaced. He said ideally the valves should be replaced in the fall. F. Force asked if IA will be able to reduce the lagoon levels anymore in November. J. Rydbeck said IA's goal is to maintain the October 31<sup>st</sup> levels.

Draft: 11/08/09

Approved: 12/14/09

### Planning Commission

F. Force gave a brief review of the October Planning Commission. He said the Commission denied a request from Jim and Charlene Mac Donald to expand a nonconforming structure, discussed the possibility of rebuilding the house at the Scalley Lake campground with a prospective buyer and rezoning a parcel owned by Dave Powers.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

F. Force said the ZBA approved 2 requests for variances (Kuiper and Willis). There was discussion about requiring property owners to provide certification that all conditions are met.

### Building Department

There was 1 other building permit, 5 electrical permits, 1 plumbing permit and 9 mechanical permits for a total of 16 for the month of October.

### Unfinished Business

#### Old School House

F. Force said he sent a letter to Tom Bryne, owner of the school house property, offering to have the Fire Department burn that building after which Mr. Bryne would remove the debris. Mr. Bryne responded and agreed to that offer with stipulations that debris would be buried on site and the property taxes would be reduced to the value of undevelopable property.

F. Force noted that on November 1, 2009 the building collapsed. He said a DEQ permit to check for toxic materials is required. The cost of that permit is \$300 - \$400. Board members discussed Mr. Bryne's proposal. F. Force said reducing the property taxes would be no problem, but all electrical, sewer and gas lines converge at that property. He also said an iron boiler or fuel tank is at the site. D. Heffron said it would be the contractor's responsibility to avoid utility lines. Board members agreed that Mr. Byrne must pay for the DEQ permit and properly remove the boiler/fuel tank. An escrow will be required for this.

F. Force will notify Mr. Bryne of the buildings collapse and the Board's decision.

#### Technical Writer

F. Force said after consideration it was suggested to have Diane Timmons take on the additional responsibilities of technical writer. He noted that she is the transcriber for the ZBA, Planning Commission and Township Board and knowledgeable of matters that will require resolutions and meeting notices. Board members discussed the matter and agreed to have D. Timmons take on the duties of technical writer. F. Force will write a letter to any applicants for this position informing them that the position has been filled.

#### PDR Update

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Approved: 12/14/09

D. Heffron gave a brief update on the PDR program. He said county funding for the program may be voted on in the next month. He said the rules for federal funding are changing and many counties are applying for state funds, not federal funds.

### New Business

#### Snow Plowing Bids

J. Fues said snow plowing bids were opened at a special meeting held October 29, 2009. He provided a spreadsheet evaluating the bids from 3 companies. Board members discussed the bids.

D. Heffron moved and S. Freeman seconded to hire Blue Grass to plow the Township hall and museum and C & R to plow the fire department. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues said he will work on obtaining bids for plowing the sewer stations. He noted that Infrastructure will need to plow some stations for timely access.

#### Rebuild Sewer Pump

Board members discussed which project to approve for the month of November. They agreed to proceed with road improvement and installation of a generator receptacle at BPI PS # 3 and replacement of the 12" and 8" valve at Grattan site. J. Rydbeck recommended that the Township hire Grand Tech to provide specifications for wiring the generator receptacle and then going out for bids on that work. F. Force will contact Grand Tech for the cost of these specification and then get bids. J. Fues recommended using a local excavator for road improvements at BPI PS #3. He said it would be wiser to do these repairs now and do no repairs in January and February. F. Force and J. Fues will send out bid requests for this work. F. Force will see if the Township can trade 8" valves for a 12" valve.

#### Meeting with Infrastructure Alternatives

At the October 28, 2009 meeting Kent Treiweiler, IA, reported that sludge levels at the Grattan/Vergennes site have filled the sludge cavity and are moving up the sides of the lagoon. The estimated cost of removing the sludge is \$100,000. K. Treiweiler said the Township can remove a portion of the sludge if there is not enough money to do a complete sludge removal.

K. Treiweiler said the truck IA uses for spot snowplowing is wearing out and will need to be replaced. They discussed having the Township purchase a truck or IA supplying a 2 year old truck from another site. F. Force gave IA permission to use a 2 year old truck from another site at an undetermined cost.

#### Parks and Recreation- Seeley Creek Park

Diana Force, Parks and Recreation member, explained the timeline for application for a DNR grant for the Seeley Creek Park project. She said the Parks and

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Recreation Committee will have a draft copy of the proposed Parks and Recreation 5-year plan available for public review at the Township offices from November 2 thru December 2. A public meeting is scheduled at the December 3, 2009 Parks and Recreation meeting. A resolution will be presented at the December 14, 2009 Township Board to adopt the final plan and, if approved, a grant application will be submitted to the DNR January 1, 2010. She said a special land use permit is required to designate the property as a park and asked Board members to waive Planning Commission application and escrow fees and meeting notice costs. It was agreed the Parks and Recreation Committee will wait until a regular Planning Commission is scheduled to be on their agenda.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to waive all fees and escrows required for the Parks and Recreation Committee's application to the Planning Commission for a special land use permit for Seeley Creek Park. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

D. Heffron suggested noticing this matter on the Township's cable television channel and website. He also thanked members of the Parks and Recreation Committee for all their hard work.

**8. Board Member Communications**

Meeting Dates

The second Board meeting date (open engineering bids) is November 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is December 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Fues, Township Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Diane Timmons  
Recording Secretary