

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of December 12, 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 added impeller quote under sewer report, item 6d, Building Department base fee under new business, item 8, address ordinance under new business, item 9, Cliff Bloom's book under Board Communications, item B1 and Dale List letter under Board Communications, items B2.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the agenda as amended. 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 November 7, 2011 regular meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

J. Fues reviewed proposed budget amendments.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve budget amendments as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$364,984.24 (checks 35879-35935 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda

Payroll

Treasurer's Report (all funds)

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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

There were no public comments.

Department Reports

Fire Department

There were 4 structure fires, 11 medical calls, 2 mutual aid received, 2 trainings and 2 training meetings for a total of 19 in the month of November. L. Kirkbride said the fire department continues to work on ISO ratings and dry hydrant certification. He said the new pumper tanker is working well and the fire department has had joint training with other area fire departments. He said the fire department will be receiving 6 free sets of Scott packs from the Kentwood fire department. J. Fues commended the fire department on their work.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

There was no meeting.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force reviewed the Zoning Officer report. He said there are 4 complaints pending.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

Monthly Report

John Rydbeck, Infrastructure Alternatives reviewed the November 2011 monthly report. He said monitoring well 14 has been added to the Grattan irrigation site. He said due to loss of irrigation time during construction at the Grattan/Vergennes site cell, levels are higher than normal. Also, Williams and Works used 3' of free board in cell 1, but the State allows 2' of free board. If needed, an elbow can be added to extend the free board to 2', and Infrastructure may request early irrigation in the spring. D. Heffron said the additional foot of free board should get the cell through to spring and noted that soils at that site are not good for early irrigation.

P. Knoerl asked J. Rydbeck to add a monthly irrigation rate graph to the monthly report. J. Rydbeck said he will provide that information. J. Rydbeck said he will monitor cell levels and work closely with the State this winter.

Electronic Actuator for Center Pivots

F. Force said Infrastructure Alternatives has requested the purchase and installation of 2 actuators at the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation site in order to

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remotely turn on and off pivots without having to drive thru the field. Board members discussed funding for this request. F. Force said there is not enough money in contingency funds, but the attorney said it was okay to use funds from the loan. D. Heffron asked why this wasn't designed in the system. He asked if wiring for the actuators is in place. J. Rydbeck said it was. J. Fues said he also was disappointed that the actuators were not designed with the system.

F. Force moved and P. Knoerl seconded to spend up to \$3900 for 2 - 6" electric actuator to shut off valves installed on the north and south center pivots at the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation site. Ayes: S. Freeman, P. Knoerl, F. Force and J. Fues. Nays: D. Heffron. The motion carried 4-1.

Gates and Fencing at GVWWTF

F. Force provided a quote of \$5600 from C & R Snow & Lawn for trimming trees and removing growth on both side of fence around the water treatment station and \$3074.50 for the installation of four 20' gates and three 16' gates at the Grattan/Vergennes site. D. Heffron asked if fencing is required. F. Force said it is. D. Heffron said he was opposed to repairing the existing fence. He said the fences should be checked to see if vegetation clogging the fence can be killed by spray and the fence checked for damage. D. Heffron and J. Fues will walk all the fence at that site to check the fence. ~~J. Fues~~ F. FORCE said he will contact the attorney regarding the use of loan funds for these improvements and discuss the matter with the Sewer Advisory Committee. He said this work is required by the DEQ and would like to see it completed before winter.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to authorize F. Force to try to get 3 quotes for cleaning foliage, 3'on each side of the chain link fence around lagoons at the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation site, and award the work to the lowest bidder at a cost not to exceed \$3000. All ayes. The motion carried.

D. Heffron said two 20' gates are way too long and will not hang well. He questioned why that size was being quoted and said the 20' gates are unnecessary. F. Force said the size is to accommodate harvesting equipment. D. Heffron said there is no need for gates at the back of the property and asked why those gates were bid. Board members said the operator requested those gates. Board members discussed and agreed to remove the 16' gates.

Impeller Quote

F. Force provided a quotes from Kerr Pump and FEI Grand Rapids for an impeller. Board members reviewed the quotes. It was noted that 3 quotes are required. J. Rydbeck said it would be difficult to get 3 quotes for parts. P. Knoerl said there should be an exception to the 3 quote requirement in this case.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to purchase one impeller from Kerr Pump at a cost of \$981.24. All ayes. The motion carried.

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Planning Commission

D. Heffron said the Planning Commission approved a special land use request for a nursery at the corner of Lincoln Lake Avenue and 4 Mile Road. The Planning Commission also recommended the Township Board consider a formal house numbering ordinance and reviewed ordinance requirements for accessory buildings without a primary residence.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There was 1 new building permit, 3 other building permits, 5 electrical permits and 2 mechanical permits for a total of 11 in the month of November.

Unfinished Business

PDR Update

D. Heffron said 2 farms in Grattan were chosen for funding. Those farms should close by November 2012. J. Fues said the township paid for appraisals of those 2 farms.

Budget Issues

J. Fues said the township is currently paying Infrastructure Alternatives for use of their equipment required to identify lines for Miss Dig. He said whenever this equipment is needed Infrastructure Alternatives employees must drive to Rockford to pick up the equipment. He suggested purchasing that equipment so it will be onsite when needed. Board members discussed and agreed to further review the matter at the January meeting.

Township Economic Plan-Mike DeVries-Grand Rapids Township

Board members discussed the value of membership for Grattan Township and agreed to further review the matter at the January meeting.

Noise Ordinance

Board members reviewed the proposed noise ordinance and agreed to remove some unnecessary sections of the ordinance and confirm exactly what the Kent County Sheriff's Department will do if the ordinance is place. This matter will be discussed again at the January regular meeting.

Sodium and Chloride Ordinance

F. Force said the DEQ has required a work plan to reduce sodium chloride levels at the Grattan/Vergennes sewer treatment site. He provided a proposed brine discharge and water softener appliance use regulation ordinance for review. F. Force said the Sewer Advisory Committee reviewed the ordinance and asked that the Hold Harmless Agreement on page 4 be removed. Board members discussed and agreed to have F. Force revise the proposed ordinance for review at the January meeting.

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Cemetery Fence-Eagle Project

J. Fues said the Eagle Scout fencing project at the Grattan Cemetery is completed. Board members said the Eagle Scout did a nice job and the fencing looks good.

New Business

Water Softener and Furnace Humidifier

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to accept Canfield Plumbing and Heating's bid to install 2 April Aire 600 humidifiers at a cost of \$395 each. All ayes. The motion carried.

Board members reviewed water softener quotes from Besco Water Treatment, Gordon Water and Culligan. J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to purchase a water softener system with reverse osmosis at a cost not to exceed \$2300. All ayes. The motion carried.

Partial Pension Resolution

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve resolution 2011-032, pension plan partial surrender, Gloria Burns. Roll call vote: Ayes: D. Heffron, F. Force, S. Freeman, P. Knoerl and J. Fues. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

Holiday Calendar

D. Heffron moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the 2012 holiday calendar as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

Board Meeting Dates 2012

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the Board meeting date schedule for 2012 as amended. All ayes. The motion carried.

Committee Appointments

F. Force said all nominees have volunteered to serve on committees.

F. Force moved and P. Knoerl seconded to nominate Alan Rumbaugh for a 3 year term (2012-2014) on the Planning Commission. All ayes. The motion carried.

F. Force moved and J. Fues seconded to nominate Steve Christians for a 3 year term (2012-2014) on the Planning Commission. All ayes. The motion carried.

F. Force moved and J. Fues seconded to nominate Dennis Heffron for a 1 year term (2012) on the Planning Commission. Ayes: J. Fues, S. Freeman, F. Force and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. Abstain: D. Heffron. The motion carried. 4-0-1.

D. Heffron moved and J. Fues seconded to nominate Brian Johnson for a 3 year term (2012-2014) on the Zoning Board of Appeals. All ayes. The motion carried.

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D. Heffron moved and J. Fues seconded to nominate Paul Knoerl for a 1 year term (2012) on the FASC. Ayes: F. Force, S. Freeman, J. Fues and D. Heffron. Nays: none. Abstain: P. Knoerl. The motion carried 4-0-1.

D. Heffron moved and S. Freeman seconded to nominate Steve Christians for a 3 year term (2012-2014) on the FASC. All ayes. The motion carried.

D. Heffron moved and S. Freeman seconded to nominate Gloria Burns for a 3 year term (2012-2014) on the FASC. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to nominate Paul Knoerl for a 1 year term (2012) on the Safety Board of Appeals. Ayes: D. Heffron, J. Fues, S. Freeman and F. Force. Nays: none. Abstain: P. Knoerl. The motion carried 4-0-1.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to nominate Alan Berry for a 3 year term (2012-2014) on the Safety Board of Appeals. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to nominate Tom Manikowski for a 3 year term (2012-2014) on the Sewer Advisory Committee. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to nominate Frank Force for a 1 year term (2012) on the Sewer Advisory Committee. Ayes: J. Fues, D. Heffron, S. Freeman and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. Abstain : F. Force. The motion carried 4-0-1.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to nominate Dee Hockemeyer for a 3 year term (2012-2014) on the Wetland Review Board. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to nominate Paul Knoerl for a 1 year term (2012) on the Cable Committee. Ayes: S. Freeman, D. Heffron, J. Fues and F. Force. Nays: none. Abstain: P. Knoerl. The motion carried 4-0-1.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to nominate Gloria Burns for a 3 year term on the Cable Committee. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to nominate Jennifer Medema for a 3 year term on the Cable Committee. All ayes. The motion carried.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to nominate Alan Rumbaugh for a 2 year term (2012-2013) on the Construction Board of Appeals. All ayes. The motion carried.

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J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to nominate Frank Force for a 1 year term (2012) on the M-44 Committee. Ayes: D. Heffron, S. Freeman, P. Knoerl and J. Fues. Nays: none. Abstain: F. Force. The motion carried 4-0-1.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to nominate Paul Knoerl for a 1 year term (2012) on the M-44 Committee. Ayes: F. Force, S. Freeman, D. Heffron and J. Fues. Nays: none. Abstain: P. Knoerl. The motion carried 4-0-1.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to nominate Dennis Heffron for a 1 year term (2012) on the M-44 Committee. Ayes: S. Freeman, P. Knoerl, F. Force and J. Fues. Nays: none. Abstain: D. Heffron. The motion carried 4-0-1.

Precinct Districts

J. Fues said the Township Election Commission, consisting of the Supervisor, Treasurer and Clerk, will meet to redraw precinct lines in the township. He hoped to base the 2 precincts on school districts and counties to help eliminate costs at elections. Board members said this was a good idea.

2012/2013 Budget

J. Fues briefly reviewed the budget report from BSA. Board members discussed and agreed to review the budget for discussion at the January meeting.

Building Department Base Fee

F. Force said the Township Building Inspector recommends increasing the inspection rate for plumbing, mechanical and electrical permits and building violation inspections from \$35 to \$50 in order to keep up with permit fees as well as the State of Michigan. He said other townships in the area charge \$50 for those inspections.

D. Heffron moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the request for those rate increases. Ayes: P. Knoerl, D. Heffron, S. Freeman and F. Force. Nays: J. Fues. The motion carried 4-1.

Address Ordinance

F. Force asked Board members to review the proposed address ordinance for discussion at the January meeting. L. Kirkbride said the resolution requires 4" numbers and noted that house numbers sold by the fire department are 3" in size. He said house numbering should be visible from both directions.

8. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The alternative Board meeting date is December 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is January 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Sewer Advisory meeting December 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. F. Force did not think there would be a meeting in December.

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Cliff Bloom's Book

F. Force said the Michigan Lake and Streams Association has asked the township to sell copies of local resident Cliff Bloom's book for \$20. He said the Michigan Lake and Stream Association would receive \$12 and Grattan Township would receive \$8 of the proceeds. P. Knoerl said he was not in favor of displaying the book for sale and would be more comfortable with letting people know where they can buy the book. D. Heffron agreed. S. Freeman and J. Fues said either option was okay.

Dale List Letter

F. Force read a letter out loud from Dale and Sue List commending Fire Department Chief Lou Kirkbride and first responders Stacy and Shane Madden and Vincent Nienhuis.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p. m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary