

MEMBERS PRESENT: BALDWIN, REYNOLDS, CRAWFORD, BRADLEY, KISH, BRUCKNER AND KELLY

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: SENATOR PHIL PAVLOV
 REPRESENTATIVE PAUL MUXLOW
 JIM LEAVOY, MARCOTTE DISPOSAL
 PAT SMITH, FIRE CHIEF
 BILL SHAGENA, ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER & LISA SHAGENA, ASSISTANT ASSESSOR
 KRISTY JONES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

7:00 O'CLOCK P.M. - Supervisor opens Public Hearing to Review Plans & Cost Estimates; and to hear comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed Township-Wide Residential Curbside Recycling Collection & Disposal Services Special Assessment District and continued Regular Meeting.

Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of July 3rd, 2013, as printed and posted; and the **SPECIAL MEETING** of July 12th, 2013, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous.
MOTION PASSED.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

Representative, Paul Muxlow and Senator, Phil Pavlov presented a Special Tribute from the State of Michigan to Clerk, Robert C. Crawford, for being named 2013 Clerk of the Year by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$	1,141,706.12
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	1,641,267.19
CEMETERY FUND	\$	32,689.88
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	588,925.08
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	60,985.91
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	499,930.98
TRASH FUND	\$	224,162.88
TOTAL	\$	4,189,668.04
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$	3,033,061.97
GENERAL INVESTMENTS	\$	2,199,549.96
UTILITY RECEIVING INVESTMENTS	\$	171,725.05
UTILITY BOND INVESTMENTS	\$	42,744.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$	9,636,749.52

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 7/0.
MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 9,636,749.52.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$	42,374.45
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	351,610.70
CEMETERY FUND	\$	1,244.26
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	8,344.73
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	1,470.00
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	895.64
TRASH FUND	\$	36,520.88
TOTAL	\$	442,460.66

Motion by Reynolds, seconded by Bruckner, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 442,460.66.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Commission's Finance Committee letter of approval for Requested Millage Distribution; copy of payment to the Township in the amount of 46,716.92, dated 07/15/13/
2. Comcast's notification of changes to channel lineup, effective during the month of August.
3. Township Roads and Bridges Advisory Committee of the St. Clair County Road Commission meeting Minutes of July 9, 2013.
4. St. Clair County Board of Public Works and Board of County Road Commissioners meeting Minutes of July 2, 2013.
5. Upcoming Meetings / Workshops / Events / Seminars:
 - MTA's 2014 Educational Conference, January 28-31, 2014 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City.

Motion by Baldwin, seconded by Kelly, to accept report(s) and correspondence, as given. Vote, Unanimous.
MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

THE PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW PLANS AND COST ESTIMATES; AND TO HEAR COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND/OR OBJECTIONS ON THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP-WIDE RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, CONTINUED:

Supervisor Baldwin explained the Proposed Recycling Service, noting that the Township has been given the opportunity to add the recycling service to anyone that is already included in the Trash Removal Special Assessment. She explained that tonight's Public Hearing is to introduce the idea and see where we are with opposition and support. A second public hearing will be held if the Board determines there is enough support to move forward tonight. She noted that St. Clair County removed all of their recycling centers in 2012 from throughout the county; Fort Gratiot Township's recycling center was very heavily used. After hearing from several hundred residents, the Township worked out the Saturday recycling service with BOXXSTER Recycling; about 300 to 400 residents use that service. The contract with BOXXSTER was terminated about two weeks ago. Marcotte has agreed to pick-up and continue on with the Saturday program, through September; and also presented us with an option for curbside recycling. There is not another company who offers the same program that we had with BOXXSTER.

Supervisor Baldwin noted that, to date, the Township has received 47 written letters of opposition to curbside recycling; and 26 letters in support of curbside recycling.

Treasurer Reynolds stated that there are, roughly, 3,700 residents that are part of the Special Assessment District. She was hoping to hear from a larger percent of the residents.

Supervisor Baldwin reiterated that this is the first step for fact-finding, to see where we are. The costs haven't been set and the Assessment Roll hasn't been spread; this is the very first step.

Jim Leavoy, with Marcotte Disposal, was present to explain the recycling services. He stated Marcotte offers a blue box in which residents would place paper, plastic and cans in it to be picked up on a designated day. He stated it is simple and cost efficient and when a whole community is involved in it, they are able to offer the service at this price. He noted some exclusions (i.e., batteries, liquids, car parts or anything hazardous). Residents will be required to furnish their own container or clear plastic bags.

It was noted that Trustee Kelly found clear plastic trash bags at Home Depot. Clear bags or recycle boxes can be used by residents. A brief discussion was held regarding the importance of keeping recyclables separate from trash and identifying recyclable waste, as well as whether the recyclables would be picked up the same day as trash. Mr. Leavoy stated it probably would be, but hasn't yet been determined.

A resident asked the estimated monthly cost? Clerk Crawford replied, about \$2.70/month for weekly pick-up, plus the bin. (Bins = \$8.00 to \$12.00 each; or 35 clear plastic bags, \$8 and change plus tax).

The resident asked if the Township Board approves the recycling service, will it be mandatory? Supervisor Baldwin replied, "no." Treasurer Reynolds noted, however, that everyone within the Assessment District would be charged on December (WINTER) Tax Bill, whether they choose to use the service or not.

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

Supervisor Baldwin stated that, based on letters the Township received from residents, we did a spread sheet indicating names, addresses and the noted concerns. A lot of concerns are strictly financial. Or, that the Assessment is mandatory, similar to the trash pick-up service and yard waste, whether you recycle or not. Opposition, basically, came down to the cost. She noted the cost would be approximately \$34.00/year, per residence, for weekly pick-up; we have also been offered by-weekly pick-up at an estimated cost of \$20.00/year per residence.

Clerk Crawford noted, in regard to the Township's Trash & Lawn Waste Service, that Marcotte has offered a discount to residents gone six (6) months or more out of the year. Mr. Leavoy stated the same discount can be given for recycling.

Kristy Jones, Community Development Coordinator, explained the "Snow Birds" Discount and stated any resident with questions or wishing to notify the Township that they will be gone for six (6) months or more can contact her so she can coordinate the stop and start dates with Marcotte. Upon return, the resident will be refunded for the period they are gone, by Marcotte. She reiterated that the discount is only for those residents gone for six (6) months or more; not five (5) months and four days.

A resident asked if labels would have to be removed? Mr. Leavoy replied, "no."

CITIZEN COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND/OR OBJECTIONS:

George Mosher asked if the Special Assessment District covers the entire Township? Treasurer Reynolds stated, any residential property that has garbage pick-up right now, will be included in this Special Assessment District. Mobile home parks and commercial properties contract for their own service and would not be included in the Special Assessment District. Approximately 3,700 households.

Doug McLean, Lake Huron Manor, stated his granddaughter got him into recycling. He cannot believe how much stuff he collects in two weeks. He suggested that anyone who isn't interested in recycling should take a garbage bag and just start throwing their cardboard, paper and plastics in it (you can still throw it out next week) to see how much you have. You would be surprised how much residents can save from going in that landfill.

Jim Leavoy stated that the intent is to reduce the tonnage to the landfill; the reduction will be huge. Whatever that tonnage is that is currently being sent to the landfill will go down; and it depends on the residents what that percentage will be. (10%/20%).

Bob Hunckler, State Road - He is a Teacher of Science at SC4. He takes his students to the landfill on field trips and have also taken the tour at the single-stream recycling facility by Metro Airport. Feels that Fort Gratiot has set a great example for this county. Much like Rochester Hills does for Detroit, he is dreaming that residents might one day get coupons for dining for recycling.

Jerry Theisen, Lakeshore Road - Totally supports weekly collection of recyclables.

Judith Mack, Pine Grove Road - Stated she recycles when she takes her trash out to the landfill. She gets a receipt for the household trash, but you just dump in the recycle bin. How would she avoid a charge for recycling when she already recycles? She takes her trash to the landfill and gives Judi a receipt; but you don't get a receipt for recycling. Treasurer Reynolds stated she'll have to look into that and get back with her.

John Wyllie, Sylvan Drive - Stated he is opposed to this. They are trying to bring in Canadian Trash to try to get enough trash at the landfill now. Why do we want to take less trash to the landfill than what's going now and then we've got to take in Canadian trash?

Lowell Marlar, Wooded Twigs Drive - Agreed with Mr. Wyllie. Why should he have to pay a Special Assessment to recycle when we are burying hundreds of tons of Canadian trash every day? It doesn't make sense to him.

Richard Edie, Keewahdin Road - He does not recycle, but is here to tell ya that if a program was available, he probably would, at the road. To put all that stuff together and bring it down to the Township is just not something he's gotten into; but recycling has become a means of how many of us in America are beginning to do things for our future generations. If that's what we need to do to help our future generations who will be here much after us than he is in favor of it - weekly.

A resident stated that recycling shouldn't be called trash because it's reused to other products. If you dump your trash, it's gone; if you recycle it's there to reuse.

Dave Carr, North River Road - Recently read an article stating that a lot of the stuff people are recycling always ends up in the landfill anyway. It's such a little percentage that ever gets used for the purpose that we think it's going to. He would like to know what Marcotte does with these bags and bins full of recyclables. How does it all get separated? Does it really go for what we think it's going to go to; or is it going to end up in the landfill anyway?

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

Mr. Leavoy stated he is sure those incidences have happened. Marcotte takes it to a recycler, and pay to do that. The cardboard is very valuable (\$100.00/ton after processing). They take all of the cardboard and a lot of the paper and put it in a huge bailer. After it's bailed it's shipped to market for \$100.00 + a ton. The other markets are not as good but do the same thing; they bail the plastics and sell them to whoever is giving the highest price. It would cost them a lot more money to landfill it. Certainly, here in the County, the landfill rates are approximately \$25.00/\$30.00 per ton; recycling rates are much less than that. He can't speak for everything, but normally it doesn't get shipped to the landfill. The reason recyclers take it is to make a profit. They bail it and either sell it or hold onto it until the market goes up. If you see any recycling truck, it will not go to the landfill. Just as the landfill doesn't take compost, they would be very suspicious of a recycling truck dumping there because it's a separate truck.

Beth Fraser, Old Farm Lane - Absolutely for the program. Feels it's essential that we start doing it now and the sooner the better. Doesn't feel the costs are prohibitive; thinks the numbers residents are being shown today are reasonable. We are on fixed incomes and it's hard times with the recession, but we have to look at our children's future and our grandchildren's future... let's start now.

Judith Morris, Lakeshore Road - Totally in support. Uses all of the recycling options that we've had. Doesn't feel the Township is introducing a new concept; the need is already here. The Township has tried to address it in other ways and is simply trying to find a way to address it for all of the residents. She compared the \$2.70 a month she would pay in addition to have it picked up at her curb where she doesn't have to sort everything between plastic, cans, glasses and newspaper; that alone, to her, is such a sales pitch. She figures, from where she lives, if she drove to the landfill once a month, saving all that junk for a month in her garage and sorting it by what it is, it would cost her a minim of \$10.00 in gas to drive out there, plus the time it would take to do all of that. If you simply do the math, she feels it's a really good deal for the Township to do it. She would support the weekly pick-up, thinking it would be a lot easier for people to remember.

Eileen Krohn, Krafft Road - Asked the reason for having the clear plastic bags as opposed to the dark one? Supervisor Baldwin noted it was so they can see it contains recyclable materials. Mrs. Krohn was concerned about paper bills being seen in the bags. Mr. Leavoy suggested that Mrs. Krohn either shred her bills or don't put them in the recycling. Supervisor Baldwin also suggested wrapping them in newspaper or putting them in a bin where they wouldn't be as visible.

Jane Marlar, Wooded Twigs Drive - If residents are going to pay the additional cost for recycling and there's going to be less tonnage going to the landfill, will residents get a credit or a cutback on the cost for trash removal?

Mr. Leavoy stated it is something that will have to be looked at when we see the numbers come in. We won't know what to do until that point.

Clerk Crawford explained that our Contract states if there is a cost increase at the landfill, the Township has to make up that difference. As you know, if less is going to that landfill, it's a lesser charge. Mr. Crawford explained cost variances due to State imposed taxes.

Supervisor Baldwin stated there is potential to see a reduction on the trash side. With actual costs, at some point, the Township gets that figure. The number varies each year. Clerk Crawford noted the largest variable, the fuel cost. Treasurer Reynolds noted there is one separate fund just for trash pick-up. From year to year the cost is adjusted.

Clerk Crawford stated the Township Board sets a Special Assessment every year for yard waste and trash removal. The Board considers the cost of fuel and surcharges. The biggest variable in the trash and yard waste service is the fuel. The Assessment charges are based on the cost of the service; not by the ton, but for the service.

Treasurer Reynolds stated that the Township is given a fixed cost per household. Then, before the tax bills come out in December, the Township looks at the gas prices and other costs and come up with an estimate over an above the fixed cost what we may be charged for the rest of those services. At the end of the year after everything is paid, if the Township has a surplus the Township lowers the following years cost to the residents. The fund is for the Special Assessment and monies collected for that fund have to stay in that fund. The funds cannot be used for anything else.

Pat Epley, Lakeshore Road - Will the Township be having the recycling in August at Fort Gratiot Middle School?

Supervisor Baldwin replied, August and September. BOXXSTER had originally given us all the way through September and Marcotte agreed to bring their trucks and final out that service for us.

Mrs. Epley stated she is a retired teacher and now she teaches *Earth Keepers*. When you see those kids out there at Goodells Park learning how to recycle and how it really does help take care of our planet and save things is just amazing. She really thinks we need to teach our children that this is very important and we better do it.

Reggie Wood, Collins Road - Thinks recycling is a noble idea but, as it has brought up before, the County wants to increase garbage to go into the landfill and thinks it's counter productive to recycle when they want to bring in additional refuge from out of the country or from out of the state. It doesn't make sense to him.

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

Clerk Crawford explained that the County is looking for garbage type trash that produces methane gas for the gas generators that they've installed; and they want to make those bio-reactors as effective as possible to pay off the Bonds that they have for installing that system. Plastic simply does not create a methane gas to be of any benefit at the landfill. Plastic is just an inert material that is going to take up space in a landfill.

Mr. Wood agreed with Mr. Crawford, but stated that when they're importing garbage, he doesn't think those people are recycling.

Currently, Mr. Crawford stated he doesn't think St. Clair County isn't importing anything to the landfill. Mr. Wood agreed, but stated it's on the drawing board.

Supervisor Baldwin stated that the Canadian trash might not contain as many of the recyclable materials, anyway, because they have imposed recycling requirements.

Ed Forrest, North River Road - Asked Mr. Leavoy if Marcotte is selling the recycling material?

Mr. Leavoy replied that Marcotte is paying to get rid of the recycling material. If Marcotte has commercial customers where they pick up cardboard, Marcotte can get paid, depending on the market. Sometimes they will take it to break even; sometimes they have to pay. Currently, Marcotte isn't getting paid for it.

Mr. Forrest asked if Marcotte is charged per ton at the landfill? Mr. Leavoy replied, "yes".

Mr. Forrest stated that, theoretically, Marcotte is going to reduce it's (trash) tonnage and asked if there would be cost offsets because of the recycling?

Mr. Leavoy reiterated that it remains to be seen as to what percentage is lower. Recyclables are the lightest of the material and it remains to be seen.

The Board explained that, potentially, an adjustment could be made with regard to the trash pick-up.

Mr. Leavoy explained that when Marcotte presents a Contract for the service it's based, basically, on the number of households. Whether or not the tonnage is there, Marcotte still has to provide the service, the staff, trucks, etc. Marcotte bids it by household, not by the ton; nor do we base the recyclables on any sort of return.

Mr. Forrest stated Marcotte is still going to have less overhead or less cost if you are dumping less in the landfill.

Supervisor Baldwin stated there have been years where we have had credit. Each year the Board looks at the costs to determine the Special Assessment. If it shows those numbers are going down, residents will see it in the following year's assessment.

Clerk Crawford noted the current special assessment for trash pick-up and yard waste is \$122.00 this year.

Martha Drake, Parker Road - Thinks recycling is great but doesn't think it should be mandatory and pushed onto people without their choice. Feels it should be each individual household's choice.

Jenny Theisen, Lakeshore Road - We are talking two dollars and something a month; that's a can of beer... it isn't even a pack of cigarettes. At \$30.00 a year, to have somebody come and take your recyclables? This is one of the richest Townships in Michigan; what are we talking about? We're talking about \$2.00 a month.

Mary Houle, Gratiot Avenue - Fully supports curbside recycling and would like to commend the Township for the opportunity that they've given to the Port Huron Area School students to come and help at Fort Gratiot. Her children, individually, have benefited by that opportunity; it's been a wonderful thing and she will be sad to see that go. But there are still groups of kids that the Township could probably get to come and help on other opportunities.

Dan O'Connor, Lakeshore Road - Has lived here about three years now and this isn't exactly on topic, but he's going to say it. Marcotte provides fundamentally poor service; they're rude when you call, their people are budding authors that constantly write little notes about the weight of the containers and his containers are probably half the size of theirs. He has witnessed them going to businesses and picking up trash and he has witnessed them getting in the back of trash trucks whipping over buckets. When you call them and complain they are rude, there is no address to your complaint and they fundamentally don't seem to care. He asked if the Township went to another bidder? Are these the only people that have been considered for this service?

Treasurer Reynolds stated the Township is currently in a five (5) year contract with Marcotte. Whether we do the recycling or not, we already have a contract for our trash pick-up with Marcotte. So, if we do recycling now, it would be with them just because they are already providing the trash pick-up service. It's in addition to what the Township already has a contract for. At the end of this contract yes, bids would go out for other contractors to bid on the entire service.

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

Beth Frasier, Old Farm Lane - Stated she is sorry Mr. O'Connor has had that kind of experience; she has had exactly the opposite. Any time she has called the ladies in the office couldn't be more polite or more helpful. She can personally say they have been wonderful as far as she is concerned.

Judy Morris stated she is assuming that if a resident has any questions or issues with Marcotte, the appropriate thing to do would be to contact the Township office, because the Township has the contract with them, not homeowners as individuals. The Board agreed. And it would be the same with the recycling service.

Jeff Klausung, Lakeshore Road - Asked who will be evaluating this program? For example, if there's only three people on the block that are recycling and we're running a truck all the way down the road to make three pick-ups, that doesn't seem very cost effective for the Township. He asked if there is someone who's going to be in charge of evaluating that? He also asked if the Recycling Contract will be for the duration of the existing trash & yard waste Contract? Or will that be evaluated also in case we don't have enough people involved in the recycling and we want to scratch that part?

Supervisor Baldwin noted that Marcotte has proposed recycling to go through the year 2018. Just as not everyone uses the yard waste service, they are charged for the special assessment.

Clerk Crawford noted that is one of his concerns, as well; will it be cost effective?

Mr. Klausung stated it is a concern if we are doing it weekly, rather than bi-weekly. That's why he is asking if it will be evaluated to see if it's cost effective. We are only talking a buck or two, but now you're running a fuel charge to run a truck down that route. Now we are going to have three trucks. He asked Mr. Leavoy, if we are going to have three trucks, will they be operating close to one another?

The Board stated it depends on their scheduling, but it will all be picked up on the same day.

Pat Griffin, Keewahdin Road - Has lived here for 25 years; has seen recycling come and has seen recycling go. They have taken their own recycling down to the school for as long as it has been happening and also used the center at the DPW. Is willing to pay for the service. Her children have all graduated now, but she is known as the Recycling Nazi at her house and will be very glad to know that she is saving gas by not having to take it down to a recycling center.

A resident stated he recycles, but isn't very knowledgeable on what is recyclable. So if we do go with this program, and he is all for the program, people need to be made aware of what is recyclable and what is not.

Supervisor Baldwin agreed, stating that Marcotte has given the Township a sheet of recyclables. Should we go with this program, there would have to be education from the Township offices, whether weekly or bi-weekly.

Clerk Crawford stated residents will have a choice. They can buy a recycle bin of their own that they will use and maintain; or as Trustee Kelly has pointed out, she purchased 35 (39 gallon capacity) clear plastic bags from Home Depot at a cost of about \$9.00. Garbage can go in the dark bags, but recyclables only go in the clear bags. With the bag, you don't have to clean the bin.

Patty Hammond, San Juan - Is very much in favor of this program because it's the right thing to do. She lived in Rhode Island and you didn't have a choice; the State made everybody recycle. At least we have an opportunity to say yea or nay. To the gentleman who was so much against it, Mrs. Hammond noted there is so much being made out of recyclables. They can make plastic into clothes, sporting goods, carpet. You get stationary and writing paper out of recycled paper. It's a very good thing for us to think about. The more we recycle the more they make those things and the lower the cost will be to buy them.

Leroy Sheline, Grant Avenue - Stated the people (Marcotte) that pick up on Grant Avenue are just wonderful. They are friendly and wave at you; they really hustle and want to do their job just right. He stated he is very, very pleased with exceptional service.

Gail Kelly, Whitney Place - Thinks that the remarks made here this evening have been very positive towards the recycling program. Has been recycling since 2008 and thinks it's a great program. She would love to be able to tell her friends that live outside of this area, yes; we recycle, because everyone else does. It's a good thing.

Dave Norris, Brace Road - Didn't hear anything about recycling glass. He was informed glass would be recyclable. Mr. Norris noted that he hasn't had an issue with Marcotte and he supports the recycling program.

Sharon DeLuca, Pine Grove Road - Referred to the estimates the Township has presented and asked if the costs could get out of control by Marcotte adding expenses in?

Supervisor Baldwin stated the prices presented are the costs for the service. The only variable is for the fuel.

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

Clerk Crawford noted we have had a contract with Marcotte now for over ten years for trash and yard waste; that has not been the case where costs have gone out of sight. He believes today, at a price of \$122.00 for yard waste and trash service, Marcotte is still about \$40.00 less than when he independently contracted with them. He noted that a portion of the fuel cost is in the set cost for the service, but because of fluctuating fuel prices, they give the Township a monthly report as to what it costs for fuel. Sometimes we get a credit if fuel prices go down; sometimes we have to pay a little extra because the fuel price went up.

Treasurer Reynolds noted that even though this contract would be through 2018, the Township has to hold a public hearing every year to reset the Special Assessment and allow individuals to see the costs.

Eileen Krohn, Krafft Road - Asked how this compares to the recycling program that they have in Port Huron?

The Board stated they did not know how Port Huron's program works. Trustee Kish noted that Port Huron just changed their provider to Marcotte.

Mr. Mosher asked who is going to be in charge of the fuel surcharge as far as auditing to see if it's right?

Clerk Crawford stated the Township does that monthly now.

A resident asked if the period for written response is still open and who would that letter be addressed to?

Clerk Crawford stated the option for written response would still be open. He explained that there will be another Public Hearing to spread the special assessment.

A resident stated he worked with Farmer Jacks for 46 years and noted that they kept their fleet of trucks on the road with cardboard profits.

After hearing no further citizen comments, questions and/or objections, Supervisor Baldwin thanked residents for taking the time to attend to voice their opinions and concerns. That was the whole point of this meeting. When the recycling program through the County stopped the Township only heard from people who wanted to recycle. She believes the Township looked at recycling back in 2005 and the Township didn't end up going with a program then. She thinks it feels like the attitude has changed a little bit and the Township really needed to see where we were.

A resident noted that the Township is doing the recycling program at Fort Gratiot School through September and asked who is supporting that cost?

Clerk Crawford stated that the Township has been paying the cost of that program without any benefit of a special assessment out of the General Fund. The cost is approximately \$1,000 per month or more. We were contracting with BOXXSTER for that service; BOXXSTER has dropped that contract. We contacted Marcotte to see if they would pick up the slack to go through September because we had put out information that recycling would be done at the school through that period. Marcotte was good enough to agree to bring the trucks to the school and continue this service through September. They aren't doing it for free; they are doing it at a cost.

The resident asked if curbside recycling would offset the cost compared to what we are doing now?

The Clerk also explained that if the special assessment district is approved, the funds will be placed in a designated Fund just as it is now for yard waste and trash pick-up.

Trustee Kish asked Mr. Leavoy if Marcotte ever, periodically, would consider picking up articles that don't go to a landfill? (i.e., paint & certain materials that aren't ordinarily picked up).

Mr. Leavoy stated it would be a special waste pick-up that Marcotte is probably not licensed for. He did note, however, that home hardware stores will accept paint. If it's a latex paint you can let it dry out, put kitty litter in it and as long as it's hard, it can be picked up with the trash.

Clerk Crawford stated when the Township started the contract ten years ago, one of the things we negotiated in the contract was that we would have the "white metal" pick-up for appliances. Marcotte actually sent out a separate truck to pick these items up. He doesn't believe they get the opportunity to do that anymore because once it put out to the road, someone is picking it up and scrapping it.

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

After hearing no further citizen comments, questions and/or objections, a Motion was made by Reynolds, seconded by Kish, to close the Public Hearing to Review Plans and Cost Estimates and to Hear Comments, Questions and/or Objections on the Proposed Township-Wide Residential Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Services Special Assessment District. Time, 8:02 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- * Life expectancy of landfills.
- * Trustee Bruckner stated she did a brief tally and it seemed, tonight, consensus is about 20 yes and 4 no, with people voicing opinion about weekly vs. bi-weekly. There would be a cost savings with bi-weekly, but it sounded as though people want weekly pick-up.
- * Cost difference between bi-weekly and weekly was about \$10.00/year.
- * Whether the service would be the same day service (as trash & yard waste)
- * 2nd Public Hearing opportunity to review Assessment Roll before Board votes to adopt it.
- * A brief discussion was held as to when the recycling program would actually begin; and whether the existing service would be provided through the end of the year; and the fund balance.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Kelly, to accept the proposed Plans and Cost Estimates for the Proposed Township-Wide Residential Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Services Special Assessment District; and to adopt Resolution #3, RESOLUTION TO PREPARE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL; and Resolution #4, RESOLUTION SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, setting the Public Hearing date to review the Proposed Special Assessment Roll on Wednesday, August 21st, 2013, beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the Township Hall; and to authorize the Township Clerk to mail the Public Hearing notices. Roll Call Vote, 7/0.
MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTIONS 3 & 4, ADOPTED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Kelly, to accept the Petition to Construct Street Lights at both sides of the entrance of Bardamar Drive, located on the West side of Lakeshore Road, thereby amending the existing Bardamar rive Lighting Assessment District to include this addition; and to adopt Resolution No. 1, Resolution Authorizing Preparation of Plans and Cost Estimates. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION NO. 1, ADOPTED.**
2. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Kish, to accept the bid from Teltow Contracting, Inc., as recommended by BMJ Engineers & Surveyor's, for Sewer Lift Station No. 13 Reconstruction at Golf Harbor Apartments, at a cost of \$ \$115,455.00.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

- * Sealed Bids opened at 10:00 a.m. on August 1st, 2013
- * BMJ recommendation to accept bid from Teltow Contracting of \$115,455.00 (low bid)
- * Bids received ranged from \$115,455.00 to \$258,100.00 from four qualified bidders
- * Funds will come from the Maintenance & Improvement Fund

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

3. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to authorize the Township Clerk to sign the *Renewal Date Change Request Form* for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, changing the currently scheduled renewal date from January, 2014 to December, 2013.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

- * Due to *Affordable Healthcare Act*
- * If Township renews in 2014, as scheduled, we lose our Health Reimbursement Account
- * Major changes in healthcare to employees
- * Township was made aware of this matter last Thursday and decision must be submitted by the end of the month

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

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

4. ST. CLAIR COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION AGREEMENT:

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	TOWNSHIP COST
REMOVE & DISPOSE OF BRIDGE ON CARRIGAN RD. REPLACE WITH 2-CSP (CULVERTS) WITH DITCHING AND ROAD WIDENING.	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 62,500.00
	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 62,500.00

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Approved up to \$110,000.00 on July 18, 2012 for this budget year

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to approve the St. Clair County Road Commission Agreement to Remove & Dispose of Bridge on Carrigan Road; and to replace it with 2-CSP (CULVERTS) with ditching and road widening, at a cost to the Township of \$ 62,500.00. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Dan Evenson, Krafft Road - Asked last month about property behind him. Next month will be two (2) years and asked if anyone is going to o anything about it. Property holds stagnant water because a ditch was put in incorrectly; and is being used as a dump.

Bill Shagena, Ordinance Enforcement Officer, stated the Township has sent letters out to Mr. Mehta. Currently, the property is back to a Trustee, whether it is in foreclosure or a bankruptcy he isn't certain. The Building Department was notified by Mr. Mehta's bankruptcy attorney that all correspondence is to be sent to the Trustees. He informed Mr. Evenson that the Township is trying to get this matter handled. The Township will have the County Drain Commissioner review this matter, as well.

Supervisor Baldwin explained the Township now has an Ordinance that allows the Township to cut grass and put those costs on taxes. But we don't have an Ordinance or mechanism to do the clean-up and put those costs on taxes. That is a matter that the Township Planning Commission is currently looking at. When we take matters like this to Court, the Court keeps giving the owner more and more time and it becomes an ongoing problem.

Dave Carr, North River Road - Referred to the one (1%) percent Administration Fee charged on all taxes and asked if it really costs the Township that much to handle the tax billing. He also noted that he doesn't get charged an Administration Fee from the City.

Treasurer Reynolds explained it covers the Assessing, the printing of the bills, mailing of the bills and any other notices that go out throughout the year regarding assessments. That one (1%) percent does not cover all of those costs. She also noted that the City charges Income Taxes; Fort Gratiot Township does not. Although our annual Township audits indicate that we don't collect enough to cover all the costs, one (1%) percent is the most the Township can charge.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Update on upgrades and Veterans Memorial at the Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery

Motion by Kish, seconded by Reynolds, to adjourn. Time, 8:32 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED.



ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, CLERK
 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FORT GRATIOT

JORJA BALDWIN, SUPERVISOR
 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FORT GRATIOT