

**GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 19, 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 13 people in the audience.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT.

Senator Mark Jansen spoke and stated that he was visiting Grand Rapids Township.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 6, 2008.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the minutes of the Township Board meeting on August 6, 2008. 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. PRESENTATION BY KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY.

Dave Stacke, Brian Mortimore and Charles Fry gave a review of the Kent District Library for 2007.

6. PRESENTATION BY MEIJER GARDENS NEIGHBORS.

Neighbors of Meijer Gardens spoke to the Board requesting assistance with their problems with the noise level from the concerts at Meijer Gardens. They stated that they are not against the concerts but request that the sound would be lowered. The following residents spoke:

Sean Fey, 760 Twin Lakes
Gary Meadors, 730 Twin Lakes
Shirley VanDelan, 3430 Bradford
Barb Caddick, 760 Twin Lakes
Bob and Sandy Hiner, 768 Eastridge Dr.

Petitions from residents were submitted.

Michael DeVries and James Saalfeld will research the Planning Commission and Township Board regulations regarding concerts at Meijer Gardens. They will meet with the Gardens and the residents to assist with a resolution to this issue.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LOT TRANSFER TO THE CASCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.

Beverly Hills Plat Lot 60 was a donation to Grand Rapids Township several years ago. The Township would like to transfer the property to the Cascadia Neighborhood Association, upon reimbursement for environmental Phase I expense incurred by Grand Rapids Township when the property was donated.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve transferring ownership of Beverly Hills Plat Lot 60 to the Cascadia Neighborhood Association, after payment of \$925 for expenses. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PLAN.

A request for changes to the Township Personnel Policy and the Township Benefits Plan was presented as follows:

- a. Delete the Fire Department resident requirements.
- b. Require 90 days of employment before becoming eligible for Health, Life, HSA, Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance and Pension participation.
- c. Health Savings Account allocation for deductibles and miscellaneous medical expenses will be based on the employee's status as of January 1 of each plan year.
- d. Allow for the miscellaneous medical portion of the Health Savings Account allocation to be used for Medicare supplemental coverage for eligible employees.
- e. Increase the Grand Rapids Township miscellaneous medical portion of the HSA allocation to the federally allowed maximum for singles up to \$3000, \$3450 for two person insured and \$3600 for family coverage for eligible employees.
- f. Maintain the 67% Grand Rapids Township contribution for the deductible portion of the HSA deposit.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the requested changes to the Township Personnel Policy and Township Benefits Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST.

The Kent County Democratic Party holds an annual special event at the UAW office on Leonard at the East Beltline. They are requesting recommendation to the Kent County Sheriff's Department to allow for a special one day liquor license on October 11, 2008.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Chris Afendoulis, moved to approve the request for recommendation to the Kent County Sheriff's Department for a special one day liquor license on October 11, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS: Board comments were accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments were accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Janice K. Hulbert, Clerk
GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP