

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Special Meeting
GRASS LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
April 17, 2019

A Special Meeting of the Grass Lake Charter Township Board was called to order on April 17, 2019 at 4:00 pm by Supervisor Stormont at the Grass Lake Charter Township Hall Room.

Board Members Present by Roll Call: Loveland, Zenz, Stormont, Butterfield & Brennan. Absent: Bray and Lester.

Pledge to Flag.

New Business: a) – Court Opinion of Norvell Road Gravel Mining Special Use Permit – Closed Session – Stormont moved that the Township Board meet in closed session under Sections 8(h) **OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT** to consider the confidential written legal opinion of the Township Attorney regarding the April 1, 2019, Jackson County Circuit Court decision vacating the Township Planning Commission’s special use permit in Friends of Grass Lake Township v Grass Lake Township Planning Commission, Docket No. 17-003036, Support by Brennan. Motion Carried. Went to closed session at 4:03 pm.

Due to no roll call with motion to go to closed session, board came back into open session and ~~rescinded the motion to go into closed session~~ at 4:05 pm **MOTION BY STORMONT TO RESCIND THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION, SUPPORTED BY BRENNAN. MOTION CARRIED.**

At 4:07 pm Stormont moved that the Township Board go back in closed session under Sections 8(h) **OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT** to consider the confidential written legal opinion of the Township Attorney regarding the April 1, 2019, Jackson County Circuit Court decision vacating the Township Planning Commission’s special use permit in Friends of Grass Lake Township v Grass Lake Township Planning Commission, Docket No. 17-003036, Support by Brennan. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Stormont, Brennan, Loveland, Zenz and Butterfield. Absent: Bray & Lester. Motion Carried.

b) – Reconvene Open Session – Motion by Stormont to reconvene the Open Session portion of the Special Meeting at 5:00 pm. Supported by Loveland. Motion Carried.

c) – Board Decision on Appeal – Motion by Brennan that Grass Lake Charter Township will file an appeal from Judge McBain’s decision of April 1, 2019 in order to support the appeal filed by L & L Development. Supported by Butterfield. Discussion from Board members- Brennan, Zenz, Loveland and Stormont spoke on opinion of Judge McBain’s decision. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Brennan, Butterfield and Stormont. Nays – Loveland and Zenz. Motion Carried.

Public Comment – Stormont explained that it may be up to six (6) months before knowing if Court of Appeals will accept the appeal, then possibly an additional twelve (12) to eighteen (18) months before case would be heard.

The following people spoke during Public comment (highlights of comments) : **Star Warren Crowdis** – Township is being watched and will be investigated, especially if bullying should continue. **Richard Murphy** – would like something in writing why the board made the decision they did. Also at Planning Commission Meeting on October 12, 2017 why Commission Members asked no questions after 45 people stood up and spoke. A great mistrust in the board – why backing Lester? Swing vote – Mr Butterfield was appointed after Lesinski resigned, now his vote was to appeal the Judge’s decision. **Dale Fisher** – very disappointed with Stormont, sat down with him last week at his house, wish he had never shaken his hand. **Bobbi Harper** – letter attached. Verbal confrontation back and forth with Butterfield. **Frank Hasbrouck** – What is the Township’s benefit to the appeal. Was application submitted for Bohne Road Gravel Pit renewal? Great mistrust in Stormont. Let the court make the decision was stated by Stormont meeting after meeting. **Susan Stewart** – letter attached. **Bess Miller** – How does the appeal benefit the Township residents for the Township to support the appeal of L & L Development. What are the legal expenses in relation to the budget so far this year? Would like a breakdown at next Township Board Meeting. In very beginning the Friends lawyer offered help in negotiating extraction. Legal question- If the Township did not support an appeal would L & L be allowed to appeal the judge’s decision? **Robert Dorer** – How does the 4+ % of the people that attended the Planning Commission meeting of October 12, 2017 not warrant to be listened to? How is it financially beneficial to spend more Taxpayers \$\$\$. **Shane Calkins** – Did Stormont appoint the board members, there are only two reasons someone would make a decision like was made. **Cheryl Kraft** – How can the process be changed so Elected Officials make the decision of Special Use Permits? **Denise Calkins** – Who actually do the Township Attorney’s work for – the people or the elected officials? **Joanne Ackerman** – Board and Planning Commission feelings got hurt. This was a learning experience for everyone involved.

Motion by Brennan to adjourn special meeting at 6:03 pm, supported by Butterfield. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Catherine Zenz, Township Clerk

2 citizen letter attachments (Harper and Stewart)