

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of March 8, 2010

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 S. Freeman, Clerk J. Fues, and Trustee P. Knoerl. Members absent: Trustee D. Heffron (excused).

4. Approval of the Agenda

F. Force added a sewer field trip as item 6 under meeting dates. J. Fues added St. Patrick's request as item 9 and legal bills as item 10 under new business. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the amended agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

5. Officers Report (Clerk's Report)

Approval of Minutes

S. Freeman noted a minor correction to the February 8, 2010 minutes. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the amended minutes. All ayes. The motion carried.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the February 24, 2010 minutes as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve budget amendments to balance line items as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$138,383.34 (checks 33174-33225 with the exclusion of voided check 33205). All ayes. The motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda

Payroll

Treasurer's Report (all funds)

Correspondence

Draft: 03/11/10

Approved: 04/12/10

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman 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 February Fire Department Call report. There was 1 personal injury without extraction, 15 medical calls, 1 false alarm, 1 non fire and 4 trainings for a total of 22 for the month of February.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

P. Knoerl reported the FASC is in the process of updating job descriptions for the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief and firefighters. He asked the FASC to consider charging non residents for response to accidents in the township. The FASC again recommended not charging non residents for the Fire Departments response to an accident.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force said the Zoning officer continues to work with a resident to clean up junk on their property. The township will proceed with legal action to have the old school on Murray Lake Avenue removed when the deadline for the property owner to take action expires.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

F. Force said at the request of the Sewer Advisory Committee and Township Board members there will be a sewer tour April 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. A resolution to add a \$25.00 capital improvement fee to quarterly sewer bills will be reviewed at the 9:30 a.m. March 17, 2010 Township Budget meeting. S. Freeman and F. Force spoke with representatives from Chemical Bank regarding loan options for the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation upgrade, capital improvements to the Grattan and Grattan/Vergennes systems and sludge removal from both systems. They recommended applying for a \$1.5 million dollar loan while interest rates are low. F. Force said Synagro will do a free sludge judge to see how much sludge needs to be removed. A sampling of the sludge in both ponds would be tested to see if sludge can be land applied or will need to be sent to a different location. The cost of this sampling/lab testing is \$425.00 per pond. Infrastructure Alternatives will also be sampling the sludge. S. Freeman said testing would need to be done again if sludge is not removed at this time. P. Knoerl said the cost of

Draft: 03/11/10

Approved: 04/12/10

sludge removal needs to be established for planning purposes. He recommended adding the cost of testing to next year's budget and suggested getting bids on sludge removal.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to add \$850.00 to next fiscal budget. All ayes. The motion carried.

John Rydbeck, Infrastructure Alternatives, reviewed the February 2010 sewer report. F. Force said lagoon levels look good. F. Force asked if the Consumers Energy grant for VFD's would be applicable for the sewer system. Steve Williams, Williams & Works, said VFD's would not make a substantial difference in energy costs.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There were 3 mechanical permits and 1 electrical permit issued for a total of 4 in the month of February.

Unfinished Business

PDR Update

There was no report.

Budget Issues

There were none.

Irrigation Pump Repair at Grattan/Vergennes

F. Force asked the Board to authorize repairs to an irrigation pump at the Grattan/Vergennes site at a cost of \$3600. He said there currently is only one working pump at that site and it would be wise to have a backup pump. Board members discussed available funds. F. Fues said money from the capital improvement fund could be used. J. Fues said the Board needs to be careful how money from a special assessment is used as the assessments are set up for certain projects.

F. Force moved and J. Fues seconded to approve repair of an irrigation pump at the Grattan/Vergennes site not to exceed \$3600. All ayes. The motion carried.

New Business

Williams & Works, Grattan/Vergennes Irrigation Upgrade

Steve Williams, Williams & Works, provided Board members with copies of Williams & Works March 8, 2010 assessment and irrigation alternatives for the

Draft: 03/11/10

Approved: 04/12/10

Grattan/Vergennes treatment site. The irrigation system at that site is no longer functioning properly and the MDNRE has required the township to repair or replace the system by April 2011. Four irrigation systems, drip irrigation, solid set irrigation, center pivot irrigation and big gun irrigation were considered in the proposal.

Board members discussed the pros and cons of each proposed irrigation system and agreed to continue discussion of this matter at the March 17, 2010 budget meeting. Steve Williams asked Board members to let him know if they have any questions about the proposals prior to the April 12, 2010 regular Board meeting.

Insurance Issues

Board members reviewed quotes for insurance coverage from Pinnacle Insurance Partners (\$11,335.00) and Burnham and Flowers (\$11,953.00).

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to renew the township's insurance policy with Pinnacle Insurance Partners beginning April 1, 2010. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

Ordinance Amendment, Non-Conforming Lots

F. Force explained proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance regarding nonconforming structures and lots. Board members did not have a copy of the proposed resolution. J. Fues said he would like the Fire Department to review the proposed amendments. This matter was tabled until all Board members can review wording of the proposed amendments.

Assessor's Contract

F. Force said the township's contract with Assessor Matt Frain will expire March 31, 2010. J. Fues said section D of the existing contract should be amended. It was agreed to table this matter until those changes are added to the new contract. F. Force asked Board members if they would like to consider adding an evergreen clause so that the contract is self renewing. P. Knoerl said the Board can approve the contract each year.

FASC & By-laws

F. Force said the township has no record of the original resolution to establish the FASC being passed. F. Force moved and P. Knoerl seconded that the Grattan Township Board hereby ratifies, by consent and conduct, the Fire Administration and Safety Committee and its By-Laws as established in 2001 and hereby amends the associated by laws per Resolution 10-012. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve resolution 10-012 as presented. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

Fee Schedule

Draft: 03/11/10

Approved: 04/12/10

J. Fues said the only updated fee is the cost of a dog license. This increase is set by the County. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve resolution 10-011 to establish township fees for the next fiscal year. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

U. S. Census

a. Use of Senior Room

F. Force said he received a request from the Census Bureau to use the township community room from April 26 to April 30 for training of approximately 20 workers. The Census Bureau agreed to work around the Senior Meals schedule. F. Force said the township would not be paid for this use. Board members agreed to allow the Census Bureau use of the community room.

b. Promotion

F. Force said the Census Bureau asked the township to promote the upcoming census. Board members agreed to notice the census on the township's web page.

Township Board Meeting Calendar 2010/2011

Board members reviewed proposed dates for all regular Board meeting dates on the second Monday of each month for the next fiscal year beginning April 2010. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the meeting dates as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

St. Patrick's Request

J. Fues informed Board members he signed paperwork from St. Patrick's church, per the Board's authorization, acknowledging the churches application to the State for a temporary liquor license.

Legal Bills

J. Fues requested reimbursement in the amount of \$2,683.35 for attorney fees he incurred as the result of allegations regarding failure to notice a meeting. He said the allegations have been resolved by the prosecutor and no violation occurred. It was noted that township officers are protected against law suits and can be reimbursed for their expenses.

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve reimbursement to J. Fues in the amount of \$2,683.35. Ayes: S. Freeman, P. Knoerl and F. Force. Nays: none. Abstain: J. Fues. The motion carried by a vote of 3-0-1.

8. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The next budget meeting is March 17, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. The budget approval public hearing is March 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is April 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The alternative Board meeting date is April

Draft: 03/11/10

Approved: 04/12/10

26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The next Sewer Advisory Committee/sewer field trip meeting is April 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary