

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Budget Meeting of February 24, 2010

1. Call to Order

Township Supervisor Frank Force called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

D. Timmons read the roll call. Members present: Supervisor F. Force, Treasurer Sabrina Freeman, and Trustee P. Knoerl. Members absent: J. Fues (excused) and D. Heffron.

3. Approval of the Agenda

S. Freeman moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the agenda as written. All ayes. The motion carried.

4. New Business
Budget Issues

F. Force said he received an inquiry from Cannon Township about sharing the cost of laying limestone on Tiffany Avenue south of M44. Grattan would pay for the first .5 mile of that project at a cost of \$7000.00. He said repairs at the intersection of 7-Mile and Montcalm Avenue have also been suggested by the county road commission. Board members discussed and agreed to increase the proposed budget for road maintenance to include these 2 projects.

(D. Heffron arrived at 9:45 a.m.)

D. Heffron said the Mosely drain is slated for cleaning by the county this year. He said if other drains in the Township will be cleaned, waiting for road maintenance near those drains would be wise. He said roads in the area of Lincoln Lake Road and 5-Mile should only be considered after the drain is cleaned. D. Heffron asked if ditches will be created when limestone is laid on Tiffany Avenue. F. Force was not sure, but will ask. D. Heffron said he would like to go with F. Force and Jerry Byrne, Kent County Road Commission, when they check conditions of roads in the Township.

J. Fues, who was unable to attend the meeting, asked S. Freeman to inform the Board of an inquiry he received about paying office staff 4 hours for holidays. Board members discussed the matter. There was no support for this request.

Board members discussed the impending charge for a new 911 system in the county. P. Knoerl said he will again suggest charging non residents for Grattan

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Fire Department responses to accidents involving non-residents at the next FASC meeting.

P. Knoerl said the Sewer Advisory Committee has recommended adding a separate \$25 charge (reviewed annually) to quarterly sewer bills to fund sewer capital improvements and also a separate special assessment for the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation upgrade and collection system improvements recommended by Infrastructure Alternatives. He said the Sewer Advisory Committee also recommended not doing anything about sludge removal from lagoons at this time. Board members discussed the importance of containing sludge in one pond. D. Heffron said he was opposed to ignoring the sludge in ponds. He said he will check into other sludge removal techniques and report back to the Board. He would like to visit the sewer sites with F. Force and Infrastructure Alternatives. P. Knoerl asked if the Township has received an estimate for sludge removal. F. Force said the sludge must be sampled and tested before an estimate can be given for removal.

Board members discussed a special assessment for the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation upgrade and system improvements. They agreed all estimates must be received before making any decisions. F. Force said those estimates should be completed soon. He said Sewer Advisory member Terry Conley suggested adding a contingency for adding additional money later to the loan request. P. Knoerl said the Board should review all IA suggested repairs and prioritize completion of those repairs.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary