

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
Regular Meeting of September 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 appeal letter for one month irrigation extension at the Grattan site and sodium chloride compliance issue under sewer report. J. Fues added cleaning drains, road repairs and farm lease contract addendum under unfinished business and Grattan Irish Pub liquor license to serve alcohol outside 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 P. Knoerl seconded to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2011 regular meeting as presented. All ayes. The motion carried.

Budget Amendments

J. Fues explained proposed budget amendments and Board members discussed. J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl 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 \$79,235.65 (checks 35711-35756 inclusive). All ayes. The motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda

Payroll

Treasurer's Report (all funds)

Correspondence

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

7. Round Lake Public Hearing # 1

F. Force moved and J. Fues seconded to open the public hearing. All ayes. The motion carried.

Bob Bouman, Round Lake, said he was able to contact 20 of the 21 residents on Round Lake regarding the petition for the special assessment for weed control. He said 13 of those residents signed the petition to create the special assessment district. J. Fues read a letter out loud from the Blooms, 11695 Round Lake Trail NE, urging the Township Board to pass the new district.

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

S. Freeman noted a correction to the proposed resolution regarding publication of the public notice.

D. Heffron asked if this work will be bid each year. S. Freeman said Round Lake worked with the contractor to estimate costs for 5 years. Board member discussed and agreed that the lake association must watch costs to make sure they do not exceed assessed amounts. S. Freeman said she will also monitor the assessment.

S. Freeman moved and J. Fues seconded to approve resolution 2011-024, determination to make public improvements; sufficiency of petitions; approval of plans and estimate of cost; final determination of special assessment district; preparation of special assessment district as amended. Roll call vote: Ayes: D. Heffron, S. Freeman, F. Force, J. Fues and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

Township Clerk J. Fues received the roll.

S. Freeman moved and J. Fues seconded to approve resolution 2011-025, filing of the special assessment roll for special assessment district; notice of public hearing. There was no discussion. Roll call vote: Ayes: S. Freeman, J. Fues, F. Force, D. Heffron and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

**8. Working Agenda
Hearing of Public**

Jeffrey and Denise Flikkema, owners of the Grattan Irish Pub, explained the outdoor cage fight event they would like to hold October 1, 2011 at the pub. He said the event would be located in the parking lot behind the pub and be completely fenced in. He said 4 unarmed security officers and medical staff will

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be on site and noted that the pub will have liability insurance coverage for the event.

Board members asked where vehicles would be parked during the event. Mr. Flikkema said there would be parking in the parking lot of Rapid Manufacturing and in a grassy area next to that business. Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride said he was concerned about safety on the street. Mr. Flikkema said all pub employees will be working that day and can monitor traffic. J. Fues asked for a copy of liability insurance policy. D. Heffron also asked that Mr. Flikkema provide a list of security and medical personnel working the event. Mr. Flikkema agreed to provide a copy.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Fire Chief Lou Kirkbride said there were 4 structure fires, 1 personal injury without extraction, 13 medical calls, 3 trainings and 1 training meeting for a total of 22 in the month of August. L. Kirkbride gave a brief report on fire department activity.

Fire Administration and Safety Committee

P. Knoerl said the FASC discussed safety on roads and unidentified roads in the township.

Zoning Officer Report

F. Force reviewed August zoning complaint updates. D. Heffron said a County Deputy should accompany the Zoning Enforcement Officer when the resident at 13047 Strotheide receives notice for compliance from the Township. F. Force said he was also concerned about office staff.

Safety Board of Appeals

There was no meeting.

Sewer Report

Russ Johnson, Infrastructure Alternatives, reviewed the August monthly sewer operation report. He said the center pivots are ready at the Grattan/Vergennes site and there will be a control startup tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. He said the Grattan lagoon levels are about 5 million gallons higher than last year at this time and asked Board members to consider submitting a request to the DEQ for a one month extension of irrigation this fall. D. Heffron said they will not be able to put as much water on the land in the fall or they will have ponded water. He said only a portion of the available land at the Grattan site is being irrigated and said the irrigation permit should be amended to include more land. He also said willows on the site should be addressed before new subsurface drains are installed. J. Fues agreed.

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Board members discussed the purchase of a locator to be used for Miss Dig requests. J. Fues said there is little price variance for locators. He estimated the total cost at \$4,500 for the 2 necessary locators and was not sure where the funds for this purchase would come from. D. Heffron suggested renting locators and mapping the area. P. Knoerl suggested waiting to see how many Miss Dig requests there are in the township's sewer districts and reviewing Infrastructure Alternatives' costs for this service over the next fiscal year. Board members agreed. D. Heffron said the township should renegotiate Infrastructure Alternatives' next contract.

Board members discussed requesting an extension of the Grattan irrigation season. F. Force said the old orchard irrigation area must be up and running by June 2012. He estimated the cost for adding the old orchard at \$22,000. Board members discussed and F. Force agreed to update costs for this project and to write a send a letter to Leslie Sorensen, DEQ, requesting additional irrigation time.

F. Force said the DEQ has requested a sodium chloride reduction plan for the Grattan/Vergennes site. He said monitoring well #10 has had high levels of sodium chloride. D. Heffron said that monitoring well sits in a low area at the irrigation site and irrigation water from the failed system ran to that area. He said when the new system is up and running sodium chloride levels at that monitoring well should go down.

Board members discussed a plan for sodium chloride reduction. F. Force said he previously wrote a letter to Grattan/Vergennes residents asking them to reroute water softener discharge so that it does not enter the sewer system. He agreed to send a letter to the DEQ with a reduction plan.

Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

F. Force said the ZBA denied a request to use the sewer access road off Woodland Park for a private road.

Building Department

There were 4 electrical permits, 1 plumbing permit and 4 mechanical permits for a total of 9 in the month of August.

Unfinished Business

PDR Update

D. Heffron said 10 farms were selected to be included in the PDR program. Three of those farms are located in Grattan Township.

Budget Issues

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There were none.

Drain Cleaning

J. Fues said budget amendments approved at this meeting will fund the cleaning of 3 drains in the township.

J. Fues moved and P. Knoerl seconded to have the township contact the Kent County Drain Commissioner to authorize the cleaning of 3 drains at a total cost of \$13,100 paid by the township. Roll call vote: Ayes: F. Force, S. Freeman, J. Fues, D. Heffron and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

Road Repairs

J. Fues said at the last meeting the Board authorized road repairs. He said he signed a Kent County Road Commission document authorizing this work and noted that roads receiving limestone will be completed this year and those receiving gravel will be completed next year.

Farm Lease Contract Addendum

J. Fues said he spoke with 2 Board members regarding an addendum to the farm lease contract for sewer land at the Grattan/Vergennes irrigation site. The addendum will allow the addition of 2 reserve areas to the southwest and northeast where stumps were not removed. The leasee will be responsible for removal of the stumps, be required to make the land arable and maintain the land in an arable state.

Board members discussed the matter and agreed to have J. Fues complete the addendum to the lease for signature by the leasee and F. Force.

New Business

AT&T Right of Way Extension

J. Fues provided a copy of AT&T's July 15, 2011 letter requesting a Metro Act right of way extension by Grattan Township. Board members discussed the matter.

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues seconded to approve the Metro Act right of way extension permit extension to end September 30, 2014. Ayes: F. Force, J. Fues, S. Freeman and P. Knoerl. Nays: none. Abstain: D. Heffron. The motion carried 4-0-1.

Veterans Resolution

F. Force moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve resolution 2011-026 to provide for the designation of September 16, 2011 as "Prisoner of war/missing in action recognition day." Roll call vote: Ayes : J. Fues, P. Knoerl, S. Freeman, D. Heffron and F. Force. Nays: none. The motion carried 5-0.

Grattan Irish Pub- Liquor License to Serve Outside

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J. Fues said he signed a document from the State noting that the township is aware of a one day permit for the outdoor sale of alcohol at the Grattan Irish Pub on October 1, 2011.

9. Board Member Communications

Meeting Dates

The alternative Board meeting date is September 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular Board meeting date is October 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Sewer Advisory meeting date is September 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals meeting date is September 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, F. Force declared the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Date

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Date

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary