

**GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 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, Clerk Janice Hulbert, Treasurer Chris Afendoulis and Trustees Rusty Merchant, Edward Robinette and James Saalfeld. Trustee Lee VanPopering was absent. There were two people 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, AUGUST 18, 2009.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to approve the minutes of the regular Township Board meeting on August 18, 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to approve the minutes of the executive session on August 18, 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDER BILLS TO BE PAID.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Rusty Merchant, 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 August 2009 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

6. TRAIL DONOR RECOGNITION AREA.

At the regular Township Board meeting on January 6, 2009, the following was recorded:

Michael DeVries presented an estimate and drawing for the Trail Donor Recognition Area from Michael VanderPloeg, Knapp Valley Landscape Design. The estimate is for a rest area at Fulton and Crahen, with an area for recognition of the donors of this pathway.

James Saalfeld, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to request a quote from Knapp Valley Landscape Design and also an accounting of the 2008 and 2009 Pathway Budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Michael DeVries presented two proposals for the Trail Donor Recognition Area – Knapp Valley Landscape Design for \$15,996.52 and Katerberg Verhage for \$23,142.00.

Chris Afendoulis, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the proposal from Knapp Valley Landscape Design. Motion passed unanimously.

Michael DeVries reported that fill dirt will be needed to complete the site. Rusty Merchant, seconded by James Saalfeld, moved to approve the request for funds for fill dirt, not to exceed \$3,000. Motion passed unanimously.

7. RESIGNATION OF PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTER CHRIS BEHM.

A letter was received from Robert Radakovitz, Director of Public Safety, informing the Township Board of the resignation of paid on call firefighter Chris Behm. Mr. Behm has moved out of the area.

James Saalfeld, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to accept the resignation of Chris Behm. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR STREET LIGHT AT 3604 KNAPP STREET.

At the regular Township Board meeting on July 7, 2009, the following was recorded:

The residents of Flowers Mill have requested a street light at the corner of Flowers Mill and Knapp Avenue. Consumers Energy will install a street light for \$100. Usage cost would be charged to the Township.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the Authorization for Change in Standard Street Lighting Contract, and approve the Resolution to authorize Consumers Energy to make changes in the street lighting service. Motion passed unanimously.

A letter was received from Consumers Energy explaining that the resolution that was approved by Grand Rapids Township Board needs to be changed due to new regulation interpretations and changes to street lighting availability. The light to be installed was a 10,500 Metal Halide light. This needs to be changed to 14,000 High Pressure Sodium.

Edward Robinette, seconded by James Saalfeld, moved to approve the Authorization for Change in Standard Street Lighting Contract and approve the Resolution to authorize Consumers Energy to make changes in the street lighting service. Motion passed unanimously.

9. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION OF BUILDING INSPECTIONS FEE INCREASE.

A letter was received from Butch Visser, Building Official, Cascade Township, requesting approval of increases on mechanical, electrical, building and plumbing permit fee schedules.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Chris Afendoulis, moved to approve the Cascade Township fee schedules for mechanical, electrical, building and plumbing permits. Motion passed unanimously.

10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUND TRANSFER OF \$16,364 FOR COURTHOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND.

Michael DeVries requested approval for transfer of \$16,364 from the General Fund to the Courthouse at Knapp's Corner Fund for the annual assessment. According to the Courthouse At Knapp's Corner Association rules, each member will be assessed an annual assessment. A check was received from Kent County for their assessment. Grand Rapids Township assessment is now due. Edward Robinette, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

11. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR ANNUAL BIKE TRAIL MAINTENANCE.

A letter was received from Bob Versluys, Facilities Manager, requesting approval of \$3,007 for regular maintenance of the Township bike trail with the remainder of the repairs to be done in the spring of 2010.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the request of \$3,007 for maintenance of the Township bike trail. Motion passed unanimously.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST REGARDING ALL SAINTS ACADEMY.

A letter was received from All Saints Academy requesting a one day beer and wine license for a benefit auction on October 24, 2009 at the Catholic Central Athletic Fields at 2770 Knapp Street.

Edward Robinette, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to approve the Kent County Sheriff Department local governing body recommendation for a special license authorization. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS: There were no Board comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Janice K. Hulbert, Clerk
GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP