

MEMBERS PRESENT: BUECHLER, CRAWFORD, BRADLEY, KISH, BRUCKNER AND MONTGOMERY
 MEMBERS ABSENT: BALDWIN
 ALSO PRESENT: PAT SMITH, FIRE CHIEF
 LISA SHAGENA, ASSESSOR
 LISA SKOTCHER, DEPUTY TREASURER
 JORJA BALDWIN, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to appoint Clerk Crawford as Acting Chairperson in the absence of Supervisor Baldwin. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Montgomery, to approve the Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING of June 5th, 2019, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: * NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Buechler, to approve the Agenda, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|--------------|
| GENERAL FUND | \$ | 1,843,499.81 |
| FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND | \$ | 877,996.23 |
| FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND | \$ | 257,045.57 |
| POLICE PROTECTION FUND | \$ | 692,052.06 |
| TRASH / RECYCLING FUND | \$ | 360,991.54 |
| BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND | \$ | 12,913.89 |
| UTILITY RECEIVING FUND | \$ | 1,647,481.78 |
| TOTAL | \$ | 5,691,980.88 |
| MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS | \$ | 1,550,439.08 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$ | 7,242,419.96 |

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Bradley, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 7,242,419.96.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

| | | |
|--|----|------------|
| GENERAL FUND | \$ | 26,446.74 |
| FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND | \$ | 10,970.81 |
| FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND | \$ | 0.00 |
| POLICE PROTECTION FUND | \$ | 102,911.06 |
| TRASH / RECYCLING FUND | \$ | 0.00 |
| BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND | \$ | 0.00 |
| UTILITY RECEIVING FUND | \$ | 10,552.24 |
| TOTAL | \$ | 150,880.85 |
| | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MAINT. & IMP.) | \$ | 29,568.75 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$ | 180,449.60 |

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Bruckner, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 180,449.60.**

* According to Section 6 of the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot By-Laws adopted 02/20/2003.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Comcast's notification of Xfinity TV Channel Updates

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to accept correspondence, as presented. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Buechler, seconded by Montgomery, to adopt the Local Governing Body Resolution for Charitable Gaming Licenses, in support of approval, for *Taking a Shot at Breast Cancer* Organization.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Required by MCL 432.103(K)(ii)
* Organization - Taking a Shot at Breast Cancer (Sponsored by Steve & Emily Goudy)

Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Buechler, to adopt the Resolution of Intent to Collect December Taxes for the St. Clair County Community College (2019-009), totaling 1.8891 mills.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Operations = 1.3940 Mills / Voted Extra Operations = 0.4951 Mills. Total 1.8891 Mills

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Kish, to adopt the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission's 2019 December Tax Collection Resolution (2019-005-REVISED), in the amount of 0.6173 Mills.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * 0.6203 Mills on December, 2019 Property Tax Notice was approved 04/17/2019; however, the Headlee Rollback requires the levy of 0.6173.

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Montgomery, to adopt the Resolution Reaffirming Intent to Collect Summer Property Tax Levy for the St. Clair County Regional Education Service Agency for the year 2019 (2019-010), totaling 3.4296 mills.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * General Operating - 0.1938 mills / Special Education - 2.3113 mills / Voc. Ed - 0.9245 mills

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

5. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to adopt the Resolution Approving Installment Purchase Agreement with Eastern Michigan Bank (2019-011), for the purpose of purchasing a new Rosenbauer Cobra Fire Truck at a cost of \$807,807.00.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * For the purpose of purchasing a new Rosenbauer Cobra Fire Truck (\$807,807.00)
* Eastern Michigan Bank offered the best rates for the repayment of the Fire Truck Loan.
* Installment Loan was less expensive than a Lease to Own.
* To be paid for in installments over a period of not to exceed the useful life of the property; but not more than 15 years, as determined by the Board of Trustees.

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

6. Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Buechler, to authorize the Township Clerk to sign the Installment Purchase Agreement, on behalf of the Township Board of Trustees, for the purchase of a Rosenbauer Cobra Fire Truck, at a cost of \$807,807.00. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

7. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to authorize Clerk Crawford to sign the Act 99 Certificate on behalf of the Township Board of Trustee's for the Installment Purchase Agreement by and between the Township, Rosenbauer Minnesota, LLC and Eastern Michigan Bank. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
8. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Buechler, to authorize Clerk Crawford to sign the Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligation Designation for the purchase of a Rosenbauer Cobra Fire Truck. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
9. Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Buechler, to adopt the Resolution Placing Police Protection Millage on the November 5th, 2019 Ballot (2019-012), as recommended by legal counsel.

POLICE PROTECTION MILLAGE

For the purpose of raising funds to be used exclusively to continue provide police protection in the Township, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one year upon all taxable property located in the Township be increased by up to 2.5 mills (\$2.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of five years from, 2019 through 2023, inclusive? This millage replaces a voter authorized police protection millage of 2.0 mills which expired in 2018. If levied in full this millage will raise approximately \$1,046,481 in its first year which by law can only be used to provide police protection within the Township.

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION:
- * Each year the Township Board sets the millage that will be necessary to cover the Police Protection coverage. The amount approved by the voters can never be exceeded. In the past, the Board has always approved less than the millage voters approved. After year one, the 2.5 mills will be affected by a Headlee Rollback and will never allow the Board to approve more than what the Headlee Rollback number is.
 - * If rejected by voters in November, the next date it could be brought back would be in March, 2020.
 - * This would also allow the Township to provide extra coverage above our current coverage, if necessary.
 - * Importance of Public Information - General Public is looking at this as an increase.
 - * Trustee Kish would like to see something written out as to what their numbers are going to look like for the coverage and length of time that the Board is agreeing to.
 - * Expected costs for 2021 - \$ 920,000; 2022 - \$ 941,000; 2023 - \$963,000 based on current coverage. Projected figures, after our current contract, with increased coverage: 2021 - \$ \$930,000; 2022 - \$ 952,000; 2023 - \$975,000; and 2024 - \$1,000,000.
 - * Adding the additional 6 hours is not a certainty. If the funding is available, it can be added.
 - * Trustee Montgomery asked why Legal Counsel didn't suggest the renewal and increase be broken down into two questions.
 - * In 2007, the millage was 1.25; over a period of time, the Board has had to increase the millage in order to cover the cost of police protection. It has been at 2 mills for quite some time and has, basically, seen a half mill increase over the history of the contracts.
 - * By changing the period to five years in this request, it will go back to voters on an even year and will save the Township some costs because we won't have to have a stand-alone election for the millage request.
 - * Trustee Bruckner noted we have excellent police coverage and immediate response. Historically, the residents of the Township have supported the police protection coverage.
 - * Importance of having the funding for protection in order to make this a safe community in which to live, shop and work.
 - * It will be important to educate the voters that this request, if approved, would mean the Township *could* assess up to 2.5 mills, but if the cost for the service is less, we won't need to levy 2.5 mills.
 - * Discussed how the Headlee Rollback affects a voted millage and reduces it annually.

Roll Call Vote, 5/1, Kish voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

10. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Montgomery, to accept the Letter of Resignation from Jorja Baldwin, Supervisor, effective at midnight on July 3rd, 2019.

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION:
- * Jorja Baldwin has resigned her position and has been appointed to the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners 2nd District.
 - * Board Members expressed their gratitude for her service, wishing her well in her future endeavors.
 - * Jorja thanked the Board for their past and future support.

Vote, 4/2, Crawford and Kish voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Board Members discussed the Supervisors vacancy and the fact that the position must be filled within 45 days. Clerk Crawford has put a Letter of Interest for the position before the Board. Boards desire to go through an interview process for the position of Supervisor. Statutory responsibilities and duties of the Township Clerk and the importance of being able to properly and effectively run an election. Possibility of looking at making the Supervisor's position Part Time with hired Full Time Manager. The meeting of July 17th has been postponed until August 7th, due to the participation of many Board Members on the Rotary International Day Parade in downtown Port Huron. Requesting *Letters of Interest* for the position and scheduling a Special Meeting in order to review the letters. The Board decided to accept Letters of Interest until 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10th, 2019; and to set a Special Meeting on Friday, July 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in order to allow up to three (3) minutes for the candidates to introduce themselves; and possibly setting another Special Meeting on July 17th at 7:00 p.m. to select the candidate.
- Treasurer Buechler stated that Summer Property Tax Notices have been mailed out.
- Clerk Crawford attended the Local Chapter MTA Meeting held on June 27th. Gave a brief update on the meeting.
- Governor recently signed legislature that allows \$2,000,000 for voting equipment. Details have not yet been given.
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CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: NONE

Motion by Kish, seconded by Montgomery, to adjourn. Time, 8:30 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.**



ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, CMC/MMC
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RCC/vo