

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of September 13, 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 Sabrina Freeman, Clerk J. Fues, and Trustee D. Heffron. Members absent: Trustee P. Knoerl (excused). Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride also attended the meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

F. Force added under new business 300' notices as item 6, Holst review as item 7, and ZBA meeting as item 8. He also added a ZBA meeting on September 30, 2010 under meeting dates.

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

5. Officers Report (Clerk's Report)

Approval of Minutes

Board members reviewed the minutes of the August 9, 2010 regular meeting. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2010 regular meeting as printed. All ayes. The motion carried.

Board members reviewed the minutes of the August 23, 2010 special meeting. S. Freeman noted a correction under sewer finances. J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the amended minutes of the August 23, 2010 special meeting. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

There were no budget amendments.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$60,307.90 (checks 35007-35068 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda

Payroll

Treasurer's Report (all funds)

Correspondence

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

7. Working Agenda

Hearing of Public

Bill Clark, local DNR Supervisor, gave an update on the repaving project at the Big Pine Island lake access site.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride said there was 1 brush fire, 2 personal injury accidents without extraction, 14 medical calls, 1 false alarm, 2 illegal burns and 2 trainings for a total of 22 in the month of August.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

F. Force briefly reviewed the minutes of the August 25, 2010 FASC meeting. L. Kirkbride explained training sessions taking place at the Mel Trotter Camp.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force reviewed the Zoning Officer's report on pending violations.

Safety Board of Appeals

The Safety Board of Appeals met September 9, 2010 to discuss an amendment to the dock ordinance. That matter will be discussed further at their next meeting.

Sewer Report

John Rydbeck reviewed Infrastructure Alternatives August 2010 monthly operations report. There was discussion about the recommendation for replacement of BCL PS 17. John Rydbeck said although the cost is more he recommended the purchase of an ABS pump for this station.

There was a discussion about sludge levels in the lagoons. D. Heffron said sludge levels should be watched carefully in order to avoid sludge moving into the next lagoon. F. Force said sludge levels will be checked again next year.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

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Building Department

There was 1 new building permit, 4 other building permits, 5 electrical permits, 1 plumbing permit and 5 mechanical permits in the month of August for a total of 16 permits.

Unfinished Business

Kent District Library

Kent District Library (KDL) representative Eric De Haan gave a brief review of the 2009 annual report. Kristin Meyer, Englehardt Branch manager, discussed programs available at that branch. Fran Gilcrest spoke of the value of libraries to community members.

D. Heffron asked if services were available to Spanish speaking residents. Eric De Haan said KDL recently hired a bilingual specialist. He also said there are books on tape in Spanish.

PDR Update

D. Heffron said 5 farms were selected in the first round and with additional stimulus money available in Kent County 4 more farms were added. Funding from the Fry Foundation will continue if Kent County matches those funds. Additional Federal money may be available in February and May 2011.

Budget Issues

J. Fues said all budgets except sewer are in good shape. S. Freeman agreed.

Hydrogeological Study (Chad's Letter)

Board members discussed Prein and Newhof's proposal to appeal the MDNRE's required hydrogeological study. S. Freeman asked if the study was required for the old orchard. F. Force said the study was required for the whole site. D. Heffron said the old orchard should be used for irrigation at the site.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to authorize Prein and Newhof to write a supportive letter to the MDNRE that no hydrogeological study at the Grattan site be required. Roll call vote: Ayes: F. Force, S. Freeman, J. Fues and D. Heffron. Nays: none. The motion carried 4-0.

Outstanding Sewer Purchase Orders

Board members reviewed sewer purchase orders and commitments. J. Fues said if all purchase orders and commitments are paid there will be \$31,500.00 remaining for the rest of the fiscal year. Board members discussed each line item and agreed that some items could wait until next year.

F. Force moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the purchase of a hydromatic pump, Meyers grind head, tree removal and the replacement of BCL PS 17 at a

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cost not to exceed \$4116.10. Roll call vote: Ayes: D. Heffron, J. Fues. S. Freeman and F. Force. Nays: none. The motion carried 4-0.

New Business

Fire Chief Job Description

Board members reviewed the proposed Fire Chief's job description. F. Force said the description was well done. J. Fues noted that because the Fire Chief reports to the Supervisor, F. Force would approve the job description. F. Force will review the document for spelling and punctuation.

Maintenance Agreement- Vergennes Township

F. Force explained a request to include Grattan Township in a proposed maintenance agreement for Alameda Avenue a "paper road" in Vergennes Township. Grattan Township has an easement and uses the "paper road" to access a sewer pump station. Board members discussed the request. F. Force moved to approve including Grattan Township's name on the maintenance agreement for Alameda Avenue in Vergennes Township to assist in maintenance of the road. There was no support. The motion died for lack of support

Sewer Ordinance Amendment

F. Force said at the August 23, 2010 special meeting Board members agreed to create a separate account for the \$25.00 sewer capital improvement fee billed quarterly. The sewer ordinance must be amended in order to create a separate bank account. Board members discussed the matter and agreed a separate line item in the budget will allow tracking of those funds without the creation of a separate bank account.

Farm Lease-Grattan Waste Water Treatment Facility

D. Heffron asked Board members to adjust his lease payment for farming sewer property at the Grattan sewer site. He said in the spring of 2009 too much water was applied to the leased property and crops were drowned. He previously provided pictures of standing water on the property. Board members discussed the request. J. Fues moved and F. Force seconded to table the matter and have D. Heffron bring a specific proposal to the next regular Board meeting. Ayes: J. Fues, S. Freeman and F. Force. Nays: none. Abstain: D. Heffron. The motion carried. 3-0-1.

300' Notices

F. Force asked Board members if they would like to consider sending 300' notice letters by registered mail. J. Fues said no other townships in the area send their notices by registered mail. Board members discussed and agreed to continue sending those notices via standard U. S. mail. J. Fues said the mailing list should be signed and dated when letters to all residents on the list are mailed.

Holst Review

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F. Force explained that the stop work order, issued by the Township, for construction at Ross Holst's property on Abrahams Dr was due to an expired variance. F. Force said Mr. Holst has the right to reapply for a variance.

ZBA Meeting

F. Force moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the scheduling and conduction of a ZBA meeting in the first week of October 2010 at no cost (with no escrow required) to the applicant Ross Holst. All ayes. The motion carried.

8. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The second Board meeting date (as needed) is September 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Sewer Advisory meeting is October 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is October 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The next Safety Board of Appeals meeting is September 30, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary