

**GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MARCH 3, 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, James Saalfeld and Lee VanPopering. There were 10 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, FEBRUARY 17, 2009.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Edward Robinette, moved to approve the minutes of the Township Board meeting on February 17, 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.

James Saalfeld, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the cash disbursements for February 2009 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARING RE TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST FOR GLOBAL FUTURES AND FOREX LTD.

Tom Sullivan, CFO/VP of Global Futures & Forex, Ltd., spoke to the Board. He gave an overview of the company and the proposed plans for expansion in Grand Rapids Township.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to open the Public Hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no comments at the Public Hearing.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to close the Public Hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBLE DISTRICT.

Lee VanPopering, seconded by Rusty Merchant, moved to approve RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN "ELIGIBLE DISTRICT" PURSUANT TO ACT 328 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN OF 1998, AS AMENDED (Global Futures & Forex, Ltd. – 618 Kenmoor Avenue SE).

AYES: Afendoulis, DeVries, Hulbert, Merchant, Robinette, Saalfeld, VanPopering
NAYS: NONE

James Saalfeld, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR AN "ELIGIBLE DISTRICT" PURSUANT TO ACT 328 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN OF 1998, AS AMENDED (Global Futures & Forex, Ltd. – 618 Kenmoor Avenue SE).

AYES: Afendoulis, DeVries, Hulbert, Merchant, Robinette, Saalfeld, VanPopering

NAYS: NONE

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SCHOOLHOUSE USE POLICY.

Michael DeVries presented a proposed document, Rules and Regulations for Township Schoolhouse Rental, for review. The Board discussed the rental of the schoolhouse.

Rusty Merchant, seconded by Lee VanPopering, moved to approve the rental of the schoolhouse with the policy as presented, subject to verification of insurance coverage and fire inspector approval and changing the Room Occupancy to "approximately" 20. Motion passed unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION OF 2009/2010 ADA/CASCADE FIREWORKS.

Robert Radakovitz, Director of Public Safety, requested consideration of hosting July 4th fireworks at the Township Park on Leonard Street.

Ada and Cascade Townships have provided July 4th fireworks for many years. The location has been at Forest Hills Central High School. This year, that location is not available because of construction at the school. Ada and Cascade Townships have requested the use of Grand Rapids Township Park on Leonard Street as an alternate location.

The Board discussed fire protection, neighborhood concerns, available parking, traffic control and budget.

It was the consensus of the Board to contact Ada Township and Cascade Township and suggest that they submit a request for an Outdoor Assembly Permit. After the permit request is submitted, the Board will review this issue.

BOARD COMMENTS: Board comments were received.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Janice K. Hulbert, Clerk
GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP