

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of July 11, 2011

1. Call to Order

Township Supervisor Frank Force called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 L. Kirkbride also attended the meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

F. Force added marijuana ordinance as item 7 under new business. J. Fues added annual audit as item 7 under unfinished business, cemetery projects as item 8 under new business and fund balance policies as item 9 under new business.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman 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 June 13, 2011 regular meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

S. Freeman noted one minor correction. J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2011 special meeting as amended. 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 \$58,933.25 (checks 35608 - 35647 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

John and Diane Obermeyer, bicycle race managers who use Grattan Raceway, said they hire Grattan volunteer fire fighters to work at bicycle races. They expressed their appreciation for the outstanding services those individuals provide.

Kean Kaliniak said the section of 7 Mile Road between Gavin Lake Road and Dunn Avenue, where she lives was not on the road repair list and asked why. She said Farmbrook Road is in need of repair. F. Force said Jerry Byrne, Kent County Road Commission, looked at roads in the township and determined which road to consider. D. Heffron said larger areas were considered. The area where the Kaliniaks live is probably considered a smaller area and would be a spot fix.

Department Reports

Fire Department

L. Kirkbride said there was 1 vehicle fire, 1 personal injury accident without extraction, 14 medical calls, 2 trainings and 2 training meetings for a total of 20 in the month of June.

J. Fues asked when the tornado siren in Grattan Center was shut down. L. Kirkbride said the Township Board decided to shut down the tornado siren about 15 years ago because the siren only served a small portion of the township and the township received complaints when the siren was tested monthly. There was a discussion about costs to run the siren.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

F. Force gave a summary of items discussed at the FASC meeting.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force said there are currently 2 open complaints. J. Fues asked for Board opinion on starting up the Kennedy complaint again. Board members agreed that ordinance violations must be addressed. J. Fues said costs may depend on whether the courts view this as a new complaint or a violation of the previous complaint.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

Monthly Report-

J. Rydbeck, Infrastructure Alternatives, reviewed the June 2011 monthly report. He said due to a wet spring and early summer he would like the township to request an extension of the irrigation season at the Grattan site. He did not anticipate any problems this season, but if next year's irrigation season is as wet as this year there could be problems. Board members discussed adding the old orchard. P. Knoerl said if the old orchard is added it must be up and running by June 1, 2012. J. Fues said there is no funding available for the addition of the old orchard at this time. F. Force agreed to update costs for the addition of the old orchard. P. Knoerl said the Sewer Advisory Committee should discuss this matter at their next meeting. J. Rydbeck explained a sewer backup into a residence at Murray Lake. He said the home was cleaned to the owners satisfaction and paid for by Infrastructure Alternatives. There was a discussion about removal of brush at the treatment sites. D. Heffron suggested the use of chemicals to remove brush. He said

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at certain times of the year the chemicals can be purchased at Meijer and applied without a license.

Pump Repair GPS #5

F. Force said the repair of GPS #5 is over the \$500 and therefore requires Board approval.

F. Force moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the repair of GPS #5 at a cost of \$1,597.95. All ayes. The motion carried.

Ditch Cleaning Grattan WWTF

F. Force said there are 2 quotes from excavators and 1 quote from the Drain Commission for ditch cleaning. Board members discussed the quotes. D. Heffron said excavators should have ditch buckets. F. Force said both excavators have ditch buckets. Board members discussed petitioning the Drain Commission to clean the ditches. F. Force said that will have to wait until next year. D. Heffron said the project can wait until next year. F. Force will check with the Drain Commissioner.

Tipping Bucket-Grattan Vergennes

F. Force said the original quote of \$10,000 was incorrect. The actual cost for a tipping bucket plus a mission dialer would be \$4204.30. Board members discussed the matter.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to purchase a tipping bucket, mission dialer and installation not to exceed \$4300.00. All ayes. The motion carried.

Dissolved Oxygen Meter

F. Force said measurement of dissolved oxygen is a new requirement for discharge permits. He said the cost of a meter to measure dissolved oxygen is \$695. J. Rydbeck said there are cheaper meters. There was discussion regarding this matter.

F. Force moved and P. Knoerl seconded to purchase a DO Pro YSI 55 oxygen meter at a cost not to exceed \$695.00. All ayes. The motion carried.

Planning Commission

F. Force the Planning Commission held 3 public hearings (Heethuis special land use for a private road, Sharp swimming pool special land use and medical marijuana ordinance). Both special land use requests were approved and the Planning Commission approved a resolution recommending approval of the medical marijuana ordinance to the Township Board. That matter will be discussed at the August Board meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Building Department

There were 7 other building permits, 3 electrical permits, 2 plumbing permits and 6 mechanical permits for a total of 18 permits in the month of June.

Unfinished Business

PDR Update

D. Heffron said a couple new farms located in Grattan Township made application to the PDR program.

Budget Issues

Board members reviewed the budget statement.

Roads

Board members reviewed Jerry Byrne's list of suggested road repairs. P. Knoerl said he prioritized his recommendation for road repairs based on safety issues and the number of houses served by the road. He also agreed with J. Byrne that dead end roads should not be a top priority. P. Knoerl recommended funding improvements for Murray View Drive, Willowbrook Drive, 7 mile east of Corrigan Avenue, 7 Mile Road between Tiffany and Gavin Lake Road and Dunn Avenue from 7 Mile Road to 6 Mile Road. He suggested waiting for further updates on 5 Mile Road. Those recommended projects would cost approximately \$125,000. P. Knoerl said repairs to Causeway Drive will be an expensive project and will probably require a special assessment. He noted that residents on Causeway Drive are not in favor of a special assessment.

P. Knoerl would also like to include McArthur, Mason and Slayton, and Flanagan drain improvements. D. Heffron said the McArthur drain is a sewer drain. Commissioners agreed to make a decision at the August meeting regarding the Mason and Slayton drain and Flanagan drain after they receive information regarding the Kent County Drain Commission petition process.

F. Force said repairs recommended by P. Knoerl would exceed this year's budgeted amount. P. Knoerl asked Board members to consider using reserve funds to cover any costs over budget. Board members discussed and agreed to use reserve funds. J. Fues asked Board members to consider adding suggested road repairs on 5 Mile Road 1/4 mile east of Lincoln Lake Avenue and 1 1/2 mile west of Montcalm Avenue. Board members discussed and agreed to add the two 5-Mile Road projects. J. Fues proposed that the Board accept a budget amendment to add \$70,000 to road repair from reserve funds.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve recommended KCRC road projects repairs as discussed totaling approximately \$280,000 of which the township's share will be 55%. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, J. Fues, F. Force, D. Heffron and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance Amendment-Excavator Bonds-Licensing

F. Force said other townships he contacted agree that project contractors who hire excavators for work other than sewer excavation are responsible for any damages caused by excavators they hire. Board members discussed the matter.

J. Fues moved and F. Force seconded to by ordinance remove sewer license fees and amount of sewer letter of credit/bond requirements from the ordinance. Roll call vote: Ayes: J. Fues, P. Knoerl, F. Force, S. Freeman and D. Heffron. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

J. Fues moved and D. Heffron seconded to include by resolution in the township's fee schedule a sewer contractor license fee of \$25.00 and the requirement of an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$10,00.00 per open sewer permit. All ayes. The motion carried.

Reserve Zones GVWWTF

F. Force said Rush Tree Service has agreed to clear two reserve zones at the Grattan/Vergennes Waste Water Treatment Facility free of charge. F. Force contacted Leslie Sorensen and Geoffrey List, DEQ, regarding this clearing of trees. Both said they had no issue with the tree clearing, but requested a letter stating the township's future intentions for this property. J. Fues said adding reserve zones should happen after already scheduled projects. F. Force said if adding these reserve zones is being considered, design of new under drains at the Grattan/Vergennes site should consider the addition of those reserve zones. Board members discussed this matter. D. Heffron said adding the reserve zones will affect size of the main and depth of drains being installed this year at the Grattan/Vergennes site.

F. Force will call the contractor hired to install under drains at the Grattan/Vergennes site to see what additional costs will be incurred to make sure under drains at the proposed reserve zones can be connected properly at a later date. D. Heffron said there should be minimal costs involved.

Farm Leases

Board members reviewed farm leases for the Grattan/Vergennes site. P. Knoerl said this lease will be only for the Grattan/Vergennes site, not proposed reserve areas. There was a discussion about the length of the lease. D. Heffron said the current year should not be considered in the lease due to the lateness of offering the lease. J. Fues said the proposed 5 year lease includes an extension option.

There was a discussion about planting a crop this year. D. Heffron said a cover crop that is disked would be okay. He said any crops planted in the first year would have minimal yields. Board members agreed that language regarding removal of trickle irrigation at the site, stump removal and the requirement that a cover crop of wheat, rye or oats at a minimum of 2 bushels of seed per acre be planted this year.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to use the lease agreement as amended for a 5 year term 2012-2016 with identified responsibilities. Roll call vote: Ayes: P. Knoerl, D. Heffron, S. Freeman, J. Fues and F. Force. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

Annual Audit

J. Fues provided copies of the auditors annual report. He said the township received an excellent report from the auditors.

New Business

"One Kent Initiative" Resolution

J. Fues provided copies of a resolution regarding the "One Kent Initiative" for Board members to consider. Board members discussed the proposal.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to approve the resolution regarding the metropolitan government proposal advanced by One Kent Coalition. Roll call vote: Ayes: D. Heffron, P. Knoerl, S. Freeman, F. Force and J. Fues. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

Collection Upgrade Change Order

F. Force explained the change order request for Grandtech, Inc. The change order increases the contract price \$1,876.00. He said replacement pump bases were ordered for GV1 and ML6. During installation it was determined that the existing bases were metric

versions. as a result the modifications needed to be made so the bases could be installed. Board members discussed the change order request and agreed that these charges should be allowed.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve change order #1 to increase the contract price by \$1,876.00 to Grandtech. All ayes. The motion carried.

Seeley Creek Park # 2 Resolution

F. Force explained the proposed resolution for land grant acquisition for Seeley Creek Park. The Townships' portion of this land acquisition will be \$17,500.00.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve resolution 2011-013 to adopt the land acquisition project agreement between Grattan Township and the Michigan DNR as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, D. Heffron, F. Force, J. Fues and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

Tires for New Center Pivot

F. Force said Farm Services recommend swapping existing tire and wheel assemblies for the center pivot at the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation site from 11.2 x 38" to 16.9 x 24". The cost for this tire swap would be \$1,600. D. Heffron said he would rather have the 38" tires. Board members agreed.

Round Lake Weed Control Resolution

J. Fues explained the request by the Round Lake Association for a special assessment district for weed control. J. Fues said his only concern was the sale of at least one parcel on Round Lake after the associations' petition for approval of the special assessment. He will contact the new owner regarding this matter. He did not feel this sale would affect the outcome of that vote.

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman seconded to approve resolution 2011-018 , a resolution of declaration of intent to make public improvements; tentative designation of special assessment district; notice of public hearing. Roll call: Ayes: S. Freeman, J. Fues, F. Force, P. Knoerl and D. Heffron. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

Charter Township Resolution

J. Fues said following the last census Grattan Township is eligible to become a Charter Township. Board members discussed the matter.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to not move forward with becoming a Charter Township. Roll call: Ayes: F. Force, D. Heffron, P. Knoerl, S. Freeman and J. Fues. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

Marijuana Ordinance

F. Force asked Board members to review the draft marijuana ordinance for decision at the August Board meeting.

Cemetery Projects

J. Fues said he looked at other township's cemetery budgets and noted that smaller townships spend more money on their cemeteries than Grattan does. He said fencing at the Grattan cemetery and Mason cemetery is in need of repair and a drive and estimated the cost at \$10,000 per project. D. Heffron said that estimate may be high. He asked Board members to consider offering those two projects to Eagle Scouts looking for a

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project. He said the Township will have to purchase the fencing, but all work would be completed by the Eagle Scouts. Board consensus was to proceed. P. Knoerl said he would like to see estimated costs for each project.

Fund Balance Policies

J. Fues provided copies of a sample fund balance policy and briefly explained the policy. He asked Board members to review this matter for consideration at the next Board meeting.

8. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The second Board meeting date (as needed) is July 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is August 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Sewer Advisory Meeting is the 3rd Tuesday in August. Work Session-Irrigation Techniques July 13, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Kent County Farm Bureau Pig Roast July 25, 2011.

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