

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Special Meeting of March 22, 2010

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Members present: Supervisor F. Force, Treasurer Sabrina Freeman, Clerk J. Fues, D. Heffron and Trustee P. Knoerl. Members absent: none.

3. Approval of the Agenda

J. Fues added partial pension plan surrender resolution as item 5 F on the agenda. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the amended agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

4. Public Comments

Dale Oberlin said he was disappointed that he was the only audience member. He said he read Brad Reimer's letter. He said he also appreciates the Board's efforts.

5. New Business

a. Budget Issues

S. Freeman asked the Board to consider adding the purchase of BSA assessment software at a cost of \$2000.00. She said the software would reduce time spent manually tracking special assessment payments. If those assessments are added to tax bills the assessment information can be imported from the special assessment program to the tax program. History of the 2003 sewer special assessment could also be entered into that program.

Board members discussed and were in favor of purchasing the BSA special assessment program. It was agreed the cost of this purchase should come out of the sewer enterprise fund for new equipment/software and be covered by the overage in the 2010/2011 proposed budget.

D. Heffron asked for an explanation of the fund balance carry forward in the Repair Replace Capital Improvement Fund. J. Fues said a line item was added for the \$25.00 capital improvement sewer customer charge and the fund balance carry forward was added to separate money received from the special assessment in order to track how the money is spent.

D. Heffron moved and J. Fues seconded to open the budget public hearing. All ayes. The motion carried.

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F. Force read a letter from Dan Durkee regarding the condition on 5-Mile Road out loud. D. Heffron said he accompanied F. Force on a tour of township roads last week with Jerry Byrne, Kent County Road Commission. D. Heffron suggested holding public meetings with residents who live within drain districts in the township to explain the procedure those residents must initiate in order to have the drains cleaned. He said repairs to roads in districts that have had drains cleaned should be looked at first by the township for road repairs. Board members discussed this matter and F. Force agreed to write a letter to Dan Durkee regarding a public meeting.

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

b. Approval of 2010/2011 Budget

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the Township's general fund budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year in the amount of \$444,965.00. Roll call vote: Ayes: D. Heffron, S. Freeman, F. Force, P. Knoerl and J. Fues. Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the Fire Department Operations budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year in the amount of \$153,000.00. Roll call vote: Ayes: D. Heffron, S. Freeman, F. Force, P. Knoerl and J. Fues. Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the Fire Department equipment budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year in the amount of \$129,071.00. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, F. Force, P. Knoerl, D. Heffron and J. Fues. Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the Sewer Enterprise Fund budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year in the amount of \$289,750.00. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, F. Force, P. Knoerl, D. Heffron and J. Fues. Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the Repair Replace Capital Improvement Fund budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year in the amount of \$917,832.00. Roll call vote: Ayes: J. Fues, P. Knoerl, D. Heffron, F. Force and S. Freeman. Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the Big Pine Island Weed SAD budget for the fiscal year 2010/2011 in the amount of \$31,480.00. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, D. Heffron, J. Fues, F. Force and P. Knoerl. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

P. Knoerl moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the Big Crooked Lake Weed SAD budget for the fiscal year 2010/2011 in the amount of \$26,000.00.

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Roll call vote: Ayes: F. Force, D. Heffron, S. Freeman, P. Knoerl and J. Fues.
Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the Cowan Lake Weed SAD for the fiscal year 2010/2011 in the amount of \$18,170.00. Roll call vote: Ayes: P. Knoerl, S. Freeman, D. Heffron, F. Force and J. Fues. Nays: none. The motion carried by at vote of 5-0.

P. Knoerl moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the Round Lake Weed SAD for the fiscal year 2010/2011 in the amount of \$11,700.00. Roll call vote: Ayes: J. Fues, S. Freeman, F. Force, D. Heffron and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

- c. Approval for Grant Submittal to MDNRE for Seeley Creek Park Extension
F. Force moved and D. Heffron seconded that Grattan Township approve the submittal of a land grant application for the purchase of approximately 24.5 acres of land adjacent to the Seeley Creek Park. Roll call vote: Ayes: F. Force, S. Freeman, D. Heffron, J. Fues and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.
- d. Sewer Advisory Committee
J. Fues suggested giving Sewer Advisory Committee members the authority to help make decisions regarding which sewer projects are completed and how they are done. Board members discussed and agreed this was a good idea. P. Knoerl was in favor of the idea. He said it gives the SAC more control of how money is spent. The Township Board would still have to approve SAC decisions. It was suggested that the SAC appoint someone other than F. Force as Chairman. D. Heffron said he was in favor of the idea but would like F. Force to remain as a Board representative on the SAC as an advisor. F. Force will discuss this matter with members of the SAC. It was noted that the SAC does not have bylaws. P. Knoerl will provide draft bylaws to consider.
- e. Adoption of General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010/2011
J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve resolution 10-008 to adopt General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010/2011 with a correction of the date in section 5. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, D. Heffron, J. Fues, F. Force and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.
- f. Resolution- Partial Pension Plan Surrender
J. Fues read the partial pension plan surrender resolution out loud. J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to adopt the partial pension plan surrender resolution for Gloria Burns. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, P. Knoerl, F. Force, J. Fues and D. Heffron. Nays: none. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

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Approved: 04/12/10

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary