

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
Grass Lake Charter Township Board
January 8, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Grass Lake Charter Township Board was called to order on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall by Supervisor Stormont.

Board Members Present by Roll Call: Bray, Loveland, Zenz, Stormont and Brennan. Absent Butterfield and Lester. Also Present: Fire Chief Jones, Assessor DeBoe, Village President DeBoe, and approximately 14 public.

Pledge to Flag was recited.

Agenda Additions/Approval: Bray moved to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Brennan. Motion carried.

Public Comment: **Susan Stewart** - read and presented questions wanting answers to and also to be part of public record. **Bobbi Harper** - read and presented document she wants to be part of public record. **Richard Murphy** – Comments about Bohne Road Gravel Pit and research he has done on surrounding Townships in regards to SUP's and Gravel Mine Ordinance. **Carl Wells** – Public Hearing on renewal of Gravel Pit on Bohne Road? **Joanne Ackerman** – read letter presented to Planning Commission at December Meeting and expects answers at their January meeting. (attached)

Minutes: Bray made a motion to approve the December 11, 2018 Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Supported by Brennan. Motion carried.

Presentation of Bills: Bray made motion to pay General Fund Bills in the amount of \$47,327.54 and Fire Fund Bills in the amount of \$11,475.06 and also to allow Clerk to pay any other bills that should come in so no late fees will be assessed. Supported by Brennan. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Bray, Brennan, Loveland, Zenz and Stormont. Absent – Butterfield and Lester. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Loveland explained the new format of the report. The board was pleased with the output. Motion by Bray to accept and file Treasurer's report as prepared. Supported by Brennan. Motion Carried.

County Sheriff Report: no report.

Assessor Report: Report was filed as prepared by Assessor DeBoe.

Zoning Administrator Report: Report was filed as prepared by Administrator Lammers.

Planning Commission Report: Brennan reported Site Plan Review from Andover was reviewed. He met with Lammers to get an overview of original SUP meeting of the Norvell Road Gravel Pit in order to have some answers to give to Joanne Ackerman.

Chief Building Official Report: Accepted and filed as printed.

Whistlestop Park Report: Report from Mike Fensler, Secretary of Whistlestop Park Association.

Recreation Board Report: No report, next meeting January 16, 2019 @ 7:00pm.

Township Office Committee Report: No report, next meeting will be January 17, 2019 at 6:00pm.

Correspondence: Jackson County Conservation District's Annual Meeting notice, need to rsvp.

Old Business: a) – **Mt Hope Road Township property sale - update** – Jack Ripstra still working on the plans for the property sale. b) – **Recreational Marijuana Ordinance – Final Adoption** – Motion by Brennan to adopt Police

Power Ordinance 11- Prohibiting Marihuana Establishments within the boundaries of Grass Lake Charter Township. Supported by Bray. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Brennan, Bray, Loveland, Zenz and Stormont. Absent – Butterfield and Lester. **c) – Park Manager update** – Notice of job opening will be in paper January 10 and then run for 3 weeks. Complete description and application will be available on website. Bray has a few changes he wants to make to the full job description.

New Business: a) – 2019 Tire Collection – Board wishes to participate in the program again. Loveland made a motion to coordinate the May Dump Date as our first choice and June being the second choice. Supported by Zenz. Motion Carried.

Fire Department Report: December report accepted as prepared by Chief Jones.

Old Business: none.

New Business: none.

Public Comment: **Susan Stewart** – Wants clearer answers, distributed flyer about meeting at the Federated Church. (attached) **Dale Fisher** – thank you to Tom Brennan and Board members, formal complaint on Jere Hinkle’s behavior. **Star Warren-Crowdis** – how do we handle letters given to the boards? New Township Office questions. **Richard Murphy** – wants new ordinance wrote for gravel pits.

Adjournment: Motion by Bray to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 pm, supported by Brennan. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Catherine Zenz, Township Clerk

Attachments – attendee’s letters

01/08/2019.

Bobbi Harper,
3436 Betrasha Lane,
Grass Lake, MI. USA. 492

To: Jim Stormont,
Grass Lake Township Board of Trustees,
373 Lakeside Drive
Grass Lake Township. MI. 49240

Dear Jim and Township Board of Trustees,

We hope you are doing well. We are writing to you regarding the need to create ordinances for Grass Lake Township regarding special use permits for Gravel/ Sand pits and other industrial types of businesses that are existing or may occur in the future, which reside in residential/ agricultural zones.

There are currently no ordinances designed to protect residents and their properties from the damage Gravel/Sand Pits or other industrial businesses may cause. We currently have no protection for our wells drying up. We have no protection from the potential contamination of our water. We have no protection for environmental damage to our air and soil. There is also no protection regarding the devaluation of our properties due industrial activity. We respectfully request that the Grass Lake Township Board / Planning Commission to take the time to create ordinances to protect our community, the health of our families, our wildlife and our wetlands. We request that any potential and existing Gravel/sand pit / industrial company should be required to post a bond to cover the financial burden they place on residents. These businesses should also be required to post a bond for the reclamation of the property and for any possible damage to flora, fauna and the wetlands. These businesses should also coordinate with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service in order to protect several endangered and federally protected bat species, in particular the Indiana Bat colonies which live in our township. (Ref: Jenny Wong, Biologist for Michigan Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2651 Coolidge Road East Lansing, MI 48823. Tel: 517-351-7261 Email: Jennifer_Wong@fws.gov)

Our community should not have to foot the bill for any possible damage that maybe caused by these gravel/ sand-extracting / industrial businesses.

Currently there is no over sight for the implementation of pre conditions of a Special Use Permit. A case in point is The Bohne Rd Gravel Pit. Owners "Target Trucking" continue "business as usual" despite the operations agreement signed by the company on March 21st, 2018 with Grass Lake Township. There is no fence, no 6 feet tall trees at the top of the earthen berm. The hours of operation continue to be beyond comprehension with trucks rolling through at 4.30am in the morning and past 10 pm at night. Certainly not the 7am to 6pm hours of operation that was agreed upon. There needs to a person in charge who can monitor / police these gravel/sand pits/ industrial companies with the ability to fine and with draw a permit where the conditions have not been adhered to. Currently such a person does not exist nor is there an existing ordinance, which provides penalties for violations. While our community applauds the addition of preconditions for various special use permits, they are meaningless unless enforced.

Page Two:

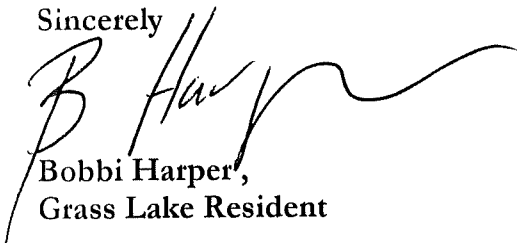
We suggest as a guide to look at the Waterloo Township Sand and Gravel Ordinance: Here is a summary:

- Must be on at least 40 acres
- Annual permit renewal with on-site inspection
- Township Board (not Planning Commission) approves and enforces
- Specific requirements for restoration bonds AND insurance
- No access from residential streets
- Other specific minimum operating requirements
- Specific fines and penalties for non-compliance

Also, Waterloo Township formally adopted the Michigan Public Act 181 for truck traffic and safety in their Township under ordinance # 07-06-28-01. I enclose the ordinance for your review: I also enclose a list of townships where the Township board not the planning commission approves and enforces Special Use Permits. We request that the Grass Lake Township Board adopt this approach regarding Special Use Permits.

We look forward to hearing back from you in writing.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobbi Harper", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bobbi Harper,
Grass Lake Resident

Page Three:

Co Signed by the following Grass Lake Residents:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Sally Hoskin	10990 Phal	Grass Lake, MI
Cheryl Kraft	12118 HARVEST DR	Grass Lake MI
Monica Bergum	11305 Bellman Rd.	Grass Lk, MI 4924
Cindy L. Russey	2050 BARBER RD	GRASS LAKE, MI 49
Bert Aum	2050 BARBER RD.	GRASS LAKE, MI 49
Gordon Bergum	1135 BELLMAN RD	GRASS LAKE, MI 4924
Nancy Pandly	12424 Bohne Rd	GRASS LAKE, MI
John Kraft	12424 Bohne Rd	GRASS LAKE, MI
Jim Doss	11343 Phal	GRASS LAKE, MI
Matt Powaga	11100 PHAL	GRASS LAKE, MI
BOB HOFFMAN	12435 PHAL RD.	GRASS LAKE
Susan Stewart	2660 Norvell Rd.	Grass Lake, MI 492
Janet Lape	643 Church st	Grass Lake, MI 492
Amy Valerie	12111 Harvest Dr.	Grass Lake, MI 492
Carl G. Wille	2284 Mt Hope	Grass Lake 49240
Dale Fisher	1916 Norvell	Grass Lake, 49240
John Kraft	12130 Harvest Dr.	Grass Lake 49240
John Kraft	3436 Betashahane	Grass Lake MI
Peter Hoopes	12118 HARVEST DRIVE	GRASS LAKE, MI 49240
John Kraft		

Joanne Aulman - 1916 Norvell Rd. Grass Lake

Bess Ohlgren-Miller 3000 Norvell Rd.

Doug Miller

Rick Murphy

MARK FELLER

11033 BELLMAN

2538 NORVELL RD

GRASS LAKE

GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION HAS FINAL SAY ON SUP

BLACKMAN TOWNSHIP

PC REVIEWS THEN RECOMMENDS TO Township Board who then have FINAL SAY

WATERLOO TWP

PC REVIEWS THEN RECOMMENDS TO Township Board who then have FINAL SAY

LEONI TOWNSHIP

PC REVIEWS THEN RECOMMENDS TO Township Board who then have FINAL SAY

SCIO TOWNSHIP

PC REVIEWS THEN RECOMMENDS TO Township Board who then have FINAL SAY

SHARON TOWNSHIP

PC REVIEWS THEN RECOMMENDS TO Township Board who then have FINAL SAY

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

PC REVIEWS THEN RECOMMENDS TO Township Board who then have FINAL SAY

LYNDON TOWNSHIP

PC REVIEWS THEN RECOMMENDS TO Township Board who then have FINAL SAY

YORK TOWNSHIP

PC REVIEWS THEN RECOMMENDS TO Township Board who then have FINAL SAY

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

PC REVIEWS THEN RECOMMENDS TO Township Board who then have FINAL SAY

Joanne Ackerman

1916 Norvell Road
Grass Lake, MI 49240
734-755-9103 ~ DesignFXbyJoanne@gmail.com

January 8, 2019

Grass Lake Township Trustees,
Jim Stormont, Township Supervisor

Attached is a letter, which I submitted and read to the Grass Lake Township Planning Commission at their December 13, 2018, meeting.

After reviewing the video and talking with other present residents, I was disappointed that it appeared that the only TWO Commissioners appeared to be listening were Tom Brennon and Rob Doerr.

I request that this letter be submitted as part of the public record and that the Grass Lake Township Trustees insure that the Planning Commission respond to my questions in writing at the January 17, 2019 Planning Commission meeting.

Respectfully,

Joanne Ackerman

Joanne Ackerman

Joanne Ackerman

1916 Norvell Road
Grass Lake, MI 49240
734-755-9103 ~ DesignFXbyJoanne@gmail.com

Grass Lake Township Planning Commission,

As you know, at the Public Hearing held at Grass Lake High School on November 8, 2018, you "Renewed" L & L Developments Special Use Permit, which was originally approved on October 12, 2017.

As a concerned citizen of Grass Lake Township, I'm interested to learn the answers to these questions:

- 1) What reasons did you base your decision to approve the renewal of the Mining Operation /gravel pit?
- 2) Who are you representing?
- 3) How many letters did you receive supporting the pit?
- 4) How many letters did you receive from those who opposed the mining operation in a residential area?
- 5) Did you take into consideration the FACTS, testimony and letters submitted?

A large number of local, well educated, credentialed residents presented many reasons, facts and illustrations opposing the pit and re-enforced the reasoning of "Why a pit on Norvell Road is a BAD idea;" AND far outnumbered the three supporters.

With the exception of Commissioner Rob Doerr, who voted NOT to renew, I know that you did not take into consideration many of the residents / neighbors of the pit, including:

Shane & Denise Calkins, their property adjoins the proposed pit, they have lived in Grass Lake all their lives, and on Norvell Road for 26 years. What about their property values? More importantly, what about their health and the health of the grandchildren? Who will accept responsibility?

Dale Fisher, he came to Grass Lake 33 years ago to retire. He took a dead apple orchard and an over-run Christmas tree farm and literally transformed it into what I like to call, "A little slice of heaven," a place where thousands of visitors come each year to celebrate. These out-of-towners spend many many thousands of dollars locally on food, beverages, lodging and services. What does Dale do if he doesn't have or can't use his well water? Who will take responsibility if the rumble of gravel trucks, the excavation process and dust interferes with the tranquil rustic atmosphere of marriage celebrations and reduces the number of rentals of this pristine facility?

Who will take the financial responsibility for providing clean water to the horses and livestock at Arbor Meadow Farms that Bess Miller owns?

What about Deb & Del Herrell? They are moving and selling their home located in Eagle Crest subdivision because of the pit. The first person that toured their home submitted an offer and placed a \$10,000 deposit. She withdrew her offer, even if though she could lose her deposit. She felt that the \$10,000 loss would be less than the 25% property de-valuation. What about all the Grass Lake Township residents who will experience the loss of their property values?

It's apparent that you did not consider all the students of Grass Lake, who will be subjected to the Silica particles. And what about the local residents with medical problems that will be subjected to the many health hazards that come from the pit?

Who will feel the burden of the loss, not IF, but WHEN people are injured or die from the increased gravel truck traffic?

It's not like the many residents surrounding the proposed pit, purchased their homes and property knowing that a pit was there or going in. These residents have been here for many years. Because of the "Greed" of **ONE Company, L & L Development, owned by Bill Lester**, everyone in our township will suffer. Bill Lester & L & L Development are the cause of far too much controversy and hardship in our Township.

Shame on you, Bill Lester, L & L Development, the Grass Lake Planning Commission and everyone who thinks that a Gravel Pit in a residential area, so close to our schools, with all the health and safety risks is acceptable.

At the end of the day, by approving this mining operation, the Planning Commission, Bill Lester and L & L share responsibility. Grass Lake Township residents and property owners should not have to bear the burden and expense of these very serious consequences.

Because I believe in the power of ASK... I respectfully request that you:

- 1) **Remember and Represent** the good, hard-working, tax-paying citizens in Grass Lake Township when you make decisions.
- 2) IF or WHEN you receive the final Special Use Permit for approval, it should include a substantial bond that will pay for either the drilling of new wells that have gone dry, and the cost of installing city water on Norvell Road because of contamination, or compensate property owners that experience water issues from the pit.

Thank you for imposing the current conditions that were included on the original SUP. Please consider even implementing more conditions IF or WHEN you are faced with final approval of the SUP.

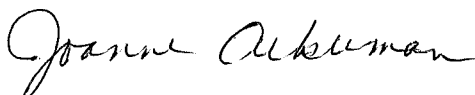
Also,

- 3) Please return to having a sign-in sheet at all meetings. If people don't want to sign in, fine. However, I believe that it should be a matter of record who and how many people attend meetings.

Although, I appreciate your service, and I'd like to THINK that your intentions are pure and that you believe that your service and your decisions will have a positive effect on Grass Lake Township. Reflecting on your actions of the past 15 months, it is apparent that you do not.

Finally, I request that this letter and the answers to my questions become part of the public record and be answered at a public meeting and in writing, preferably at the January 2019 Planning Commission meeting. I'm sure that we have many other concerned citizens interested in your responses as well.

Respectfully,



Joanne Ackerman

Cc: Grass Lake Charter Township / Trustees

January 7, 2019

Grass Lake Township Trustee Board Meeting

Concerns/Questions for Public Record

Greetings!

These comments and questions are a follow-up to the questions submitted at the December 18, 2018 Grass Lake Township Trustee Board Meeting. Similar to the previous submission, it's requested the comments, questions, and your responses become part of the public record of approved minutes of these meetings.

1. It's assumed you have had time to look over the questions. Will there be a response tonight and if not do you know when a response can be expected?
2. It's imperative the response is made public at a board meeting so it can become part of the approved minutes. It's understand your request to meet in private are based on two factors. One being time restraints at the meetings. Is there a legal time limit set for the meetings? Shouldn't you want to allocate enough time to address the concerns of residents? Sixteen people signed the questions at the December meeting. That should be enough people to warrant a response in a public setting, not a private meeting. The other reason was it may initiate other questions and concerns from residents. Don't you think it's important to allow all residents input into concerns by their fellow tax-payers? It's surprising you would try and limit discussion on these topics that about half of the attendees at the December meeting were interested in. Could you please explain your request to address these issues in private? Your reasoning sounds like excuses to avoid something.

Hopefully the tax paying residents of Grass Lake Township will get responses to inquires in a timely manner. It doesn't seem like that is much to ask for. Attached is a copy of the signed submitted letter from the December 11, 2018 Board Meeting

Sincerely,

The Following Concerned Citizens of Grass Lake Township

Susan Stant
Mira St
Stan Crowdis
Jant Lyle

Carl & Welter
P. H. H. H.
H. H. H.
Richard Atkiff
Rick Murphy
Joanne Anderson

D. D. Fish

December 11, 2018

Grass Lake Township Board Meeting

The following questions are being submitted in writing so they can become part of the public meeting minutes record. It's requested that your responses to the following questions become part of public record also.

Regarding the members of the Planning Commission:

- ① Can you explain in detail how the Planning Commission Board represent ALL interests in the community as required by state law. In other words, in what manner is each individual member contributing so that the Board as a whole is representing ALL interests in our community?
2. What is the reasoning behind the uncommon practice of allowing the appointed (NOT ELECTED) Planning Commission the power to make decisions that affect all tax paying residents? It's a more common practice for Planning Commissions to make recommendations that ELECTED officials then vote on. Can you explain how this structure of local government benefits all members of the community?
3. What is the process one must take to become a member of the Planning Commission? Three members' term expire December 2018, is it their choice to remain on the board or leave? If any leave, how is that communicated to residents and how will the new member(s) be decided? Is it therefore a lifetime term for those who decide to stay? Is it completely dependent on the member that is not held accountable for any decisions that affects every Grass Lake resident to step down when they want?
- ④ Have any females ever inquired to be on the board?
5. How long have all the current members been on the board?
6. How much is the compensation for being a Planning Commission board member?
- ⑦ Can the board members be required to explain individually their reasoning for the way they voted on the special use permit for the proposed gravel pit? Can they at least be held accountable for an answer for the SUP? Why doesn't the Planning Commission have to answer to anyone or anything?
8. Where in the Township Charter does it state the Planning Commission makes final decisions instead of recommendations to ELECTED Trustees? What is necessary to change the process so the Planning Commission only makes recommendations to ELECTED Trustees?

In general:

- not complaints*
1. Why are questions that are part of the meeting minutes never answered?
 2. Why isn't someone on the board assigned to respond to the questions at the next meeting?
 3. Why is the normal response, "We'll look into it.", then the topic never mention again?
 4. What is the typical outcome for asking questions of the Grass Lake Trustee Board?

Sincerely,

The Following Concerned Citizens of Grass Lake Township

Susan Stewart
Michael Dyer

Jane Lopez
Jim Cordeiro

Rich Murphy

John

Haris

Noreen O'Keary

Pete Fisher

Joanne Clark

~~John / Peter~~

Col Walker

Fenny Smith

Frank Harris

Peter 2 Hill

Alice Stahl

Once You Know About Gravel Pits... You Can't Not Know!

*A Presentation by Educators, Parents & Grandparents
on the potentially deadly dangers of Gravel Pits*



MON, JAN 21 & FRI, FEB 1

6:30 - 8:30pm

Grass Lake Federated Church
519 E Michigan Ave ~ Grass Lake, MI

For more information:
BiologySue01@hotmail.com

Free & Open to Public



The views discussed do not necessarily reflect those of the Federated Church