

MEMBERS PRESENT: BALDWIN, REYNOLDS CRAWFORD, BRADLEY, KISH, BRUCKNER AND KELLY
MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE
ALSO PRESENT: PAT SMITH, FIRE CHIEF

7:00 O'CLOCK P.M. - Supervisor opens Public Hearing to review plans and cost estimates for the proposed Township-Wide Law Enforcement Services Special Assessment District.

Currently this contract is paid for through a millage and is being proposed to be paid for through a Special Assessment. If approved, the Special Assessment will be reviewed at a Public Hearing annually, no later than November. If approved, the Special Assessment for this year will be 1.9000 per \$1,000/TV; the current millage rate is up to 1.5 mills per \$1,000/TV. This is the first of two (2) Public Hearings that are required to establish a Special Assessment District. The filing deadline, to place this question on a ballot, is August 11th, 2015. If the citizens are opposed to a Special Assessment District, the filing deadline has to be met to place the question on a ballot for the November 3rd. election. This is not a request for extra funding; rather it is a request to establish a Special Assessment District instead of a voted millage. It is a change to the collection of funds.

Supervisor Baldwin asked for citizen questions, comments and/or objections, at this time:

Those residents speaking in opposition to the proposed Special Assessment District for Law Enforcement:

Judith Mack, Pine Grove Road
David Carr, North River Road
Brian Campbell, State Road
Barb Kilbourne, Lakeshore Terrace
Pam Kinney, Lacey Lane
Sharon DeLuca, Pine Grove Road
Katherine Phillips, Elmwood Drive
John Mackay, Lakeshore Road
Brian Campbell, State Road
David Werner, Grace Road
Patricia Smeltzer, Lakeshore Road
Chip Gerlach, Gratiot Avenue
Darlene Peterson, Desmond Beach

Jim DeLuca, Simpson Road
Brian Martin, Buckley Drive
Richard Brattin, Lakeshore Road
Bob Eick, Connie Lane
Dave Everitt, Old Farm Lane
Judith Woodall, Arlington Avenue
David Maynard, Lakeshore Road
JoAnn Flis, Surrey Lane
Marc Polack, Lakeshore Road
William Shanahan, Old Forge Drive
Anita Selby, Carrigan Road
Jeff Klausing, Lakeshore Road
Scott Jackson, State Road

Consensus of the citizens present stated they did not want a Special Assessment or their right to vote taken from them for the Police Protection. Although most understood that the millage probably needs to increase to cover costs, they asked how the fund balance was acquired to cover the shortage the past couple years.

It was explained that previous Boards, over the past 20+ years, accumulated a huge balance. Over a quarter of a million dollars. So, for the last ten (10) years, the Board has kept the rate at 1.5000 mills, rather than to ask for an increase, because they felt it wasn't right to have such a large fund balance. When property values dropped, the Township was able to use that fund rather than to ask for more money from tax payers.

It was explained that the current Police Protection Millage has expired. After attending informational classes, through MTA, the Board discussed and decided to bring the funding to a Special Assessment District and hold the required public hearings to hear the voice of residents.

It was also noted that the entire Sheriff's Contract is on the Township's website. (www.fortgratiottwp.org)

Further discussion was held regarding the Homeland Security; and charging a fee to non-residents for services.

It was also explained that monies collected for Police Protection can only be used for Police Protection. The Township is now collecting a percentage of each ticket issued and that money is put into the Police Protection Fund. Previously, that money went to the State of Michigan.

* According to Section 6 of the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot By-Laws adopted 02/20/2003.

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

The Board suggested more residents should attend the monthly meetings and look at the budgets and decisions that are being made; become part of the process.

The Millage is written as a request for millage for "Police Protection". This is so that the Township isn't locked into obtaining services through the Sheriff's Department. If service is available through another entity and negotiations, the Township can do that. No other entity has negotiated for police protection service. Liability expenses and operational costs have to be considered when thinking about starting our own police department, which are exorbitant.

Letters and signed post cards of objection and opposition were received from:

David S. Werner, Grace Road	Judith Woodall, Arlington Avenue
Pamela Winkler, Arlington Avenue	Anita Selby, Carrigan Road
Linda Wagar, Stoney Ridge Drive	Judith Mack, Pine Grove Road
Harvey & Pamela Kinney, Lacey Lane	James DeLuca, 3349 Simpson Road
Nellane Morgan, Lakeshore Road	Tom Rutallie, Lacey Lane
Doug & Wave Hannan, Simpson Road	Michael & Marlene Presley, Guizar Avenue
Sharon DeLuca, Pine Grove Road	Andrew Lauth, Connie Lane / Lakeshore Road
Russ Collins, Lake Drive	Sheila Frei, Keewahdin Road
Barbara Kilbourne / Ken Dusablon, Lakeshore Terrace	Michael Mensinger, Keewahdin Road
Samuel McCormick, Maplewood Drive	Paul Steinborn, Crescent Corp., Pine Grove Road
Paul Rhude, Old Farm Lane	Robert Zauner, Forman Drive
Paula & Ryan Gillings, North River Road	John & Donna Wyllie, Sylvan Drive
John & Debra Baska, State Road	Millard & Dianne Becker, Lakeshore Road
Marshall Lewis, Cole Road / Carrigan Road	Robert Watters, Lakeshore Road
Duane Polo, Lakeshore Road	Jack & Joann Recor, William Court
Timothy Roelens, Pollina Avenue	Donald Beuparland, Krafft Road
Dorothy Hyslop, North River Road	Diane Horn, Sapphire Lane
Matthew Wallace, Lakeshore Road	Kenneth & Janice Logan, Lakeshore Road
James & Tennie Merritt, Lakeshore Road	Russell & Charlene Anglebrandt, Blueberry Lane
Ed & Marilyn Ward, Estates Drive	

Those residents speaking in favor of the proposed Special Assessment District for Law Enforcement: Not one present. However, an e-mail of support was received from Victoria Emigh of Teeple Avenue.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Kelly, to close the Public Hearing to hear citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed Law Enforcement Services Special Assessment District. Time, 8:30 o'clock p.m.
Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED.**

Because so many residents chose to leave the meeting, prior to the Board taking action on the Resolutions to continue with the proposed Special Assessment District for Law Enforcement, Supervisor Baldwin called for a ten (10) minute recess. Information was given to residents regarding Pet Safe's "Bark for Your Park 2015".

8:47 O'CLOCK P.M. - REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- * Between residents in attendance voicing their objections, and letters of objection received, the Board feels it was loud and clear that residents want it left up to the voters.
- * 1,611 acres needed override Board action for a Special Assessment District. To date, objections have been filed by just over 200 acres.

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Reynolds, to place this issue on the November Ballot, instead of considering establishing a Special Assessment District.

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION:
- * Supervisor Baldwin stated she was pleased with the turnout and she hopes no one was offended by the proposal; the proposal was made to get feedback. It wasn't made to try to slip something by, or to change coverage. We have a history of low voter turnout and a history of essential services being paid for through Special Assessment. We have two methods for collecting funds. (i.e., voting or special assessments). She feels it was responsible for the Board to look into both methods and feels the Board has heard, loud and clear, the direction it should go.
 - * Trustee Bruckner agreed it was not her intent to pull anything over on anyone, yet she got the feeling that is what residents felt at the beginning of the public hearing.
 - * Trustee Bradley stated the Board only asked for voters trust. They have been voted in to do "due Diligence" to support this Township.

Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

Because the Board chose to move forward with placing the Police Protection Millage on the November Ballot, Clerk Crawford explained his deadlines for doing so and stated the Board needs to determine the amount that will be requested on the ballot. He suggested that since the millage request will be for at least 3 years, the request be for 2.5 mills. Since the cost is reviewed annually, if the Board doesn't need 2.5 mills to cover costs, it doesn't have to collect 2.5 mills on the tax bill; it can be set for less, just as it has been done over the last 2½ years.

Trustee Kish stated the need to look at longevity of the requested mills so that the Board doesn't have to come back and ask for another increase when this request expires in three (3) years.

Treasurer Reynolds stated that for this year, we will only be needing to collect 1.9 mills on the December tax notice.

Michigan Tax Tribunals effect on millage rates was discussed.

The Board will take action on setting the rate and ballot language at the July 15th, 2015 meeting.

At this time, the Board continued with the Regular Agenda:

Motion by Kelly, seconded by Kish, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of June 17th, 2015, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

Barb Kilburn regarding fireworks. She named Canada and surrounding communities that are putting on fireworks displays and asked whose idea it was to put them on in Fort Gratiot.

It was explained that the Business Association is putting on the fireworks display with entirely donated funds. The Township is not paying any money toward the display. The Township Board approved the location.

Mrs. Kilbourne is concerned about the methane gas in the area, as well as for sick and elderly people, working people and animals, power lines and the tower. The practice run sounded like cannons going off. She is concerned with the display being over a residential area. She is annoyed that the Township would endorse this.

It was explained that people will not be allowed back at the pond during the display. They will be visible from surrounding areas away from where the display will be done. Security will be closing the pond area. Parker Road/Carrigan Road will remain open to traffic. State Regulations and enforcement of the Township Ordinances was also explained.

Mrs. Marlar, stated fireworks are detrimental to a lot of pets and is mentally hurting a lot of people. She would like these issues to be considered before allowing the fireworks displays.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Kelly, to approve the Agenda, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous.
MOTION PASSED.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$	1,825,742.20
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	547,052.81
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	337,131.35
TRASH/RECYCLING FUND	\$	357,344.69
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	89,360.04
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	1,205,053.96
TOTAL	\$	4,361,685.05
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$	1,848,558.38
GENERAL INVESTMENTS	\$	304,949.09
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	\$	152,449.84
UTILITY BOND MONEY MARKET	\$	42,788.96
GRAND TOTAL	\$	6,710,431.32

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Kish, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 7/0.
MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 6,710,431.32.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$	23,762.07
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	764.14
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	58.28
TRASH/RECYCLING FUND	\$	0.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	3,042.64
TOTAL	\$	27,627.13
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MUNICIPAL BLDG. CONST.)	\$	229,214.59
GRAND TOTAL	\$	256,841.72

Motion by Kish, seconded by Kelly, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 256,841.72.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notification of hosts for summer County Board of Commissioners meetings.
2. Comcast's notification of changes to channel line-up, effective July 20, 2015. Customers are being notified via bill message.

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Reynolds, to accept correspondence, as given. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DPW SUPERINTENDENT'S REQUEST TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID, FROM DIVERSIFIED POWER, INC., OF FORT GRATIOT, TO REMOVE AND RELOCATE THE EXISTING GENERATOR, LOCATED AT 3720 KEEWAHDIN ROAD, TO THE KEEWAHDIN ROAD/FAIRWAY DRIVE PUMP STATION, AT A COST OF \$9,975.00:

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION: *
- Bids received from: DIVERSIFIED Power, Inc., 3895 24th. Avenue, Fort Gratiot \$ 9,975.00
 - Ainsworth Electric, Inc., 3200 Dove Rd., Port Huron \$ 10,000.00
 - * Low bid also includes putting block heaters on existing generators; and painting the generator that is to be relocated.

NEW BUSINESS, ITEM #1, CONTINUED:

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bradley, to approve the DPW Superintendent's request to accept the low bid, from DIVERSIFIED Power, Inc., Fort Gratiot, to remove and relocate the existing generator located at 3720 Keewahdin Road, to the Keewahdin Road/Fairway Drive Lift Station.
Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. FIRE CHIEF'S REQUEST TO ACCEPT LIEUTENANT LARRY JOHNSON SR., LETTER OF RETIREMENT FROM THE FORT GRATIOT FIRE DEPARTMENT, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2015:

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Joined Department in June, 1977 and has served the community for 38 years.
* He was also a Fire Inspector

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to accept Lieutenant Larry Johnson, Sr.'s, Letter of Resignation from the Fort Gratiot Fire Department, effective June 30th, 2015. Vote, 6/1, Baldwin voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. FIRE CHIEF'S REQUEST TO MOVE PROBATIONARY FIRE FIGHTER, STEVE GOUDY, TO FULL MEMBER STATUS:

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * State of Michigan Firefighter 1 & 2 Certification; and completion of Probationary Competency Evaluation.

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Reynolds, to accept the Fire Chief's recommendation to move Probationary Fire Fighter, Steve Goudy, to Full Member Status, effective June 28th, 2015. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF APPLIANCES FOR THE NEW MUNICIPAL OFFICE CENTER:

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Bids received from:

Lowes	\$	13,004.00	
Kimball Appliance	\$	12,365.00	
Bill May Appliance	\$	8,689.00	25 cu refrigerators
Home Depot	\$	8,163.00	27.5 cu refrigerators (4-6 week Delivery)
Best Buy	\$	8,370.00	27.5 cu refrigerators includes hoses & cords

* A bid request was given to Miller Maytag - No Response

* The request was for two (2) French door refrigerators with water & ice, one electric smooth top range, one over the range microwave hood, two compact refrigerators, one 36" gas range, one countertop microwave, one dishwasher with hard food disposal and one gas dryer.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to approve the purchase of appliances for the new Municipal Office Center, from Best Buy of Fort Gratiot, at a cost of \$8,370.00. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: NONE

BOARD DISCUSSION:

* Update on Municipal Office Center

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to adjourn. Time, 9;18 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.**



ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, CMMC
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP