

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of October 17, 2011

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, Trustee D. Heffron and Trustee P. Knoerl. Members absent: none. Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride also attended the meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

F. Force removed items 2 and 3 under new business. P. Knoerl added Kent County Road Commission projects as item 4 under unfinished 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 P. Knoerl seconded to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2011 regular meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

S. Freeman noted one minor correction to the September 28, 2011 special meeting minutes. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2011 special meeting as amended. All ayes. The motion carried.

S. Freeman and J. Fues noted minor corrections to the September 30, 2011 special meeting minutes. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2011 special meeting as amended. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

J. Fues explained proposed budget amendments. He noted one general ledger number correction. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the amended budget amendments. All ayes. The motion carried.

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Approved: 11/07/11

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$231,684.73 (checks 35757-35834 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda

Payroll

Treasurer's Report (all funds)

Correspondence

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

7. Working Agenda

Hearing of Public

Jeff Flikkema, Grattan Bar, said there were no problems with the cage fighting event recently held at the bar. He asked Board members how he should proceed in the future if he wishes to schedule other outdoor events. Board members discussed the matter and recommended contacting Zoning Administrator Gregg Converse well in advance. Board members agreed to check with other municipalities to see how they regulate similar events.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride said there were 3 structure fires, 1 personal injury accident without extraction, 1 personal injury with extraction 10 medical calls, 2 mutual aid given, 4 trainings and 2 training meetings for a total of 22 in the month of September. He said the fire department continues to work on ISO requirements and gave a report on the recently purchased fire truck. He said the new truck will improve the fire department's capability to fight fires in hard to access areas. The fire department will soon be completing business inspections in the township.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

There was no meeting.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force reviewed the Zoning Officer's September complaint report.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

John Rydbeck, Infrastructure Alternatives, reviewed the September monthly report. He said irrigation at the Grattan/Vergennes site began in September. F. Force said there has been no decision on the township's request for an irrigation extension this fall.

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D. Heffron asked if weigh tickets for seed used for cover crops at the Grattan/Vergennes site have been received. F. Force said those tickets have not been received.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

F. Force said Alan Rumbaugh, Planning Commission Chair, would like to consider a noise ordinance. Board members discussed and agreed that they were not in favor of a noise ordinance.

F. Force asked for Board member opinion on a sodium chloride ordinance to reduce sodium chloride levels in wastewater. D. Heffron said sodium chloride levels should be resolved with the new irrigation system at the Grattan/Vergennes site. Board members discussed and agreed TO review an ordinance at the November meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

F. Force said the ZBA approved Paul Belden's request for a variance to construct an accessory building on a lot without a dwelling. J. Fues said the Planning Commission should reconsider this ordinance at their next meeting.

Building Department

There was 1 new building permit, 3 other permits, 8 electrical permits, 1 plumbing permit and 2 mechanical permits for a total of 15 in the month of September.

Unfinished Business

PDR Update

D. Heffron said a WEGE Foundation donation will be used for farms in Grattan.

Budget Issues

J. Fues said there are still issues with conversion to the BSA system, but none of the line items are out of budget.

Administrative Policy

Board members reviewed the Grattan Township Administration Policies and Procedure manual and noted minor corrections.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the amended Grattan Township Administration Policies and Procedure manual. Roll call: Ayes: J. Fues, S. Freeman, D. Heffron, F. Force and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

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Kent County Road Commission Projects

P. Knoerl said he received calls from residents regarding road work being done on Dunn Avenue. Limestone has been applied to that road, but ditches on the east side of the road have not been cleaned and no trees have been removed. Board members discussed the matter. F. Force said he called Jerry Bryne, KCRC, but he has not returned that call yet. D. Heffron asked F. Force to send a letter regarding the unfinished work on Dunn Avenue.

New Business

Township Economic Plan- Mike DeVries- Grand Rapids Township

Board members reviewed the Kent County Township Guide for Economic Development provided by Michael DeVries, Supervisor, Grand Rapids Charter Township. F. Force said he thought Mr. DeVries would be at the meeting to explain this policy. Most members were not interested in adoption of this policy. They agreed to ask Mr. DeVries to attend the November meeting to explain the proposal.

MABAS Presentation- Lou and Stacy

Stacy Madden, Grattan Township Fire Department, gave a presentation regarding the Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MEMAC) and Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). She said fire departments must be a member of MEMAC before they can use MABAS. She explained the benefits of participation in these two programs.

Board members discussed the matter. D. Heffron said the programs would organize and enhance the fire departments fire fighting capabilities.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve resolution 2011-030, authorizing the Grattan Township fire department to participate in the Michigan Emergency Assistance Compact, as presented. Roll call: Ayes: F. Force, S. Freeman, D. Heffron, P. Knoerl and J. Fues. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve resolution 2011-031 as amended, approving the Grattan Township fire department to participate in the Kent County Mutual Aid Alarm System Division. Roll call: Ayes: P. Knoerl, S. Freeman, D. Heffron, J. Fues and F. Force. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

(The meeting was recessed at 8:55)

(The meeting resumed at 8:58)

Rails to Trails- Alan Rumbaugh

Alan Rumbaugh gave a brief report on the Rails to Trails project. He said Project GO (Greenville to Owosso) is asking townships and municipalities to contribute to 2% matching local funds. He said Grattan Township's share of that fund would be \$5000 over 3 years.

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Board members discussed the matter. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to create a budget line item in the amount of \$5000 to be used over 3 years to fund the rails to trail project. Roll call: Ayes: J. Fues, S. Freeman, D. Heffron, P. Knoerl and F. Force. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

A. Rumbaugh asked the Township to write a letter of commitment to Rails to Trails.

Change Orders- Grattan/Vergennes Irrigation Upgrade

F. Force said he approved a \$347.22 shut off valve. He said he received a quote of \$7000 for fence and gates at the Grattan/Vergennes site. Board members discussed this matter and agreed to get 2 additional quotes for new fencing with rounded steel corner posts to be cemented in.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve spending no more than \$525 for an electrical elbow for the Grattan/Vergennes wastewater treatment site. All ayes. The motion carried.

Board members discussed C L Trucking and Excavating's request for a \$87,985,86 payment and agreed not to make payment until stumps are moved C L Trucking and Excavating as per contract.

Fire Operation Millage

J. Fues said it is time to request a renewal of the fire operation and building repayment millage. He said the Township attorney will prepare the request to be on the August ballot. He said no increases will be requested for fire operation. Board members discussed the matter. D. Heffron suggested looking at refinancing the loan for the fire department building.

Grattan Irrigation Upgrade

F. Force said clearing of the old orchard and the installation of under drains at that site must be completed by June 2012. He also noted that a partial hydro geo study and a study of nitrate levels will need to be done at the old orchard site. Board members discussed and agreed to request bids from 3 contractors and 3 farm leasees. D. Heffron said the bids must include spraying of willows at that site in order to prevent the willows from damaging new under drains.

Extra ZBA Meeting to Approve Minutes

F. Force explained that in the past, ZBA findings and decisions were a part of their meeting minutes. Those minutes then needed to be approved at a separate meeting. Now a resolution is provided for any items being considered by the ZBA. F. Force asked Board members opinion on the need for the additional ZBA meeting now that their decision is recorded in the resolution. Board members agreed that a second meeting for minute approval was not necessary.

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Snow Plowing

J. Fues said he will be offering contract extensions to last years' snow plow contractors. Board members agreed.

St. Patrick's Liquor

J. Fues said St. Patrick's applied for a one day liquor license for this weekend.

Comcast Franchise

J. Fues said contract renewals with Comcast are coming up. Board members asked J. Fues to change the contract to provide internet to all township residents.

Solid Waste Resolution

F. Force moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve solid waste resolution 2011-029 as presented. Roll call: Ayes: P. Knoerl, S. Freeman, F. Force, D. Heffron and J. Fues. Nays: none. The motion carried. 5-0.

8. Open Round Lake Public Hearing Number # 2

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

Ellie Landheer asked if most Round Lake residents were in favor of water treatment at Round Lake. Board members they received no negative comments from residents.

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

S. Freeman moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve special assessment resolution 2011-032, confirmation of special assessment roll; lien; payment and collection of special assessment Round Lake. Roll call: Ayes: S. Freeman, F. Force, D. Heffron, J. Fues and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

9. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The second monthly Board meeting date (as needed) is October 31, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is November 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The next Sewer Advisory Meeting is November 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. KCRC dinner meeting at Boulder Creek November 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Approved: 11/07/11

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary