

**GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MARCH 4, 2008**

A meeting of the Grand Rapids Charter Township Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Michael DeVries. The meeting was held in the Township Hall. The following were present: Supervisor Michael DeVries, Treasurer Chris Afendoulis, Clerk Janice Hulbert and Trustees Edward Robinette, James Saalfeld and Lee VanPopering. Trustee Rusty Merchant was absent. There were 8 people in the audience.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT.

Ted Siereveld, 2714 McIntosh Dr NE, asked about item #8. He asked if the Township had previously paid \$50,000 to this project. Michael DeVries explained that the Township paid \$100,000 toward Phase I. This is Phase II.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 19, 2008.

Chris Afendoulis, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDER BILLS TO BE PAID.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the bills to be paid as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. CONSIDER CASH DISBURSEMENTS.

James Saalfeld, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the cash disbursements for February as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF LT. STEVE CHANTER, KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT, EAST PRECINCT COMMANDER.

Public Safety Director, Robert Radakovitz, introduced Lt. Steve Chanter. Lt. Chanter is the replacement commander for the Ada, Cascade and Grand Rapids Township East Precinct. The previous commander has retired.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PARK MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES.

Michael DeVries explained that the park shelter building needs to be re-stained, the drinking fountain replaced and a new encased message board is needed. The cost of these improvements is less than \$4,500.

Chris Afendoulis, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the recommended park maintenance expenses, not-to-exceed \$4,500. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REEDS LAKE TRAIL EXPENDITURE.

Michael DeVries reported that the Grand Rapids Township/East Grand Rapids Reeds Lake Trail, Phase II, is scheduled to begin construction. East Grand Rapids is administering the project funding and is requesting Grand Rapids Township's first payment of \$50,000. The total project is estimated at \$890,000. Grand Rapids Township's minimum contribution will be \$100,000. Private donations are expected to fund two-thirds and East Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Township will share the remaining expenses.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the first payment of \$50,000 for Phase II of the Grand Rapids Township/East Grand Rapids Reeds Lake Trail. Motion passed unanimously.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LEGAL SERVICES RATE SCHEDULE.

A letter was received from James Brown, Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones regarding a rate increase for legal services. The increase represents an increase of 4½ % annually on half of billings or 2 ¼% on total billings. This is the first increase in the three years as Grand Rapids Township General Counsel.

Chris Afendoulis stated that this request is very reasonable for three years of service. He is pleased with the legal services of James Brown.

James Saalfeld stated that the new rates are much less than standard attorney fees. Mr. Saalfeld noted that he worked with James Brown on the Planning Commission and praised Mr. Brown's work and dedication to Grand Rapids Township.

10. FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 463, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 450, RE: VILLAGE OF ORCHARD HILLS.

Edward Robinette reported that the Village of Orchard Hills requests were that the retail area be larger, one drive on East Beltline be eliminated - leaving two drives on the East Beltline, move larger building from the north portion of the project to the south portion, and 14 acres on the east side of Dunnigan be eliminated from the project.

This ordinance will be considered for adoption at the next Township Board meeting, March 18, 2008.

11. BOARD COMMENTS.

There were no Board comments.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Ted Siereveld, 2714 McIntosh Dr NE and Barb Laraway, 2722 Dunnigan St NE, asked questions about the Village of Orchard Hills project.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.