

**GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
MAY 20, 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 Rusty Merchant, Edward Robinette, James Saalfeld and Lee VanPopering. There were 5 people in the audience.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**2. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Public comments were accepted.

**3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING,  
May 7, 2008.**

James Saalfeld requested the following correction: Item 9 – Insert “Fire” (Grand Rapids Township Deputy FIRE Chief).

Chris Afendoulis, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the minutes of the Township Board meeting on May 7, 2008, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. CONSIDER BILLS TO BE PAID.**

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

Supervisor Michael DeVries requested two additional items be added to this meeting agenda: Item 13 - RESIGNATION OF MARC FENNELL FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT and Item 14 - AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE A FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTER. Rusty Merchant, seconded by James Saalfeld, moved to approve the addition of Item 13 and Item 14 to the May 20, 2008 Township Board agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ASSESSING  
DEPARTMENT.**

Michael DeVries submitted a proposed job description, Assessing Administrative Assistant, and requested approval. The job description was developed to properly describe the duties and functions of this newly created position.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to approve the job description for Assessing Administrative Assistant. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RE-AUTHORIZATION OF COMPUTER PURCHASE.**

Michael DeVries submitted a request for a change in the approved computer purchase for the Assessing Department.

On February 5, 2008, the Township Board approved the purchase of a new computer for the Assessor in an amount not-to-exceed \$1000. Robin Rothley, Deputy Assessor, is requesting changes in the computer configuration resulting in an increased cost of \$400.

Edward Robinette, seconded by James Saalfeld, moved to approve the request for an additional \$400 for the computer purchase in the Assessing Office. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF \$150,000 IN ADDITIONAL ROAD PROJECT EXPENDITURES.**

Michael DeVries submitted the following request: Consider approval of the additional authorization of \$150,000 for shared road projects for the year 2008 road construction season.

Michael DeVries informed the Board that the 2007-2008 winter season was extremely harsh on the road network. The Kent County Road Commission has authorized additional emergency road repair funds of approximately \$80,000 for Grand Rapids Charter Township. Having reviewed the emergency projects with the Road Commission and in order to do a more extensive repair, especially to Dean Lake Avenue, and to cover the increased material cost to maintain our neighborhood roads, he requested that the additional \$150,000 be approved, bringing the 2008 budget total to \$270,000.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the request to add \$150,000 to the 2008 General Fund Budget for road improvements. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.**

A letter was received from Robert Radakovitz, Grand Rapids Township Director of Public Safety, requesting purchase of cutters-spreaders (rescue tools) for Engine 2871.

Mr. Radakovitz explained that the current equipment is over twenty years old and needs to be replaced. Estimates for the replacements are not-to-exceed \$10,655.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the request to purchase GENESIS C231 Cutter and 49XL Spreader in an amount not-to-exceed \$10,655. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENTS.**

Michael DeVries submitted the following proposed budget amendments:

- Establish the Courthouse at Knapp's Corner Fund

- Transfer \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Courthouse at Knapp's Corner Fund
- Transfer \$370,000 from the General Fund to the Leonard-Crahen Trail Fund
- Increase road construction line item expense from \$120,000 to \$270,000
- Transfer \$20,000 from the General Fund to the East Beltline Gateway Partnership Fund.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to approve the request for budget amendments as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes 6, Nays 0

**10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY PERMIT FOR THE MEIJER GARDENS.**

Michael DeVries submitted a request from Meijer Garden's for an Outdoor Assembly Permit on May 24, 2009. All requirements have been met.

Chris Afendoulis, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the request for Outdoor Assembly Permit at the Frederik Meijer Gardens on May 24, 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

**11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE 2007 GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

- a. Lands east of Dunnigan Ave NE**
- b. Southwest corner of Forest Hill Ave and Cascade Road**

Rick Sprague, Township Planner, was present to explain the request for amendments.

- a. Lands east of Dunnigan Ave NE

The Planning Commission designated two parcels of land on the east side of Dunnigan Avenue as Lifestyle Center PUD in the Comprehensive Plan, and now requests a reclassification to Low Density Residential.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to approve RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT IN THE TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (Change LC-PUD Designation to LDR Designation, Lands at 2722 and 2754 Dunnigan Avenue). Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

- b. Southwest corner of Forest Hill Ave and Cascade Road

The Planning Commission requested a change in the Comprehensive Plan to change O designation to NC PUD designation of lands at 4450 and 4590 Cascade Road and 947 Forest Hill Avenue.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to request Planning Commission minutes regarding this issue and table the request for amendment until the next regularly scheduled Township Board meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

**12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CELEDON PUD AMENDMENT.**

The Planning Commission received a request from Mosaic Properties, Celedon PUD, for two minor PUD changes:

- Increase residential units from 123 to 125
- Add 600 square feet of food use, from 4700 square feet to 5300 square feet

The Board members requested Rick Sprague to send Planning Commission minutes regarding this issue to each Board member prior to the next Township Board meeting.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the changes in Celedon PUD as requested. Ayes: DeVries, Hulbert, Merchant, Robinette, VanPopering. Nays: Afendoulis, Saalfeld. Motion passed.

**13. RESIGNATION OF MARC FENNEL FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

Robert Radakovitz, Director of Public Safety, submitted a letter of resignation from Marc Fennell, Grand Rapids Township Firefighter, effective May 28, 2008.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to accept the resignation of Marc Fennell. Motion passed unanimously.

**14. AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE A FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTER.**

Robert Radakovitz, Director of Public Safety, submitted a request to hire a full-time firefighter to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Marc Fennell.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve hiring of a full-time firefighter to fill the current vacancy. Motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Board comments were accepted.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Public comments were accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Janice K. Hulbert, Clerk  
GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP