

MEMBERS PRESENT: CRAWFORD, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, KISH, BRUCKNER AND MONTGOMERY

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: DAVE JEWELL, CLERKS DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTANT
PAT SMITH, FIRE CHIEF
LISA SHAGENA, ASSESSOR

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to appoint Crawford as acting Chairperson. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: * NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. INTRODUCTION AND INTERVIEW OF INDIVIDUALS WHO SUBMITTED A LETTER OF INTEREST FOR THE POSITION OF TOWNSHIP CLERK, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 11/20/2020:

Four (4) questions were presented to each applicant:

- 1) *Please tell us about yourself*
- 2) *Why are you considering leaving your current position for this appointment?*
- 3) *Do you understand this appointment is only through November 20th, 2020 and to continue after November 20, 2020 you will need to run for re-election in the 2020 August Primary Election, be successful in the primary and elected in the 2020 November General Election?*
- 4) *Are there any final thoughts you would like to share with us?*

Crawford explained that the position for Clerk is an appointment that will go through November 20th, 2020, at which time the appointee will have to run for reelection in the August Primary Election and November General Election to hold the position for a four (4) year term.

Patricia Bundy introduced herself as a Fort Gratiot Township resident for 21 years. She has past banking experience, being a past Branch Manager preparing Minutes and spreadsheets for the Board, handled payroll and oversaw the tellers. She has experience dealing with people and problem solving. Since having her daughter and taking time off from banking, she applied for and took a position with DHL Global Forwarding, which is a Customs Broker, in data entry. In her 19 years of employment with DHL, she has worked in various departments dealing with carriers, customers, US Customs, etc. Mrs. Bundy said she has experience in problem solving and isn't afraid to try new things. She has considered this the perfect opportunity for change, after 19 years, as her daughter will be leaving for college soon. She is willing to learn and is a hard, dedicated worker. She understands this is an appointed position and will have to run for and be elected in 2020. She thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

Robert Buechler introduced himself, stating he moved to Fort Gratiot in 2003, moving briefly to the City of Port Huron and back to Fort Gratiot Township in 2010. He was fortunate to be chosen and appointed as Township Treasurer in January, 2019 and has been working fulltime with the Township since that time. Prior to that appointment, he was a Member on the Townships ZBA, Board of Review and Planning Commission. He stated he considered leaving his current position of Treasurer because he is excited to take on the challenges of the Clerks position, feeling that it's probably one of the most demanding positions in the Township between keeping the records, doing Accounts Payable, General Ledger, running Elections, keeping of the Minutes and dealing with Ordinances. The list of statutory duties is daunting and he is excited to take that challenge on. As Treasurer, he has assisted in drafting and revising Ordinances, streamlining processes within the Treasurers Department. Having experience on the Treasurer's position and then moving to the Clerks position, he thinks will benefit both offices. He, too, understands that this is an appointed position and that he will have to run for election in 2020. He feels his experience as Treasurer gives him a good idea on what works well and, possibly, what could work better. He also thanked the Board for taking their time to listen to him.

Trustee Kish asked Mr. Buechler if he was encouraged by anyone on the Township Board to apply for this position, in which Mr. Buechler replied, no, he was not.

Trustee Kish continued that there seems to be a lot of internal moving around. If appointed, it will create another situation where another Special Meeting will have to be held to appoint an individual to the Treasurers position.

NEW BUSINESS, ITEM #1, CONTINUED:

2. Motion by Kish, to appoint Patricia Bundy to the position of Township Clerk, died for lack of support.

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Bruckner, to appoint Buechler to the position of Clerk, for a term to expire November 20th, 2020. Roll Call Vote, 5/1, Kish voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

Crawford congratulated Mr. Buechler. He also noted that Mrs. Bundy is more than welcome to submit a *Letter of Interest* for the position of Township Treasurer, noting that she has a background that would be interesting to add to the Treasurers Department.

3. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Bruckner, to accept the *Letter of Resignation*, from Kristy Jones, Certified Zoning Administrator (CZA)/Community Development Director, effective July 31st, 2019.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Mrs. Jones has accepted an offer of employment from the EDA
* Mrs. Jones contacted the Treasurer prior to the meeting stating that although she intended to be present at this meeting, she had an unexpected family situation arise that needed her attention.

Vote, 5/1, Crawford voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Township is sorry to see Mrs. Jones leave, but is proud to feel we were a part of her development to move on to this position.

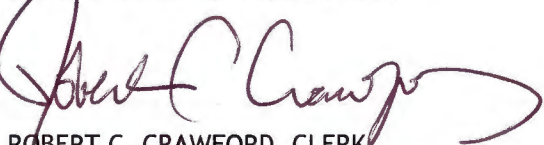
BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Treasurer Buechler cannot take the Oath of Clerk until a Treasurer is in place; Clerk Crawford cannot take the Oath of Supervisor until Mr. Buechler can take the Oath of Clerk
- Deadline for receiving *Letters of Interest* for the Treasurers position.
- Posting of position for Zoning Administrator
- Plan Reviews for Planning Commission - possibility of contracting this out
- Future / upcoming possible retirements

The Board discussed setting up a deadline to accept *Letters of Interest* for the Treasurers position of Noon, Wednesdays, July 30th, and bringing forth items for the August 7th, Regular Meeting to be heard on July 31st, at 6:00 pm, thereby postponing the August 7th Regular meeting. He also noted he would like to post the position for Zoning Administrator.

- Planning Commission, Township Board, Parks Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Work Session re: common goals for the Township
- Budget Meetings for 2020 Budget Year
- Back-up of Utility Billing position
- Bike Path paving repairs
- Community Garden
- Kayak Launch - Cannot use due to high water levels on the Black River. Looking into ways to rectify this issue

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to adjourn. Time, 6:48 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**
SPECIAL MEETING ADJOURNED.



ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, CLERK
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RCC/vo