

MEMBERS PRESENT: BALDWIN, REYNOLDS, CRAWFORD AND BRADLEY
 MEMBERS ABSENT: KISH, BRUCKNER AND KELLY
 ALSO PRESENT: BILL SHAGENA, ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER & LISA SHAGENA, ASSISTANT ASSESSOR

7:00 O'CLOCK P.M. - Supervisor opens Public Hearing to review and her citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed Residential Solid Waste / Yard Waste and Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Special Assessment Roll for the 2016 Contract Year; and continued with the Regular Agenda at this time.

Motion by Reynolds, seconded by Crawford, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of October 7th, 2015, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

William Shannahan asked about encouraging recycling by charging more for trash and less for recycling.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Baldwin, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of Item #2, NEW BUSINESS: Request to approve Contract with Carol Lopiccolo, to be the Assessor of Record for the Township; and Item #3, NEW BUSINESS: Request to post Part-Time Assessor's Assistant Position. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. AGENDA APPROVED, AS AMENDED.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL	\$ 1,757,544.56
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 298,182.49
POLICE	\$ 176,438.14
TRASH/RECYCLING	\$ 224,023.38
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	\$ 97,359.29
UTILITY RECEIVING	\$ 1,486,359.73
TOTAL	\$ 4,039,907.59
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,285,132.10
GENERAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 41,551.06
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT INVESTMENTS	\$ 152,538.36
UTILITY BOND MONEY MARKET	\$ 42,792.86
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 5,561,921.97

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Reynolds, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 4/0. **MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 5,561,921.97.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL	\$ 20,558.25
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 1,707.16
POLICE	\$ 56,188.42
TRASH/RECYCLING	\$ 44,441.51
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	\$ 0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING	\$ 8,917.72
TOTAL	\$ 131,813.06
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MUNICIPAL BLDG. CONST.)	\$ 4,118.76
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 135,931.82

Motion by Reynolds, seconded by Bradley, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 4/0. **MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 135,931.82.**

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

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT: Given by representative of Sheriff Department: Captain Muxlow.

Total Calls for Service for the month of September, 2015, (418). Number of Patrol Hours, (964). 24 Animal Complaint; 1 Assault & Battery; 20 Assist Other Depts.; 43 Assist Public; 3 B&E/Building; 1 B&E/Vehicle; 28 B&E/Alarm; 1 Child Abuse/Neglect; 5 Disorderly Persons; 7 Domestic Assault; 11 Fraud; 11 Harassment & Threats; 2 Juvenile; 7 Larceny; 2 MDOP; 1 Narcotics; 9 PI Traffic Crash; 38 PD Traffic Crash; 24 Retail Fraud; 2 Sex Offense; 43 Suspicious Incidents; 2 Trespasser; 133 Misc. Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hangups, etc...; 131 Traffic Stops; 66 Tickets Issued.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SHERIFF: * Mrs. Marlar noted that the Speed sign working on North River Road.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: NONE

Capt. Shagena gave a brief recap of the month's calls, which included a structure fire at Brandywine Pines Mobile Home Community and a fatal car accident in Clyde Township.

PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of September, 2015, (14). 11 Mechanical (\$1,865.00); 3 Plumbing (546.00). Total Fees, \$ 2,411.00.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of September, 2015, (23). 1 New Home (Val. 160,000); 10 Residential Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 161,438); 1 Residential Accessory Structure (Val. 0.00); 4 Fence; 2 Deck/Porch (Val. 8,000); 1 Pool (Val. 40,000); 2 Commercial Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 318,000); 1 Sign (Val. 500). Total Valuation, \$ 687,938.00. Total Fees, \$ 5,777.50.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of September, 2015, (7). Total Fees, \$ 1,370.00.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: Total complaints in the month of September, 2015, (11). 2 Blight; 4 RV Storage/Parking; 2 Unlicensed Vehicles; 2 Misc. Ordinance Violations; 1 Misc. Code Violation.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

Motion by Reynolds, seconded by Baldwin, to accept report(s), as given. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

1. PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE / YARD WASTE AND CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE 2016 CONTRACT YEAR. (\$151.21 / UNIT ASSESSED AGAINST SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS, TWO (2) SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS; OR TWO (2) FAMILY DWELLING):

Supervisor Baldwin noted that our current contract, with Marcotte Disposal, is through 2018; and asked for citizen comments, questions and/or objections at this time:

Mr. Mylar asked if weekly recycling is necessary.

Supervisor Baldwin noted the number of calls received by the Township. She stated there would be no added cost, and the Township does believe there is enough residences in the Township that would utilize the weekly recycling as opposed to bi-weekly.

Treasurer Reynolds noted the number of calls the Township receives on the off-week.

Mr. Marlar asked if those calls are because people just can't keep track of the fact that it's picked up every other week. He stated, within his cul-de-sac, there are 16 houses and only 6 recycle.

Supervisor Baldwin stated that part of the problem, we are wondering, is if people miss it, then they don't recycle. And, if it is offered weekly, would we have more participation because it simplifies it.

Treasurer Reynolds reiterated that, the more residents recycle, the less the cost is to the Township because it's more expensive to get rid of the garbage than it is the recycling. If we look at going to recycling every week, it won't cost the taxpayers any more because we have a fund balance because of recycling last year. What the Township estimated it would have to pay in fees, didn't have to be paid because we had so much recycling money available to use to off-set that. So we could go every week recycling and not raise the fees.

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

Mr. Marlar questioned if the trade-off is worth it, in the Township, as far as what we are going to be adding to Global Warming by running the extra truck every week. Recycling is to protect the environment and he thinks this is a trade-off we should look at before doing that.

Clerk Crawford stated, the Great Lakes are actually starting to show up with plastic particles. If it's in the water, it wasn't recycled. If he can keep plastic out of Great Lakes, which is right outside his front door and where we get our drinking water; that is his reason to recycle. He even keeps a recycling bin under his desk at the Township.

Trustee Bradley stated, he thinks if people miss the recycling date, they get tired of looking at it and just throw it in the trash.

Clerk Crawford stated it isn't just the reduction in the amount of trash going to the landfill, but the fuel costs have actually gone down, also helping to offset the costs and give us a surplus. The Township is looking at using that surplus to offer the recycling weekly, the same as the trash service. We can look, at the end of next year, to see if recycling volumes increase. We need to make people more aware that this service is available and recycling is what we should be doing. He also noted that the State of Michigan has funds available to get communities to start to recycle. We are already recycling; how do we promote recycling?

Mr. Marlar stated his concern is that we don't want to do the right thing for the wrong reasons.

Trustee Bradley stated he understands concerns about Global Warming. That is the reason the Township opted to move to one hauler, rather than see three or four different company trucks come by every week.

Supervisor Baldwin stated she is really supportive of doing it for at least a year, to see if it increases. It shouldn't be so complicated that it is every other week, but it is complicated for a lot of people. She does believe we would have more participation if people knew they could just put it out each week. Because, she thinks it's an inconvenience to hold it for a couple weeks and it probably hurts the participation. She reiterated, she is very supportive of doing it weekly for just a year, to see. We have gone from the County providing the recycling units in front of the DPW building, to us running our own program on Saturdays where we hired a company and people had to bring their recycling; to, now, this curbside service because we just keep getting more participation the more we make it available to people. She has seen the program grow and the need for it grow.

Clerk Crawford noted a toilet he had seen, recently, dumped along one of our dirt roads and asked, what community doesn't offer trash service in their community? Most communities have a weekly pick-up available; why are others still throwing in ditches?

Supervisor Baldwin stated that blight clean-up on these things is much more costly.

After hearing no further citizen comments, questions and/or objections, a Motion was made by Crawford, seconded by Reynolds, to close the Public Hearing to review and hear citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed Residential Solid Waste / Yard Waste and Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Service Special Assessment Roll. Time, 7:31 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- * Clerk Crawford - It's a good thing to offer recycling weekly, at no additional cost.
- * Treasurer Reynolds - The 2015 rate was \$ 151.21; the actual 2016 cost would go up approx. 0.11 per Parcel; Administration discussed setting the rate at \$ 150.00 for 2016, due to the fund balance.
- * Supervisor Baldwin - It speaks to the Police Millage and Fire Assessment in trying to collect just what we need based on the numbers that we have at the time.
- * Importance of keeping and maintaining a Fund Balance due to unknown expenses in following years.

Motion by Baldwin, seconded by Crawford, to adopt the Resolution Confirming Special Assessment Roll for 2016 Residential Solid Waste/Yard Waste and Weekly Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Services establishing the rate at \$ 150.00 per unit assessed against all Single-Family Dwellings, Two (2) Single Family Dwellings; or a Two (2) Family Dwelling; and to adopt the 2016 Resolution Confirming the Special Assessment Roll. Roll Call Vote, 4 /0. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ST. CLAIR COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION AGREEMENT:

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	TOWNSHIP COST
REMOVE & REPLACE CROSS ROAD CULVERT AND ASPHALT ON ABEL DRIVE	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 8,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 8,500.00

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Clerk Crawford expects the actual cost being reduced to somewhere around \$3,000.00 to the Township due to Drain Fund monies available.

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Reynolds, to accept the St. Clair County Road Commission Agreement to remove and replace the cross road culvert and asphalt on Abel Drive, at a cost of \$ 8,500.00 to the Township.
 Roll Call Vote, 4/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Contract with Carol Lopiccolo, to be the Assessor of Record for the Township, at a cost of \$30,000.00.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Mrs. Lopiccolo is a Level III Assessor
 * Contract would take us to the Certification of the 2016 Tax Roll. The Township has to have A Level III Assessor certify the Tax Roll or the State of Michigan could seize it, which would come at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars. Also, must be represented by a minimum Level III Assessor at Tax Tribunals.
 * Mrs. Lopiccolo came highly recommended by the City of Port Huron, County Equalization and Mr. Fernandez from the City of Marysville who used to be the City of Port Huron Assessor. She has over 30 years' experience in the Assessing Field and in our area.
 * Falls within budgeted figures for 2015.

Roll Call Vote, 4/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bradley, to approve posting the position of Part-Time Assessor's Assistant, at a rate of \$11.00/hour, not to exceed 28 hours per week. Roll Call Vote, 4/0. MOTION PASSED.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Assessing Department and overall improved efficiency of each Department within the new Municipal Office Center.
- Demolition of old Township Administration Building.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: NONE

Motion by _Bradley, seconded by Reynolds, to adjourn. Time, 7:52 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.**



ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, CMMC
 FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

JORJA BALDWIN, SUPERVISOR
 FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP