

**GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MAY 6, 2009**

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 Rusty Merchant, Edward Robinette and James Saalfeld. Trustee Lee VanPopering was absent. There was one person in the audience.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT.

There were no comments from the audience.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING, APRIL 21, 2009.

Edward Robinette, seconded by James Saalfeld, moved to approve the minutes of the Township Board meeting on April 21, 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDER BILLS TO BE PAID.

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

5. CONSIDER CASH DISBURSEMENTS.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the cash disbursements for the month of April 2009 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

6. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE FORECLOSED PROPERTY.

Michael DeVries reported to the Board that Kent County notified Grand Rapids Township about foreclosed property. The Township is notified because government units have "the first right of refusal".

The property at 340 East Beltline SE is a vacant non-buildable lot on the corner of Cascade Road and East Beltline with a purchase price of \$1,250.34.

Michael DeVries suggested that the Township could purchase this property to provide a buffer area for the adjoining neighborhood and provide additional setback area at the intersection for a non-motorized trail.

Edward Robinette, seconded by James Saalfeld, moved to approve the purchase of the property at 340 East Beltline SE for \$1,250.34. Motion passed unanimously.

7. CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION TO FINANCIALLY PARTICIPATE WITH THE RIGHT PLACE PROGRAM.

Chris Afendoulis, Rusty Merchant and James Saalfeld met with Birgit Klohs, President of the Right Place Program, to discuss her request for financial support from Grand Rapids Township. They discussed the economic growth of Grand Rapids Township and the entire area around the Township.

It is the recommendation that Grand Rapids Township commit to support The Right Place Program for \$20,000, with equal payments of \$4,000 over the next five years.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by James Saalfeld, moved to approve the payment of \$4,000 to the Right Place Program for support in 2009. Grand Rapids Township would also make a commitment to include in the budget for the next four years, support to the Right Place Program of \$4,000 each year, subject to adoption of the budget. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE EXPENDITURE OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000 FOR MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

Michael DeVries presented a letter from Kent Conservation District announcing the Michigan Energy Corps Program, a project in partnership with the Michigan Department of Energy and Labor for the Economic Growth, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan Works. These organizations will provide free work crews for conservation and natural resource enhancement projects. The cost to the Township would be \$15,000 to cover materials and supplies.

The Plainfield Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority is working on a transportation enhancement project and/or CDBG grant for the addition of pedestrian access and beautification. A commitment of \$10,000 is requested from Grand Rapids Township for this project.

Michael DeVries reported to the Board that \$25,000 was budgeted for 2009 to the Farm and could be used for these projects.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve \$15,000 for materials and supplies for the Kent Conservation District projects and \$10,000 for the Plainfield Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority project. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS: Board comments were received.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Janice K. Hulbert, Clerk
GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP