

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of July 12, 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 P. Knoerl. Members absent: Trustee D. Heffron (excused).

4. Approval of the Agenda

F. Force, J. Fues and P. Knoerl added items to the agenda. F. Force removed fire fighter trainee Matt Trann under new business. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the amended agenda. 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 June 14, 2010 regular meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

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

Budget Amendments

There were none.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues explained 3 payments on the check register; Professional Lakes Management, algae treatments for various lakes funded by special assessments, Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc, fire equipment funded by a 50/50 grant, and Infrastructure Alternatives, May invoice over budget.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$58,212.11 (checks 33409-33449 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda
Payroll

Draft: 07/16/10

Approved: 08/09/10

Treasurer's Report (all funds)

Correspondence

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

7. Working Agenda

Hearing of Public

Neil Mills introduced himself as a candidate for Kent County Commissioner. He ~~said he~~ is a Kent county resident concerned about business needs in the State.

Department Reports

Fire Department

F. Force read the Fire Department monthly report out loud. There was 1 structure fire, 17 medical calls, 1 false alarm, 1 mutual aid given and 2 trainings for a total of 22 for the month of June.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

P. Knoerl said the FASC interviewed prospective trainee Matt Trann, reviewed the draft Fire Chief job description and discussed reducing the frequency of meetings.

Zoning Officer Report (Tom Byrne School House, Monthly Update)

F. Force reviewed the June 2010 zoning complaint report. He said township officials attended a recent court hearing on the dangerous building at 12503 5 Mile Road. That hearing was stopped and rescheduled for August 16, 2010 because the defendant Dan Byrne Oil Co. was not in attendance and could not legally be represented by Tom Byrne.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

a.) **Monthly Report**

John Rydbeck, Infrastructure Alternatives reviewed the June 2010 monthly report. Board members discussed pump repairs and replacement.

b.) **Grattan/Vergennes Irrigation Project**

F. Force said Williams and Works has most of the design drawings completed. P, Knoerl said D. Heffron would like input on bidders for the project. F. Force will see if Williams and Works have a list of bidders.

P. Knoerl said bids should go out by August 1, 2010 in order for work to begin this fall.

P. Knoerl asked about financing the irrigation project. F. Force said Terry Conley will have financing information at the July 20, 2010 Sewer Advisory

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Approved: 08/09/10

Committee meeting. P. Knoerl would like to have a firm cost for the project by September.

F. Force said secondary contractors are over budget due to replacing and rebuilding pumps. F. Force said pump performances are improving with some exceptions. J. Rydbeck said approximately 25 pumps have been repaired or rebuilt out of a total of 84 pumps. P. Knoerl said if there is no money in the budget only emergency repairs should be done. He said he would like to see quotes for replacement of the pump and control panel for RL15 and BPI 6. F. Force said there is a 10% discount on panels when 5 or more are purchased. It was noted that BPI pump # 6 was recently repaired, but the pumping capacity did not improve. If replaced the old pump could be used for parts.

J. Fues said he estimates the sewer budget will be \$50,000 over budget. F. Force agreed to discuss this matter at the next Sewer Advisory Committee meeting.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There was 1 new building permit, 4 other building permits, 2 electrical permits, 1 plumbing permit and 2 mechanical permits for a total of 10 in the month of June.

Unfinished Business

PDR Update

There was no update.

Budget Issues

Budget issues were discussed earlier in the meeting.

ZBA Member

F. Force said one ZBA member must be added. He recommended moving an alternate member to a permanent position on the ZBA. He said this will leave one alternate on the ZBA.

F. Force moved to nominate Dee Hockemeyer as a full time ZBA member for completion of her 3 year term which expires in December 2012. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, J. Fues, F. Force and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Office Landscaping

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Approved: 08/09/10

P. Knoerl asked if the township has any quotes for redoing the landscaping in front of the Township Hall. F. Force said there is one quote for the work. S. Freeman said the Fire Department offered to remove the dead trees. P. Knoerl suggested contacting Nature's Needs in Belding for a bid on the work. S. Freeman will look into this matter.

Sidewalks

F. Force said he still only has one bid for repairing sidewalks. It was agreed to make a decision on this matter at the next Board meeting.

Polling Place Accessibility Audit

J. Fues and L. Kirkbride recently reviewed all standards for polling place accessibility compliance and determined that both polling places in the township are in compliance. J. Fues thanked L. Kirkbride for his help.

New Business

Auditor's Contract

J. Fues reviewed the proposed 3 year contract with Gabridge & Co, current township auditors. Annual audit fees would increase \$150.00 for the 2012 and \$150.00 again for the 2013 audit.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to accept the proposed contract from Gabridge & Company, PLC for the March 31, 2011-March 31, 2013 Township audit. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, F. Force, J. Fues and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried 4-0-0

Sewer Advisory Committee Recommendation

Board members reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by Alan Rumbaugh, Sewer Advisory Committee member, and agreed it would be a valuable tool. A. Rumbaugh said the Sewer Advisory Committee needs updated revenue numbers in order to have a starting point for sewer finances. J. Fues said committed money not yet spent must be included. F. Force said he will bring that information to the July 20, 2010 Sewer Advisory Committee meeting.

Biosolid Application near Big Crooked Lake

F. Force updated Board members on the recent ~~biosolid~~ BIOSOLID application on a farm field near Big Crooked lake. He said following the application there was 3" of rain causing runoff into the lake. He said the township had very little warning about the application and the information provided gave the wrong application site.

Emma Darling attended a MDNRE meeting regarding the runoff. She and her husband will be sampling water at Big Crooked lake and Alan Rumbaugh will sample water at Murray Lake. She said she has questions for the MDNRE and suggested a letter on Township letterhead might carry more weight. F. Force

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asked her to send any questions she has and he will have the letter written on Township letterhead.

J. Fues suggested a new ordinance requiring a contractor's permit for biosolid application in the township. Board members discussed and agreed to ask the township attorney about this matter.

Medical Marijuana

F. Force said he received a letter from the Township attorneys regarding adoption of an ordinance to regulate growing and selling medical marijuana in the Township. Board members noted the sale of medical marijuana must be located in the commercial district in the Township. They agreed to wait to make a decision on this matter.

Dock Issues

F. Force said the Township has received an unusual number of dock complaints this year. F. Force said the Township becomes involved when a complaint is filed. P. Knoerl said those issues should be resolved by the property owners, not the Township

8. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The next Board meeting date (if required) is July 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The next Planning Commission meeting is August 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is August 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. (P. Knoerl will be out of town). The next Sewer Advisory Committee meeting is July 20, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary