

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Public Hearing for 2019 Budget and Regular Monthly Meeting
Grass Lake Charter Township Board
December 11, 2018

A Public Hearing of the Grass Lake Charter Township Board was called to order on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Township Meeting Room by Supervisor Stormont.

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

Others: Fire Chief Jones, Assessor DeBoe and Joe DeBoe and approximately 30 citizens.

Pledge to Flag was recited.

Purpose of Public Hearing was to introduce the proposed budget for the 2019 fiscal year. The budget worksheet was presented as well as summary sheets. After discussion and questions were answered from Carl Wells – Fire Chief Salary reduction and Technology line increase and Richard Murphy - Attorney Fees, a motion by Bray to close the Public Hearing, supported by Brennan. Motion Carried. Public Hearing was closed at 6:25 pm.

Loveland left at this time.

The regular monthly meeting of the Grass Lake Charter Township Board was called to order on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6:27 p.m. at the Township Hall by Supervisor Stormont.

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

Also Present: Fire Chief Jones, Assessor DeBoe, Village President DeBoe, Zoning Administrator Lammers and approximately 30 public.

Agenda Additions/Approval: Zenz asked to add under New Business h: Budget Amendment. Bray moved to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of h under New Business. Supported by Brennan. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Susan Stewart read questions to the board that she would like some answers to and then presented the questions to be part of public record. Bryant Ramsey thanked Zoning Administrator Lammers and the Township Board for working with him on issues he has been experiencing with his neighbor. Joe DeBoe thanked the board for working together with the Village. Carl Wells – question about complaint form and where it is located on the web page.

Minutes: Lester made a motion to approve the November 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting, November 27, 2018 Work Session and December 4, 2018 Budget Work Session Minutes. Supported by Zenz. Motion carried.

Presentation of Bills: Bray made motion to pay General Fund Bills in the amount of \$66,491.87 and Fire Fund Bills in the amount of \$292,746.16. Supported by Brennan. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Bray, Brennan, Lester, Zenz and Stormont. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Bray to accept and file Treasurer's report as prepared. Supported by Zenz. Motion Carried.

County Sheriff Report: report filed as prepared by Officer DeLand.

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

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

Planning Commission Report: Brennan reported the Commission approved the renewal of L & L Development Special Land Use Application at the November meeting. December 13, 2018 is next scheduled meeting.

Chief Building Official Report: Accepted and filed as printed.

Whistlestop Park Report: no report.

Recreation Board Report: No meeting in November or December.

Correspondence: none.

Old Business: a) – **Mt Hope Road Township property sale - update** – Jack Ripstra working on the plans for the property sale. b) – **New township Office - committee** – Next meeting will be January 17, 2019. Still discussing all options. A long way before any decisions will be made. c) – **Charitable Gaming License Resolution – Friends of Grass Lake Township – update** – Richard Murphy stated that the IRS has lost their application and refunded their money, he asked for us to take this item off the agenda until they get back with us asking to be put back on. d) – **Solar Energy Systems Ordinance – final adoption** – Motion by Brennan to adopt the Solar Energy Ordinance as introduced in November. Supported by Bray. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Brennan, Bray, Lester, Zenz and Stormont. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. e) – **Recreational Marihuana – Proposed Ordinance – introduction** - Zenz stated that this would be Police Power Ordinance 11 (PPO-11). Motion by Zenz to introduce the Ordinance to Prohibit Marihuana Establishments within the boundaries of Grass Lake Charter Township. Supported by Bray. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Zenz, Bray, Lester, Stormont and Brennan. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried.

New Business: a) – **2019 Budget Approval – Cemetery Fee Increase/Budget Appropriations Act Resolution/Salaries Resolution** - Motion by Bray to increase the cost of burial sites for Township Resident by \$50.00 (\$150.00 to \$200.00) and Non- Township Resident by \$300.00 (\$700.00 to \$1,000.00) effective January 1, 2019. Supported by Lester. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Bray, Lester, Zenz, Stormont and Brennan. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Bray made motion to offer a Resolution to Establish a General Appropriations Act (Budget) with the totals for estimated revenues and expenditures for 2019 in the General, Fire, Building Department, Weed, Sports-n-Trail and Fire Vehicle Equipment Funds. Supported by Brennan. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Bray, Brennan, Lester, Zenz and Stormont. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Bray made motion to offer a Resolution to Establish Grass Lake Charter Township Officers Salary for Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees as presented in Public Hearing. Supported by Brennan. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Bray, Brennan, Lester, Zenz and Stormont. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. b) – **2019 Meeting Schedule/Work Session Schedule/Holiday Schedule** – Brennan made a motion to approve the 2019 regular meeting schedule, 2019 work session schedule and 2019 Holiday schedule. Supported by Lester. Motion Carried. c) – **Appointments – Planning Commission/Board of Review/Zoning Board of Appeals/Construction Board/Election Commission** - Stormont made motion to appoint Tom Zenz, Heather McDougall, Star Mead and Todd Baker to Tax Board of Review for period of time: 1-1-2019 through 12-31-2020. Supported by Bray. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Stormont, Bray, Brennan, Lester and Zenz. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Stormont made motion to appoint Chris Payne to Construction Board of Appeals for period of time: 1-1-2019 through 12-31-2020. Supported by Brennan. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Stormont, Brennan, Bray, Lester and Zenz. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Stormont made motion to appoint Barry Butterfield to Election Commission for period of time: 1-1-2019 through 11-20-2020. Supported by Bray. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Stormont, Bray, Brennan, Lester and Zenz. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Stormont made motion to appoint Ken Elliott, Roger Memmer and Lacey O’Quinn to Planning Commission for period of time: 1-1-2019 through 12-31-2021. Supported by Brennan. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Stormont, Brennan, Bray, Lester and Zenz. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Stormont made motion to appoint Ken Elliott to Zoning Board of Appeals for period of time: 1-1-2019 through 12-31-2021. Supported by Brennan. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Stormont, Brennan, Bray, Lester and Zenz. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. Stormont will be posting a “short list” of potential positions that would open up in the future for anyone to apply for if interested. If an opening does occur

the list would be looked at for possibly filling the position. **d) – Park Manager appointment** – Posting for Park Manager will be put in The Grass Lake Times and also on the Township web page. Resume needed by January 15, 2019 with interviews to be scheduled after that date. Interview committee will consist of Stormont, Loveland and Bray. **e) – Poverty Exemption Document & 2019 Board of Review Resolutions** - Zenz made motion to “Authorize residents to protest in writing to the Board of Review and Authorization for all protests of someone appealing on behalf of the property owner” and approve the “Poverty Guidelines” for the 2019 Board of Review. Supported by Lester. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Zenz, Lester, Stormont, Brennan and Bray. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. **f) – Sandhill Estates Water Connection Fee** – Lester asked to abstain from voting on the upcoming issue due to his involvement in the development of the subdivision. Motion by Zenz to allow Lester to abstain from voting. Supported by Brennan. Motion Carried. Motion by Bray to adopt the Sand Hill Estates Water Connection fee as presented. Supported by Brennan. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Bray, Brennan, Zenz and Stormont. Abstain – Lester. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Motion Carried. **g) – 2019 Chili Cook-off Sponsor** – Motion by Brennan to approve \$1,000.00 sponsorship for 2019 Chili Cook-off. Funds will come from 2019 Community Contribution line item. Supported by Lester. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Brennan, Lester, Bray, Zenz and Stormont. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried. **h) – Budget Amendment** – Motion by Zenz to transfer \$3,720.25 from line 101-265.000-980.210 (Building Major Capital Outlay) to line item 101-444.000-926.000 Street Lighting. Supported by Brennan. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Zenz, Brennan, Lester, Bray, and Stormont. Absent – Butterfield and Loveland. Nays – None. Motion Carried

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

Old Business: none.

New Business: none.

Public Comment: **Susan Stewart** – Questions about the new Township Hall/Offices that is being talked about and still have the concerns about the appointments to various boards. **Penny Smith** – Solar Power Ordinance-question about what it is. Stormont explained. **Alice Wahl** – question if the people will get a choice on the decision of a new Township Office/Hall and wonders if all buildings in town have been looked at for the seniors. **Joe DeBoe** – Township website a good way to get informed. Thank you to all supporters of the Festival of Lights. B & G Landscape and Cevin’s Collision for organizing the Chili Cook-off. 2019 Veteran of the year – Rex Murdock. **Frank Hasbrouck** – Thank you to Dale Fisher & Joanne Ackerman for all they do for the community and “Friends of Grass Lake”

Adjournment: Motion by Bray to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm, supported by Brennan. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Catherine Zenz, Township Clerk

Attachment – Susan Stewart questions

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:

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 *Star Crowdis*
Michael Dean *Jane Lape* *Rich Murphy*

T. Han

Hans

Norely O'Leary

Pete Fisher

Joanne Clark

~~John / Karen~~

Carl Miller

Jenny Smith

Tom & Alison

Peter & Helen

Alice Stahl