

MEMBERS PRESENT: BALDWIN, REYNOLDS, CRAWFORD, BRADLEY, KISH AND KELLY  
 MEMBERS ABSENT: BRUCKNER  
 ALSO PRESENT: TRACEY KAPLIN, C.E.O. OF MARCOTTE DISPOSAL; AND JIM LEAVOY OF MARCOTTE DISPOSAL  
 PAT SMITH, FIRE CHIEF  
 MELLISSA HAYDUK, ASSESSOR AND LISA SHAGENA, ASSISTANT ASSESSOR

7:00 O'CLOCK P.M. - Supervisor opens Public Hearing to review Proposed Special Assessment Roll for Township-Wide Residential Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Services. Continued with Regular Agenda.

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Kish, to approve the Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING of August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: \* NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$	1,119,509.94
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	1,401,296.00
CEMETERY FUND	\$	30,957.06
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	558,215.61
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	56,206.62
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	507,817.29
TRASH FUND	\$	224,162.88
TOTAL	\$	3,898,165.40
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$	3,034,127.89
GENERAL INVESTMENTS	\$	2,199,549.96
UTILITY RECEIVING INVESTMENTS	\$	171,725.05
UTILITY BOND INVESTMENTS	\$	42,744.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$	9,346,312.80

Motion by Kelly, seconded by Kish, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**  
**TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 9,346,312.80.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$	11,310.45
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	14,336.50
CEMETERY FUND	\$	17.75
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	4,201.82
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	176.25
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	54,035.73
TRASH FUND	\$	0.00
TOTAL	\$	84,078.50

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Kish, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**  
**BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 84,078.50.**

\* According to Section 6 of the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot By-laws adopted 07/20/2003.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Total Calls for Service for the month of June, 2013, (427). Number of Patrol Hours, (825.5). 21 Animal Complaint; 2 Assault & Battery; 15 Assist Other Depts.; 51 Assist Public; 4 B&E/Building; 2 B&E/Vehicle; 32 B&E/Alarm; 2 Child Abuse; 6 Disorderly Persons; 8 Domestic Assault; 5 Fraud; 8 Harassment & Threats; 11 Juvenile; 10 Larceny; 5 MDOP; 1 Narcotics; 5 PI Traffic Crash; 38 PD Traffic Crash; 16 Retail Fraud; 1 Sex Offense; 49 Suspicious Incidents; 2 Trespasser; 133 Misc. Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hangups, etc...; 127 Traffic Stops; 73 Tickets Issued; 42 Township Tickets Issued.

Total Calls for Service for the month of July, 2013, (868). Number of Patrol Hours, (1804). 44 Animal Complaint; 6 Assault & Battery; 38 Assist Other Depts.; 78 Assist Public; 5 B&E/Building; 4 B&E/Vehicle; 53 B&E/Alarm; 8 Child Abuse; 21 Disorderly Persons; 22 Domestic Assault; 17 Fraud; 21 Harassment & Threats; 15 Juvenile; 19 Larceny; 12 MDOP; 2 Narcotics; 6 PI Traffic Crash; 81 PD Traffic Crash; 22 Retail Fraud; 3 Sex Offense; 110 Suspicious Incidents; 10 Trespasser; 270 Misc. Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hangups, etc...; 204 Traffic Stops; 82 Tickets Issued; 41 Township Tickets Issued.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Total runs for the month of June, 2013, (117). Fort Gratiot Township: 76 Medical Emergencies; 8 Alarm/Fire; 15 Fire/Misc.; 5 Personal Injury Accidents; 1 Mutual Aid (Burtchville). Clyde Township: 10 Medical Emergencies; 2 Personal Injury Accidents. Total Personnel, 1,024. Total Cost, \$ 20,767.50.

Total runs for the month of July, 2013, (93). 59 Medical Emergencies; 9 Alarms/Fire; 16 Fire/Misc.; 5 Personal Injury Accidents. Total Personnel, 781. Total Cost, \$ 16,942.50.

**PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT:** Total permits issued for the month of June, 2013, (22). 13 Mechanical; 9 Plumbing. Total Fees, \$ 3,938.00.

Total permits issued for the month of July, 2013, (22). 14 Mechanical; 8 Plumbing. Total Fees, \$ 3,534.50.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Total permits issued for the month of June, 2013, (53). 4 New Homes (Val. \$470,000); 23 Residential Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. \$181,867); 6 Residential Accessory Structures (Val. \$61,337); 1 Manufactured Mobile Home; 3 Pools (Val. \$18,000); 4 Commercial Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. \$11,161,050); 2 Signs (Val. \$4,544). Total Valuation, \$ 1,903,298.00. Total Fees, \$ 14,872.25.

Total permits issued for the month of July, 2013, (37). 3 New Homes (Val. \$1,005,000); 15 Residential Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. \$102,362); 2 Residential Accessory Structures (Val. \$0); 3 Pools (Val. \$65,000); 4 Commercial Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. \$564,127); 3 Signs (Val. \$12,800). Total Valuation, \$ 1,752,389.00. Total Fees, \$ 13,313.25.

**ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Total permits issued for the month of June, 2013, (13). Total Fees, \$ 4,056.00.

Total permits issued for the month of July, 2013, (18). Total Fees, \$ 4,484.00.

**ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT:** Total complaints in the month of June, 2013, (51). 3 Blight; 34 High Grass/Noxious Weeds; 2 RV Storage/Parking; 5 Unlicensed Vehicles; 7 Misc. Ordinance Violations.

Total complaints in the month of July, 2013, (21). 6 Blight; 5 High Grass/Noxious Weeds; 1 Unlicensed Vehicles; 9 Misc. Ordinance Violations.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Upcoming Meetings / Seminars / Workshops / Events:

- \* MTA's *On the Road* Fall 2013 Regional meetings throughout October in various Michigan locations.

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

**MOTION PASSED.**

**PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:**

1. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL AND TO HEAR CITIZEN COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND/OR OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP-WIDE RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICE:

**CITIZEN COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND/OR OBJECTIONS:**

Katherine Phillips, Elmwood Drive - Opposed to recycling service because she is a snowbird. Already paying for trash pick-up for five months that she's not even here. She's opposed because she'll be paying for recycle pick-up and won't be here. She gets no reduction on her trash because you have to be gone six months; she's gone five. That's why she's against it.

Don Kuehn, Krafft Road - Opposed to this recycling. Already paying the trash pick-up at \$122.00/year and he doesn't recycle. Asked if there is any reason the Board doesn't have a microphone system for people that are hard of hearing; suggested they do so. With all the new businesses coming in he doesn't see why they have to pay recycling when the Township is making money and everything is brought against the taxpayers of this Township. He's tried to get his taxes reduced; he can't even though he was in the war and fought for the country. But, nobody will listen to you. You've got to have 100%; he's only 30%. He's lost his legs and can't walk; he got shot in Korea. With all of his medical bills; and with all the patrons here, he imagines they are in the same boat that he's in. We've got medical bills on toll and that's it. We should be reprieved of some of our taxes that we've paid in, but no. The Township has to have it all. He stated he is sorry, but this is the way he feels.

Dave Pobanz, Birchwood Estates - Their trash pick-up is negotiated through their park and added onto their lot rent. Gone six months out of the year; they don't have trash at the curb. Asked how it will affect the negotiations with Birchwood Estates?

Treasurer Reynolds stated Birchwood Estates has their own separate contract and is not part of this Special Assessment District.

Supervisor Baldwin noted that the parcels that will be charged for this Special Assessment are the residential, improved lots. Any Single-Family or Two-Family Dwelling that someone lives in. It's not assessed against vacant lots, it's not the Mobile Home Parks. She also noted there is a six month exemption for the *Snow Birds*. She stated there are approximately 3,670 parcels total, out of over 5,000 parcels in our Township, that are effected.

Jodi Moss, Meadowlawn Drive - Right now, the Township's General Fund is paying for the recycling. If this does not go through, are we going to continue to pay for the program out of the General Fund?

Supervisor Baldwin replied, no. There will not be a recycling program, at all.

Mrs. Moss stated, therefore, that we can use the General Fund for other things, like coyotes.

John Willie, Sylvan Drive - Against the recycling. He is also a Snow Bird. Stated he has three lots and asked if he'll be taxed on all three lots; or just the lot that the house is on.

Supervisor Baldwin advised Mr. Willie that the Assessment would not be on the vacant lot(s); only the home.

Mr. Willie reiterated that he is opposed to it. He didn't get any raise in his Social Security.

Lowell Marlar, Wooded Twigs Drive - Doesn't object to recycling, itself; but does oppose the cost of it and how it was come to. Noted the 08/07/2013 meeting and stated about 83% of the people who spoke up were in favor of recycling. If you look up recycling, any history of it, it will reduce your household waste by 35%-50%. So what this is telling him is that Marcotte is going to be picking up 35%-50% of the household trash at 80% of the residences; but we're still paying the full price for everybody. He's still paying \$122.00 for trash; it's not right. Also, on top of that, we're going to be charged \$30.00 on our taxes for the recycling whether we want it our not. It should not happen. It's not the right way to run a government organization in this country; this is a Democracy. If you want to pass this it should be put up for a township wide vote of the people; that's how he feels it should be done. Also, Marcotte can turn around and sell these recyclables. He asked if anybody read the Sunday paper; it was right in the paper. He wanted it noted on record that he will take this to the Michigan Tax Tribunal if it's passed.

Clerk Crawford stated people have asked why this matter doesn't go on a Ballot and explained that Michigan Law prevents this from going on a Ballot. It's a service so therefore it is passed by a Special Assessment. Things that go on the Ballot that effect your taxes are millage requests and are tied to the valuation of your property. That's why this matter cannot be put on a Ballot for a vote of the people. That's why we have Public Hearings and why we take in public comment before the Board makes these decisions.

Treasurer Reynolds commented that, since it is a Special Assessment not tied to the value of your home, everybody is charged a flat rate; the Michigan Tax Tribunal won't hear it because they don't have the authority.

**PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:**

Jane Marlar, Wooded Twigs Drive - Asked how many seniors and people living in this Township are on fixed incomes? You can't keep tacking on money to people because sooner or later their money is running out. You probably have a lot of people in this Township who are living on just Social Security alone and asked what are they going to give up for \$30 for that year to make their taxes? What are they going to give up? Probably some food. You really have to weigh this very carefully. To say just do it, you can't. You've got to follow the money trail and exactly how it's going to affect all types of people. People who are working, it's not going to bother them anywhere near as much as the people who are on fixed incomes.

Dawn Dunsmore, North River Road - Agrees with pretty much everything that's been said. We are retired and have been nickel and dimed to death. She looks at it as, they put so many restrictions as to what can be put out in the trash and how much it can weigh or how it's bundled and tied as to whether or not they will take it or not; now if they go to recycling she will be washing everything up and taking all the labels off and folding all that cardboard and packaging up all the newspapers and bundling up all the sticks & twigs and tying them in bundles, she wants them to pay her \$30 a year and she'll recycle.

Doug McLean, Maplewood Drive - Sounds like he's the only one that is for it; and he is retired. He showed a paper that indicated last year we saved almost 3600 tons from going to the dump; stuff that's going to be reused. For about 0.75 per week, he thinks that's pretty cheap. He doesn't want to pay anymore on his taxes or whatever, but somebody has to start and he thinks we did a great job in this Township, when we had it at the Water Department. He noted 3600 tons is actually only about 400 people; just think how much we can keep out of the landfills. We have to start so our children will start and everybody has to start recycling. It's just his opinion.

Beth Frazer, Old Farm Lane - Totally for this project. The sooner this gets started, the sooner we'll see a difference. She understands the comments regarding senior citizens that are on a fixed income; she's one herself. But she still thinks she can pay that little bit extra to pay for this service. So she is for it.

William Wolf, Sapphire Lane - We've got to recycle. We've got trucks coming across the bridge and what are they going to do? And, we're going to do all this recycling, what are they going to do? Knows they have hospitals and all those needles come through here to the dump.

Mr. Wolf was informed that they do not. A resident stated that everything Canada has coming across the bridge has already been recycled; Canada has recycling. We get their garbage.

Mr. Wolf asked how it works for a single person. He knows you have to wash your cans, jars and take the labels off.

Mr. Wolf was informed that they only have to be rinsed. The labels don't have to be removed. And recyclable items do not need to be separated.

Mark Polack, Lakeshore Road - Has always been in favor of recycling, even in a classroom. After the County pulled out of it, he has really enjoyed the recycling at Fort Gratiot Middle School that was provided by the Township. It was neat going over there and watching the young service groups from the high school, boy scouts, girl scouts, who were there on Saturday morning with their parents and their leaders of their groups helping out with the recycling. It was good to see how the company that we did hire was there to support what the Township was doing and the service groups were doing for the individual township schools. It was good to see those kids involved in community efforts. Recycling is important. What do we tell our kids in the future if we don't do this now? It is important. Yes it is a sacrifice; yes, he's retired. It needs to be done. The sacrifice, as far as the financial end of it, is well worth what we are passing onto future generations. He is disappointed over what our County Commissioner's have done over the years. Our County Commissioners have pulled out of programs that were benefiting our taxpayers. Several years ago we voted not to put a tax on our additional 911 Homeland Security Services; Homeland Security mandated our county to do. We voted it down; the County Commissioners put it on anyway. And we are paying for it on every cell phone we have and you don't hear them asking to repeal it. They pulled out of the recycling, but they found the money to go through and expand Smiths Creek Road to take in Canadian trash. Our County Commissioners have pulled out of testing for West Nile; they're leaving it to Sarnia to do. The County Commissioners have pulled out of testing for hazardous water in the St. Clair River, leaving it to the individual municipalities along the St. Clair River to test for that. And now, our Township is being asked to saddle this because our County Commissioners won't. Some of the comments being said here should be directed to our County Commissioner, because now the Township's are picking up what they don't give us.

Mary Lou Gonyea, Krafft Road - Wasn't at the last meeting, but asked why we are no longer having the recycling service at the Fort Gratiot Middle School if they were doing such a good job?

Supervisor Baldwin stated the company went out of business. The Township has not been able to find another company who offers that same kind of program.

Mrs. Gonyea asked if we can have a central area where residents can bring their things? There's nobody here in town that will allow that?

**PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:**

Clerk Crawford asked Mrs. Gonyea if she is describing what the County offered, like with the dumpsters at the DPW? When she replied yes, Mr. Crawford explained the situation: We would place the dumpster; it would be open 24 hours a day for stuff to go into it. Fort Gratiot taxpayers would be paying for the disposal of it; and it's not limited to just Fort Gratiot Township residents. Or someone would have to be watching it 24/7 to make sure only Fort Gratiot residents put stuff in it since resident tax dollars would be paying for it. Because the County dumpster was put on a main thoroughfare, going between other areas of the County to the Fort Gratiot/Port Huron area, it was well used by people outside of Fort Gratiot Township.

With regard to the recycle dumpster previously located by the DPW building, it was explained that this service was provided by the County as a county-wide recycle program and Fort Gratiot Township only provided them with a space to put the dumpster. This program was not ran by the Township. The County stopped that program.

Supervisor Baldwin stated this all came up because the Township has been approached by several hundred residents who wanted the Township to look into some sort of recycling program; and we had run out of options. The County was done, BOXSTER was done; this was our next option and this is why we are here.

Bob Pearson, Lakeshore Road - He is a Scout Master and a Vietnam Veteran. Stated they recycle and thinks there is nothing more important in this world. In echoing his neighbors' comments, he stated he knows this cost will be less than what he's been paying to drive, either out to Smiths Creek or even to the Middle School. In favor of the recycling program.

Pat Eppley, Lakeshore Road - Totally agrees we need recycling. We need to help our planet and we need to teach our kids how to take care of our earth; and, yes, it definitely helps with the trash. We need recycling.

Tami Himmel, Brace Road - Asked for clarification of the costs that will be on the tax bill based on the information given to residents.

It was explained the cost would be \$30.70 per year/per unit if the Township adopts a weekly service; or \$20.21 per year/per unit if the Township adopts a bi-weekly service.

Ms. Himmel asked if residents have to pay for the recycle containers?

The Board explained that residents will have a choice to either purchase a container or clear plastic bags. It was noted that clear plastic bags that Trustee Kelly found prior to the last meeting were 39 gallon bags, 35 bags per box, at a cost of \$8 dollars and change plus tax, purchased at Home Depot.

Ms. Himmel stated she is a young adult on disability, as is her mom; but at the same time, they have been recycling at both locations (DPW & school). The price you pay for a bag or two of recycling saves five bags worth of garbage. So it's still a savings and she is definitely for this program.

Unknown resident - God gave us a magnificent earth to live on. Look around you. Our earth, our ground, our soil, our air, our water; we're polluting it. What are we going to do about this? Recycling is one way to help eliminate and discontinue that destruction.

Dave Norris, Brace Road - Is for the program. Goes out to the road each night and picks up trash probably 400' each way from where he puts his receptacle out. Thinks it's good and we should recycle. He is in favor of it.

Gloria Urban, Sapphire Lane - Is for recycling, but feels the Township should let those who feel it's a hardship be able to opt out. She asked if that would be possible?

Supervisor Baldwin stated she did not know if that would be possible. It's something the Township would be willing to look into.

Brian Campbell, State Road - First of all, he doesn't see why we would have to have weekly pick-up. Kind of for the recycling, but thinks bi-weekly is probably the best way to go; doesn't see any reason to do it every week. In regard to comments made about us polluting our earth, he personally thinks we should be good stewards of the earth, but right now the earth is probably the cleanest it's ever been in 200 years; so don't be talking to him about our polluting it now compared to what we were doing 150 or 100 years ago. Thinks recycling is a good idea; just doesn't think we need to do it every week. He understands why the Township is no longer doing the recycling at the school, but doesn't understand why the County ever stopped doing it. The money they were spending on that could have easily been found. Maybe the money to widen Smiths Creek Road could have paid for it, or something like that.

**PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:**

Richard Brettin, Lakeshore Road - In favor of recycling. Works in a school and has recycled for years. We teach our kids to recycle. He looks at it as, when we were young we used to go out drinking and driving. We teach our kids now, you don't drink and drive. Recycling is kind of the same program: We're teaching our kids, from youth, recycle, recycle. All this stuff goes back. It's amazing, he stated he's been to the carpet store and they say this carpet is made out of recycled plastics. Plastic goes in bags and is making our carpet now. Their metals go back and are melted down. Everything goes back. Once you put it in a landfill, nothing goes back. So he's in favor of it. Doesn't have a preference between bi-weekly or weekly; he's in favor of either one. Feels we need to look at our future generation. He's on a fixed income too; but our generation has to change. The older generation has to look at what we are teaching our kids; we need to adapt the same programs.

Supervisor Baldwin stated she's learned more from her 1<sup>st</sup> grader after starting school. One pop can is one hour of an i-pod.

Jim Repp, Sandy Oaks Lane - In favor of recycling. A little concerned about what Marcotte does with this once they pick it up and how we will know. It appears that there is no real good market out there for recycled material. Are we sure that Marcotte isn't just going to take it to the landfill and dump it? What control does the Township have over the ultimate disposal of this and does it, in fact, really get recycled?

Mr. Leavoy, of Marcotte Disposal, stated that the company can provide the Township with a list of where the recycled material goes at any time. Marcotte pays, normally, to get rid of the recycled material. The Township Board is welcome to visit wherever Marcotte takes it. They stated they currently have a contractor they take the material to, but the contractor could change because, obviously, Marcotte looks for the best deal. A separate truck is used for picking up recyclables and is not allowed to dump at the landfill. Marcotte can provide the Township a *Recycle Facility Weigh Ticket* indicating the number of tons that truck had on it, the day and hour.

Clerk Crawford also assured Mr. Repp that the Township writes the check and if at any time they feel something wasn't dumped properly, maybe a check isn't written for something that hasn't been done.

Jim DeLuca, Simpson Road - Recycled when the Township held it at the school, but is against having it picked up at his home because he only uses it once a month. He asked if there will be a fine if it's not out at the road?

The Board informed Mr. DeLuca there is no fine. This is not a mandatory participation.

Mr. DeLuca also stated that they are going to offer the Township a sweetheart deal this year, but what's it going to cost next year and the year after that?

Supervisor Baldwin stated Marcotte has given the Township a five year proposal; they've also included that after a year the Township can evaluate it and if the program is not successful or it's not working, the Township can opt out of it. So we've been given a five year proposal with a opt out, but we have the numbers (5 years) available for residents to see.

Clerk Crawford stated the Township has had experience in working with Marcotte for close to ten years. These were some of the same comments we looked into when we started the Township-Wide Trash pickup. He feels the pricing has been very fair and believes, even now, he is personally paying less than what he paid for his individual pick-up almost ten years ago.

Treasurer Reynolds also noted that, included in the Trash Pick-up is Yard Waste, which everyone pays for but doesn't use.

Mr. DeLuca stated, as property owners, we don't really have a say once we turn it over to the Board. Look at our water bills and fire protection. We don't get a say anymore.

Treasurer Reynolds stated the Board would love to see this many people at every meeting. We average four people a meeting.

Steve McPherson, Sturbridge Lane - Supports recycling. He is a Scout and has been driving it into kids for years. For it, as long as it's utilized. The amount of money we are paying to recycle, he thinks is relatively good, as far as not too expensive. Hopes the Board has oversight to make sure things are done in the proper way. Has traveled around the world to a number of different countries and the United States, for the most part, is way more superior in taking care of the environment, waste disposal, all kinds of things than other countries around the world. When you start saying that the US is doing such a poor job the reality is, when you travel around the world and go to these different countries, you find out that we are way ahead of what other countries are doing. The only negative thing he has to say is he is concerned for retirees who are on a fixed income. Thinks the concern of many people here is, this is just one more thing; not that this is such a huge amount of money, but it's one more thing that continues to be added. Their fixed incomes are not going up; and so, what are they going to take away in order to pay for this. Especially when a lot of them are not going to use it very much. Not sure what the answer is, but does think they have a legitimate concern because they're at a point in their life where they are just making even now; just able to buy their medicine and food or things like that. Some of them have legitimate concerns; it's only \$30, but it's \$30 they don't have. Thinks the Board needs to consider that aspect of it for the people that are in that situation.

**PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:**

Johnnie Johnson, Devonshire Road - Asked what the Township was spending prior for recycling? What is the difference between what the Township was spending and what you are trying to be raised now? Thinking the Township could just pay for that recycling as a benefit to the residents of Fort Gratiot.

Supervisor Baldwin did not have specific dollar amounts available, but said we probably averaged between \$1,600/\$2,000 per month for the program, before employees and other things. The Township was charged by bin so it varied month to month. The Township had to staff it; we realized that the company was not capable of staffing it properly.

Mr. Johnson asked, when you figure total stops, etc., what is going to be the total cost for the Township?

Supervisor Baldwin stated for bi-weekly, \$74,170.70. She referred to the program at the school and noted the biggest difference there was that program was only utilized by between 300/400 residents at a time. This would be a service available to all 3600 parcels. That is what we are weighing out now.

Nancy Miller, Birchwood Estates - Don't you think that the number of people that you just stated were using it per month or per week would give you an indication of how many people out of all of these parcels are really interested in it?

Supervisor Baldwin stated she thinks it's a start. She doesn't think we've heard from a lot of people who weren't able to make it. We heard from people who used it way more when it was at the DPW and they could do it 24/7. She knows the number indicated on the sheet handed out, of the tonnage, actually went up from the County program to the Township program. She does feel people were recycling more when the County system was here; it was more convenient for people than when we moved it to Saturday. As of 6:30 tonight, the Township had received 106 letters in favor and 58 opposed. Every time we have these public hearings we are hearing from more and more people, on both sides. That is what we are trying to gauge.

Mr. Marlar asked if the total amount of trash that is going to be picked up at each residence is going to be reduced a lot because of the amount that's going to be going into recycling? Why is everybody still going to be charged \$122.00 for household pickup? The price is going to have to come down; Marcotte, obviously is going to need fewer employees, fewer trucks, less licenses.

Supervisor Baldwin stated Marcotte still has to stop at each house and still has to drive every road.

Mr. Kuehn stated that before we had the dumpster for people who recycled. If they want to recycle, let them put it in that dump instead of paying \$30.70 weekly. Do you realize how much money that's going to bring in to the Township from the people who live here? A lot of people don't have this type of money to recycle. He stated he has to pick up papers from McDonalds, and cups off his lawn. They say they want to teach their kids to recycle? He has to pick it up off his lawn. They aren't recycling; they're throwing it away. Can't see why he has to pay \$30 weekly for something we don't do ourselves. Mr. Kuehn was informed that the cost is \$30 per year; not weekly.

Mr. Kuehn stated, still and all, \$30.70 a year is going to bring a lot of money into the Township when they can just pay \$20/\$30 to pull that dumpster out of there if they want to recycle. He doesn't recycle; his kids are raised. He's taught them not to throw anything out their window; he's taught his kids well. Opposed to recycling.

Jodi Moss asked if Burtchville Township was included in the Saturday recycling? The Board replied, yes. She asked how many, of the 300 people that participated, were just Fort Gratiot people?

Supervisor Baldwin replied that of the 300/400 people, she would say 10/20 people were Burtchville Township residents.

Mrs. Moss also asked if the reason they pulled the County program had anything to do with the Bio-Reactor gas thing that they're trying to keep fed at every given moment so we, as a county, can sell this gas?

Clerk Crawford stated he would guess they probably increased their tonnage and received money from the tonnage tip fee. But he cannot say that the recycle material is something that produces methane gas. Basically, a plastic bottle is not going to produce the gas that they are after. Really, what they need in the landfill to produce the gas is garbage. Garbage is what creates methane gas in the decaying process.

Mrs. Moss asked if he is saying they separate through residents bags every week to get the garbage to put into this reactor?

Clerk Crawford stated the County does not do any separating. It all goes into the landfill and, under its natural process, it creates the gas.

Mrs. Moss asked if we are cutting our own throats, as a County because we are paying for this multi-million dollar machine?

Mr. Crawford replied, no. He stated the reason the County would be looking at taking in Canadian trash, which they have not done as of yet, is because they need the garbage to produce the methane gas.

Mrs. Moss stated, either way, it doesn't really matter to her. It's just the two of them and she has one bag a week of regular garbage.

**PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:**

Clerk Crawford noted at the last meeting an individual said that also and, he challenged people to take two bags and put what you think can be recycled in one bag and what wouldn't be recycled in the other. He stated you will be amazed at how much you really could recycle. Mr. Crawford admitted that he did that; and he is amazed.

Mrs. Moss agreed, but stated you are still paying that full cost of garbage pick-up. There is no reduction there.

Clerk Crawford agreed, stating not at this time. The Township doesn't have any data to see if there will be any reduction.

Mrs. Moss asked if this is something the Township will be looking at in the future?

Mr. Crawford reminded the audience that there is still a cost for the company to run a truck, employees, benefits, fuel, maintenance, replacement, etc. The small amount of difference is the tipping fee and the tax at the landfill. These are the smaller amounts of the cost involved of picking something up.

Anita Selby, Carrigan Road - Hasn't been around, back and fourth in different states. But, we had a service at Fort Gratiot Middle School and asked if there is a reason why Marcotte can't provide that service twice a month, at the school? Or, even once a month; instead of having the pick-up at the curbside.

Supervisor Baldwin stated the Township was having difficulty staffing it. The scouts and student groups only helped citizens unload their recycling; they did not check ID's. We had staff there because after a couple of weeks we realized how many people were non-residents that our General Fund was paying for. We feel that the Township has to staff it. We did it for 18 months and found that if someone wasn't there, or wasn't there right away, those were the weekends we had problems.

A resident stated there are a lot of after school programs and such. Let them monitor it so the Township doesn't have to hire somebody to do it.

Clerk Crawford stated he wouldn't want to have to have one of those kids have to tell someone, "I'm sorry; you aren't a Fort Gratiot resident and Fort Gratiot taxes are supporting this service and you will have to take your recyclables somewhere else". He wouldn't want to put that on a kid.

Treasurer Reynolds stated we did have people that did get nasty with us, who didn't live here.

Barbara Kessel, North River Road - Asked if residents could have the option of bi-weekly instead of the weekly pick-up.

Supervisor Baldwin replied, yes. The Board is looking at both options and both numbers have been presented. She stated the three options: we either don't do the recycling service; or it will be bi-weekly or weekly.

Katherine Phillips, Elmwood Drive - Did a survey in her subdivision. Half of the people are snow birds. She stated residents of the park she goes to in Florida sells their newspapers. They make money of newspapers and sell soup cans and what have you, making money off them. They bring a big dumpster in once a week for garbage; one for paper, one for cans. They get paid for weight and earn money off them. Why can't the Township once a week or once a month? Some of these seniors can't go every week, so how about once a month have a paper one, a tin can one; and sell it back for the paper and aluminum?

Clerk Crawford stated he guesses in Michigan the situation is a little different. We had a program where we had a company bringing out the bins and recycling the items; they were sorted at the point where there were put into the bins. That company did not find it to be profitable, even when we were paying them to bring the bins out and haul the stuff away.

Mrs. Phillips stated it's too bad; there is money to be made in paper and aluminum. It's amazing what can be made off it.

A resident asked, since it went from \$30 to \$20 from weekly to bi-weekly, would it be possible to go to monthly and then it can go to \$10? She also asked, what would qualify as a hardship?

Clerk Crawford explained that would be something the Township Board would have to look at with Marcotte.

Tracy Kaplin stated currently Marcotte has a veteran discount and a senior citizen discount on their regular customer subscription service. Because the Township has done a very good job for the residents by getting a very, very discounted rate, Township residents are paying around \$7.36/month for just trash pickup; whereas, regular customer subscribers pay \$20.00/month and senior citizens pay \$15.00/month and veterans pay \$12.00/month. Marcotte could certainly look at doing a discount on hardship cases on a case-by-case basis. Marcotte has built in a discount, basically doing it for \$2.35/month for a weekly pickup which is four pickups where they run a truck throughout the whole township every week. By the time she pays two men, she pays their workers comp., benefits, insurance, health benefits, fuel and fees to the recycling facility, \$2.35 doesn't go that far.

Mrs. Phillips asked why snow birds who are gone five months cannot get a discount? Mrs. Kaplin stated that discounts can be looked at on a case by case basis.

**PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:**

Supervisor Baldwin stated the six month requirement is something that has been worked out between the Township and Marcotte; so it's not off the table. It is something that we can negotiate, as well.

Mrs. Miller asked if Marcotte is an American company or a Canadian company?

Mrs. Kaplin replied that Marcotte is, originally an American company; is still American. Marcotte's American Corporation was founded in 1917 and was purchased by her father in 1993. Her father passed away seven years ago and now she runs the company. He brought it over to Canada in 1993, so there is a Marcotte in Canada that he started up. Marcotte does a lot of communities in Canada now, strictly with a Canadian base. Marcotte has two separate facilities that run entirely separate of each other. The American company has American accountants and lawyers. Marcotte supports American charities and local charities. Everything in the United States is completely separate. Marcotte employs 40 people and just started with the City of Port Huron. All of Marcotte's tax dollars stay here. Marcotte's Canadian trash stays in Canada.

A resident stated she would like to have bi-weekly pickup. She thinks that would be sufficient enough, for personal needs anyway. She also asked if it needs to be separated at all?

The Board stated the recyclable material does not need to be separated; just throw it all together. Mr. Crawford clarified that it does have to be separated from household garbage.

Mrs. Fraser noted the diversity in choices. Some residents prefer by-weekly, some monthly; she would personally prefer weekly. As far as what people can give up to pay for this service, she stated two packages of potato chips.

Mr. McLean stated his preference would be weekly. He is the citizen who presented the challenge at the last meeting and feels people will find they have a lot that can be put out for recycling.

Supervisor Baldwin stated if we go with any kind of recycling program, there will have to be a lot of education as far as what is okay to put out, how much, what type of container. That will fall on the Township to make sure that information gets out. The Township Trash pickup and Yard Waste pickup will not change.

Another resident suggested starting out bi-weekly, rather than jumping into a weekly program. This will allow people to get used to it.

Clerk Crawford stated we have to look at it as, we have a recycling program or we don't; we have a weekly recycling program which in which if you miss a week it's coming next week; or a bi-weekly recycling program in which if you miss a week you will have to wait two weeks for pickup. If we have a monthly recycling program, as suggested, now we will be waiting a month.

Mr. Campbell reiterated that he is in favor of bi-weekly recycling. Thinks it's a good idea and feels people need to be educated as to what is recyclable.

Ed Carlini, Bardamar Drive - Would like to see bi-weekly pickup. Lived in Warren for 30 years before moving up here and they had a recycling program that seemed to go smoothly down there.

Avis Pettie, Carrigan Road - In favor of bi-weekly recycling.

Mr. Marlar asked if the Township has shopped around to see if there are any better deals?

Many residents spoke out to say this is a very reasonable price.

Clerk Crawford stated the Township has had a contract with Marcotte for over ten years; and we have an option for renewal on that contract. They have been very fair with the Township. For example, Mr. Crawford referred to flooding in the Northeast corner of the Township where a number of items were destroyed because of water getting into homes. After contacting Ms. Kaplin, she told Mr. Crawford to have residents put it out and Marcotte picked the items up at no additional charge. Marcotte has been a very good steward of services for the Township. If you are asking if the Township compared this with Waste Management or other companies, no we didn't. When we initially went to the Township-wide service, we did have open bidding. One of those companies that was being pushed down our throat is no longer in business. The Township has been very happy with Marcotte. We've been able to renew our contracts with them and feel we are getting a fair price; we get good service from them. The recycling has been offered as an additional service to the current contract that we have with them.

Mr. Campbell stated he used the recycling center at the DPW when it was open 24/7 about once every six weeks. When the Township went to the program at the school twice a month, he did not do it; he just threw his stuff in the trash because when they had the event it didn't jive with his schedule or wasn't convenient. This way, he can put it out at the curb and they will pick it up. Prior to the Township-wide trash service, he had Marcotte pick up his trash. The cost, when we went to the township-wide pick-up, went down considerably. He lives on a fixed income and stated the cost of \$20.21 a year for bi-weekly is reasonable.

**PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:**

Sara Miller, Grace Road - Spoke in favor of recycling. It should be "when we recycle" not "if we recycle", because it will be a big step backwards if we quit.

Mrs. Fraser asked when the Board will make the decision?

Clerk Crawford stated the item is on the Agenda tonight for a decision.

Mrs. Moss asked what will be done with the glass?

Ms. Kaplin stated nobody, currently, wants the glass right now, but it is going to the recycling facility and what they choose to do with it is up to them; Marcotte pays to get rid of it at the recycling facility. She stated they are trying to source out a gravel company that will be interested in it because we are trying to look at making a "G" gravel; that's what they do in Canada is make a "G" gravel with it. They grind it up and use it as road beds under the asphalt.

A resident suggested that when the recycling does start, maybe as a reminder and as education to the public, the recycling containers have some kind of lid because of wind. A lot of that plastic will be blowing around; he's seen it in Indiana where they have recycling. They do have bins with lids on them. He also referred to comments made about Marcotte's service a couple weeks ago and stated, in his neighborhood, they are top drawer. He has called in and complimented their crews and even taken treats out to them during the 90 degree days.

Ms. Kaplin quickly covered what can be recycled: All paper products (i.e., mail, newspaper, flyers, shredded paper), clear glass, cardboard (tied and bundled or placed in a clear plastic bag), all plastics numbered 1 thru 7 (yogurt, ice cream containers), tin cans. Facilities are refusing greasy pizza boxes right now because people are leaving them with grease and food in them and the facility can't take them because it will contaminate the whole load. Styrofoam (packing peanuts).

Bob Pearson, Lakeshore Road - Just reminded the Board of some items they need to keep up on or look into if the Township does implement this, which he hopes it does. Some people for five months or two months gone? If the Township will answer those questions and educate people on what the options are, such as senior citizens, hardships, etc., he thinks it will go along way toward getting approval.

The Board stated they aren't opposed to looking into these matters. Mr. Crawford stated there is, currently, the *Snow Bird* policy in which you need to be gone for six months. To expand on that is an option that has to be agreed upon by the Township and the Company. Treasurer Reynolds stated the entire amount is still billed on the taxes, but once you come in and prove you've been gone six months, and then Marcotte issues a refund check to the resident.

Mr. Pearson stated the question was asked and Supervisor Baldwin didn't know the answer was: "could someone opt out". That needs to be informed or educated.

Clerk Crawford stated, in the past, we have had people request to opt out of the trash service. What they have done is brought in the documentation showing where they have disposed of the trash on their own and had receipts to prove that. In other words, he stated he doesn't want neighbor saying he wants to opt out because he's disposing of his own trash by putting it in the neighbors driveway. Treasurer Reynolds noted an example of an apartment with four or five units. Even though it's residential, they have shown proof to the Township that they have a dumpster for the residence and the Township allows them to opt out. But, you can't just opt out because you don't want it.

Supervisor Baldwin asked for any further questions, comments and/or objections, at this time. She advised the audience that once the Public Hearing is closed the Board will move on to Board Discussion. At that time, citizens are welcome to listen to the discussion but will not be allowed to comment.

Mrs. Phillips asked why the Board is voting on it tonight when at the last meeting most of the people were against it.

The Board advised Mrs. Phillips that at the last meeting it was about 20 people in favor and 4 against.

Mrs. Phillips stated she thinks the Board should call a meeting and have people vote how they feel.

Supervisor Baldwin reiterated that the Township cannot hold a vote on this by the people. That is, by law, why the Township notified everyone (by postcard) for the first public hearing and accepted public comment; then, we sent out the postcard for the second public hearing (for tonight). Residents had an option to send in a letter for or against, or to come to the meeting and speak for or against.

Mrs. Phillips stated, we would like to do a Petition and opt out, because like she said, over half of a 120 people are gone.

**PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:**

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to close the Public Hearing to Review the Proposed Special Assessment Roll and to hear citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed Township-Wide Residential Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Services. Time, 8:26 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**  
**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

**BOARD DISCUSSION:**

Trustee Kish - When you look at the two figures given, \$74,170.70 Bi-Weekly or \$112,669.00 Weekly, he gets the sense that if we do it bi-weekly that might be more acceptable; and if we could afford some of the residents the privilege of snow birding for less than six months. He has to think the \$74,170.70 is a fixed cost based upon what the provider figured it would take to run a truck up and down the road for whatever length of time they do it whether you are here or not; so if they don't stop at your address, the truck still goes by and there is still gas being expended. As a senior, himself, on a fixed income, he has to think (not knowing how many snow birds or opts out we would have) that the \$74,170.70 figure is still in place and those of that hang out in the winter and don't go away will have to somehow supplement that cost either directly or indirectly. Either the Township might have to pick up the difference, from the General Fund, or he, as a person who stays would have to pay a little bit more. He'd be willing to adopt another senior who wants to go to Florida, making his \$20 go up to \$30, but thinks the \$74,170.70 still has to be there whether you use it or not because we're doing it for everybody, literally; not pick & choose body. Thinks we should give people a break if we can give them a break, but incidental to that, he'd be willing to pay a little bit more so they can get a bit of a break if they feel it needed in terms of their income and in terms of them leaving town.

Supervisor Baldwin - We currently have 40 Snow Birds on the Trash Removal program under the six (6) month terms.

Treasurer Reynolds - If we are going to try the recycling program and have the option to opt out, she feels we should start with bi-weekly to see how it works out and go from there.

Supervisor Baldwin - Since we've sent out the postcards, she showed the amount of correspondence we've received "for" and "against". The Township has been reading these and talking with people over the last three weeks. There are a lot of opinions and emotions to both sides. There is a lot to consider and when you look at the people who are "for" it; and their reasons are just as valid as the reasons on the other side. It has been the topic of conversation and she feels the amount of talking shows there is a lot of interest in trying. Even some of the people who where opposed felt like if the Township had a true way to evaluate the program, and a true way to see how much has been reduced to the landfill and evaluate that on a year to year basis, that on a bi-weekly trial, so to speak, was a good portion of the conversation when people came in.

Trustee Bradley - We do have a year to try it to see if it does or doesn't work. The majority of the public hear says "yes"; some say "no". If we went with the bi-weekly at \$20.21 per unit/per year, we could try it that first year; so you'd be out \$20.21. If it works fantastic, maybe we can go to weekly pick-up. Thinks we should give it a shot.

Trustee Kelly - Agreed, stating she feels to start bi-weekly would be appropriate.

Supervisor Baldwin - Feels like we've gotten so much feedback of people willing to give it that shot; that try for a year. And, the Township is accountable to watch and see if it's really working; it falls on the Board. Marcotte has been more than willing to provide those numbers on a regular basis to see how it pans out.

Trustee Kish - Stated it would be nice to notify the public how it's going (i.e., Township Newsletter) so they can see the actual figures and see if they are getting what they are paying for. Then we can see whether it's worth proceeding.

Clerk Crawford - This is an opportunity to either have a program or not have a program. We tried to pick up what the County was doing; we had participation by Township residents. We've had requests from Township residents for recycling and many of those residents asked us about curbside recycling. Maybe, a bi-weekly pickup on a year's trial period to see if we can really make a difference.

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Kelly, to approve Township-Wide Residential Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Services for all Parcels of land within the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot with a Single Family Dwelling, Two (2) Single Family Dwellings or a Two (2) Family Dwelling, Bi-Weekly for a one year trial; and to Adopt Resolution No. 5, Confirming the Special Assessment Roll in the amount of \$ 74,170.70 (\$20.21 per unit per year), beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The Board will still investigate the Snow Bird Discount and other discounts.  
Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL CONFIRMED.**

The program at Fort Gratiot Middle School will continue through the end of September.

**8:36 P.M. - SUPERVISOR CALLED A FIVE (5) MINUTE RECESS.**

**8:41 P.M. - REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to set Public Hearing Date to review plans and estimates and to hear citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed 2013/2014 Annual Gravel and Seasonal Maintenance on Velma Drive, on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m.; and adopt Resolution No. 2, *Resolution of Intent to Create Special Assessment District*. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEIL WURLINGER & FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP, FOR REMOVAL OF THE WHITE HOUSE, SINGLE-CAR GARAGE AND WHITE SHED LOCATED AT 3700 KEEWAHDIN ROAD AT NO COST TO THE TOWNSHIP:

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION:
- \* Structures are to be removed by November 1, 2013
  - \* Conditions of the structure(s): Where presently located and "As Is"
  - \* Mr. Wurlinger will be responsible of having debris removed from property and any/all costs associated with the removal of the structures and any/all required permits
  - \* Township will be responsible for backfilling and grading property

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Reynolds, to adopt the Agreement between Fort Gratiot Township and Neil Wurlinger for the removal for the White House, Single-Car Garage and White Shed located at 3700 Keewahdin Road. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. THREE (3) APPLICATIONS FOR P.A. 116 FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PROGRAM, AS FOLLOWS:

APPLICANT	PROPERTY I.D. NUMBER	PROPERTY ADDRESS & DESCRIPTION OF PARCEL
KAREN E. LEWIS	74-20-007-4012-500	VACANT Parcel on Carrigan - S 170' OF N 1160' OF SW ¼ OF SW ¼ INCL C&O RR R/W LYING WITHIN SEC 7 T7N R17E 5.44 ACRES (5.44 ACRES TILLABLE)
MARSHALL R. LEWIS	74-20-006-3012-000	VACANT Parcel on Cole - SW ¼ OF SW ¼ SEC 6 T7N R17E 40 ACRES (40 TILLABLE ACRES).
MARSHALL R. LEWIS	74-20-006-4005-000	VACANT Parcel on Cole - SW ¼ OF SW ¼ SEC 6 T7N R17E 40 ACRES (40 TILLABLE ACRES).

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION:
- \* This Application requires approval from: Fort Gratiot Board of Trustee's, Fort Gratiot Planning Commission, St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission; and Michigan's Soil Conservation District
  - \* Approval of these Applications does not affect Property Taxes. Land is not subject to special assessments for sanitary sewer, water, lights or non-farm drain projects.
  - \* Approval may allow landowner certain income tax benefits

Motion by Kish, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the Applications for P.A. 116 Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program for Karen E. Lewis, 74-20-007-4012-500; and Marshall R. Lewis, 74-20-006-3012-000 & 74-20-006-4005-000. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: NONE**

**BOARD DISCUSSION:**

- Brick Work around Veterans Memorial at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery has started.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to adjourn. Time, 9:02 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