

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Grass Lake Charter Township Board was called to order on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall by Supervisor Stormont.

Board Members Present by Roll Call: Bray, Hart, Loveland, Zenz, Stormont, Lesinski and Brennan.

Also Present: Diane DeBoe, Assessor, Joe DeBoe, Grass Lake Village President, Jackson County Officer Deland, Fire Chief Jones and 2 public.

Pledge to Flag recited.

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

Public Comment: Stormont read a FOIA response-Public apology – see attached

Minutes: Brennan made a motion to approve the January 12, 2016 Regular Board Meeting, January 26, 2016 Work Session and Special Meeting minutes. Supported by Hart. Motion carried.

Presentation of Bills: Hart inquired about the Fahey bill. Bray made motion to pay General Fund Bills in the amount of \$ 41,426.71 and Fire Fund Bills in the amount of \$ 15,344.38. Supported by Loveland. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – All. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bray made motion to accept and file Treasurer's Report presented by Loveland. Supported by Hart. Motion carried.

County Sheriff Report: Officer DeLand was in attendance and presented the board with an activity report for the month of January.

Assessor Report: DeBoe went over report and expressed concern about the Essential Service Assessment Implementation. Report filed as presented.

Zoning Administrator Report: no report as Lammers was ill.

Planning Commission Report: January meeting was election of officers and granted American Tooling conditional use request.

Chief Building Official Report: accepted and filed as printed.

Whistlestop Park Report: no December meeting.

Recreation Board Report: Painting and basic clean-up when the weather breaks.

Correspondence: Consumers Energy sent information of Willis Road Electric Line Rebuild Project. Letter from United States Department of Commerce in regards to upcoming Government Units Survey.

Old Business: **a)** – Grass Lake Village Sewer Maintenance Agreement – final draft is ready for signatures and will become effective March 1, 2016. Keith Kotch from Brooklyn Village is willing to assist the Grass Lake Village DPW with any questions or problems and will be sharing a link to new software they are getting that possibly we will be interested in. **b)** – Cedar Knoll property clean up - update – Equipment has been brought in and some clean-up has started. Small pieces of asphalt and gravel is under the asphalt driveway and this might be able to be brought to the Sports-n-Trail east parking lot for a good base. As soon as all permits are acquired the demolition should begin. **c)** – Huhman/Lentz injunctions –

Under the advice of Attorney Fahey the board would like to proceed with Municipal Civil Infraction. **d)** – Township West Parking Lot – Stormont made motion to accept the bid from R-N-D Dirtworks for improvements in parking lot, he also would be leveling an area west of Township Building for an ice skating area. Supported by Hart. Board had concerns with not having copy of bid, additional costs that would occur, timing of when the project would start. J DeBoe brought up that an ice rink has been talked about going in on Brown Street next to car wash. Roll Call Vote – Yeas – Stormont, Hart and Lesinski, Nays – Bray, Loveland, Zenz and Brennan. Motion failed. **e)** – Spring Expo – Update – March 19 from 10:00 to 4:00 is time of Expo – Bray, Lesinski and Brennan have offered to help. **f)** – BSA.net Utility software update – Motion by Bray to approve the BSA Utility Billing.net software upgrade for \$1,600.00. Supported by Lesinski. Roll Call Vote – Yeas all.

New Business: a) – Budget Amendments – Motion by Zenz to transfer \$100,000.00 from Fund Balance account # 101-000.000-390.000 to Cedar Knoll Clean-up account # 101-265.000-801.017 and transfer \$600.00 from Fund Balance account # 101-000.000-390.000 to Technology/Computer Upgrade account # 101-101.000-727.002. Supported by Bray. Roll Call Vote – Yeas all. **b)** – Wolf Lake REU monthly rate resolution – Motion offered by Bray to add installment loan service charge of \$3.60 per month per REU to the Wolf Lake Sewer System customers effective March 1, 2016. Supported by Loveland. Roll Call Vote – Yeas All. Motion offered by Bray to add .65 cent user charge per month per REU for routine and non-routine maintenance to the Grass Lake Township Sewer System effective March 1, 2016. Supported by Zenz. Roll Call Vote – Yeas All. **c)** – Marijuana Resolution – offered by Lesinski and supported by Bray. Roll Call Vote – Yeas All. **d)** – Lee/Burkhart Street Light Resolution – Stormont has an application in at Consumers Energy due to a citizen request to place at street light at the intersection, but at this time has not received application from them. **e)** – Cemeteries Lawn Maintenance bid package – Stormont presented the bid package – same as last year with date adjustments. Bids are to be in by 4:00 February 22, 2016 so they can be opened at February 23, 2016 Work Session. Notice will be on website. **f)** – Village Lawn Maintenance Contract – Hart made motion to enter into agreement with the Grass Lake Village for seasonal lawn care at the Township, Fire Station, Whistlestop and Sports-N-Trail Park for a five year period. Supported by Lesinski. Motion Carried.

Fire Department Report: January report accepted as presented by Chief Jones. **Old Business: a)** – none

New Business: a) – Zack and Jacob Vetor – Applications for Cadet Firepersons – Motion by Zenz to accept the applications for placement as Cadets on the Department. Supported by Lesinski. Motion Carried. Zenz will look into the labor law based on fact that they are only 15 years old.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: Motion by Lesinski to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, seconded by Hart. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Catherine Zenz, Township Clerk

F.O.I.A. Response – Public apology

February 9, 2016

In an effort to bring properties in Grass Lake Charter Township in compliance with our Zoning Ordinance we have encourage citizens to inform Township officials of possible violations.

A recent verbal inquiry was brought to my attention with the understanding that the person wished to remain anonymous.

After contacting the property owner to explain the proper process required to become compliant with the Zoning Ordinance, the owner asked who had requested the Township to investigate. We indicated that the person wanted to remain anonymous. The property owner then submitted a F.O.I.A. request.

I informed the property owner via F.O.I.A. request of the person making the inquiry.

Our Township attorney was then contacted concerning the issue. His response was “the Township has the discretion of not identifying the property owner even if a F.O.I.A. request is made.”

I apologize for the problems that resulted by my actions in seeking to enforce our Zoning ordinance.

Jim Stormont, Supervisor