

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: PAT SMITH, FIRE CHIEF
 LISA SHAGENA, ASSESSOR
 LISA SKOTCHER, DEPUTY TREASURER

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

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of July 3rd, 2019; the **SPECIAL MEETING** of July 12th, 2019; and the **SPECIAL MEETING** of July 23rd, 2019, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: * NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,851,377.44
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 801,998.35
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 257,605.72
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 591,243.43
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 361,118.94
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 18,383.02
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 1,684,847.07
TOTAL	\$ 5,566,573.97
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,653,145.15
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 7,219,719.12

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 \$ 7,219,719.12.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 49,232.06
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 2,045.14
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 65,223.13
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 54,446.51
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 357,416.25
TOTAL	\$ 528,363.09
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MAINT. & IMP.)	\$ 56,202.49
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 584,565.58

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 584,565.58.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter received from Kyle Lis, of Livonia, Michigan, regarding their recent visit to the Township - Congratulating the leadership of the Township.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Letters of Interest received from: Patricia A. Bundy (07/25/2019) - PRESENT
Lisa Johnson (07/28/2019 via email) - PRESENT
Jaime Oprita (07/30/2019 via email) - PRESENT
Thomas R. West (07/30/2019) - PRESENT
Pamela Hickey (07/30/2019 via email) - NOT PRESENT

The Board presented each candidate with four (4) questions:

1. PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF:

Thomas R. West introduced himself, born and raised in Port Huron. Has lived in Fort Gratiot just shy of 20 years. Discussed his past work experience, retiring after 33 years in banking, with a desire to do other things.

Lisa Johnson introduced herself, stating she was also born and raised in the area. She is excited about the prospect of the Township having watched it develop. She is at a perfect point in her life where she would like the opportunity to be a part of it.

Jaime Oprita introduced herself, stating she grew up in Fort Gratiot. She gave the Board insight into her education and past work experience in accounting and financial business.

Patricia "Patty" Bundy introduced herself, having resided in the Township for 21 years. She also gave the Board insight into her past education and work experience in banking and financial business.

2. WHY ARE YOU CONSIDERING LEAVING YOUR CURRENT POSITION FOR THIS APPOINTMENT?

Mr. West explained that he is available because he is retired from his position in banking.

Ms. Johnson explained she has been with the same company for some time and would love to utilize the skills she has learned for the Township, as well as learning new things.

Mrs. Oprita stated this job would keep her closer to home. She and her husband are raising their family in this area and she likes to become involved in the decisions and direction of her community.

Mrs. Bundy is looking for change in which she hope to be at for a long time. Although she enjoys the job she has now, she is looking for new challenges.

3. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS APPOINTMENT IS ONLY THROUGH NOVEMBER 20TH, 2010 AND TO CONTINUE AFTER NOVEMBER 20, 2020 YOU WILL NEED TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION IN THE 2020 AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION, BE SUCCESFUL IN THE PRIMARY AND BE ELECTED IIN THE 2020 NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION?

Each applicant indicated they were aware this is a temporary appointment until November 20, 2020.

4. ARE THERE ANY FINAL THOUGHTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?

Thomas West stated he is a current Treasurer for Smiths Creek Masonic Lodge 2016 in which his banking experience has benefited him. Certainly, the Township Treasurer position is more engrossing that he is really looking forward to as he feels he would be a great fit for that position.

Lisa Johnson stated she appreciates the Boards consideration and stated she is honest and hardworking. She is ready to dig in and do what she can for the Township. She would be happy to answer any additional questions the Board may have.

Jaime Oprita also stated she appreciates the opportunity. She has had in the back of her mind that she would run for the position of Treasurer in 2020 and this opportunity reappeared. She will be happy to answer any other questions the Board may have.

Patty Bundy thanked the Board for taking the time consider her for this position. She is excited for this new opportunity to come her way.

BOARD COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

Acting Chair Crawford thanked each applicant for putting their names forward to be considered for this appointment. In looking at each resume and hearing the comments made tonight, it's not an easy decision for the Board to make.

Trustee Kish stated the importance of being able to be involved and interact with many individuals in different settings. It is important to be forthright, as mentioned by the Clerk previously, that everything you say and do is a reflection on all of us. The Township has many employees and it's important to get along with everybody, even if it's difficult at times.

Trustee Bruckner stated all of the resumes are very good and this is a difficult decision. She reiterated Mr. Kish's sentiment that when you take this type of position, you are always in the public light and representing the Township. She also thanked each candidate for coming forward.

Treasurer Buechler thanked each applicant for coming. Obviously, you are each very qualified and he doesn't feel the Board can make a wrong decision. No matter what the Board decides tonight, don't let it stop you; the Election is right around the corner and if this is something that you want to pursue, he encouraged them to sign up to run in 2020.

Trustee Montgomery also stated he appreciated everyone coming. He noted that one of the applicants was here previously when this position opened up and asked if any of the other three applicants had applied at that time?

Mr. West stated he had applied previously, however, by the time he had read the notice, he missed the deadline by about four hours. He came into it then knowing he wouldn't be a part of the process, but still wanted to know what it was all about.

Mrs. Bundy stated she also considered it. It is a tough roll to try to fill and she, personally, felt she was in the process of transitioning. She didn't feel, at that time, she would be able to give her full attention to the position that it would deserve.

Ms. Johnson stated she was involved in a couple serious projects where she is currently employed, at the time this position came open.

Trustee Bradley thanked the applicants. He stated it is a tough job, but it has its rewards and is a lot of fun. It is a good group of people on this Board and the Township offices. It takes someone that works well with others. It is a hard decision for the Board, but he reiterated what Treasurer Buechler said that it'll be coming up for election in 2020; so if you don't get appointed today, go for it in 2020.

- Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Kish, to appoint Jaime Oprita to the position of Clerk, for a term to expire November 20th, 2020. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

At this time, Acting Chairperson called for a brief recess in order to let all newly appointed Members (Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer) to take their Oath of Office and allow Mrs. Oprita to take her seat at the Board table for the remainder of the meeting. Time, 6:29 o'clock p.m.

Clerk Crawford administered the Oath of Office to Robert Buechler, to the office of Township Clerk.
 Clerk Buechler administered the Oath of Office to Robert C. Crawford, to the office of Township Supervisor.
 Clerk Buechler administered the Oath of Office to Jaime Oprita, to the office of Township Treasurer.

6:34 O'CLOCK P.M. - REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED WITH SUPERVISOR CRAWFORD CHAIRING THE MEETING.

- Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Bradley, to approve the 2019 Budget Amendments as noted, follows:

GENERAL FUND	AMOUNT	APPROPRIATIONS ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NAME	EXPLANATION
Transfer FROM General Fund	-4,799.00	101-171-702-010	Health Insurance Opt-Out	Budget in wrong account
Transfer TO General Fund	4,799.00	101-171-715-000	Social Security	Accounts were reversed
Transfer FROM General Fund	-2,145.00	101-253-702-002	Hourly Wages	
Transfer TO General Fund	2,145.00	101-253-702-004	Salary - Account Clerk	
FIRE FUND				
Transfer FROM Fire Fund	-5,000.00	206-000-800-000	Municipal Consultant	
Transfer TO Fire Fund	4,500.00	206-000-801-000	Audit Fees	
Transfer TO Fire Fund	500.00	206-000-802-000	Legal Fees	

Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

4. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Bruckner, to authorize the payment of the St. Clair County Economic Development Alliance (EDA) of St. Clair County Annual Membership Dues, in the amount of \$5,554.00 for a period covering July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Based on the formula of \$0.50 per capita using 2010 Census of 11,108
* Community Leaders working together to benefit local jurisdictions

Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

6. Motion by Kish, seconded by Montgomery, to postpone the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting of Wednesday, August 7th, 2019 to the Regular Meeting of Wednesday, August 21st, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- 2020 Census
- 2020 Budget Planning
- Remote Read Meter & equipment upgrades
- Utility Billing - Brief discussion re: posting of past due utility bills and safety of DPW employees; applying past due accounts on property taxes; and monthly billing of commercial accounts; review of water rates; Sewer Treatment Plant expenses and possibility of establishing an "Authority" for oversight

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: NONE

Tom West regarding his discussions with the Census Bureau and their efforts to make residents aware of the importance of being counted in the 2020 census. He volunteered his services for any assistance in helping with awareness.

Trustee Kish pointed out the two (2) holes that need to be filled on Keewahdin Road.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to adjourn. Time, 7:03 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.**


ROBERT D. BUECHLER, CLERK
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, SUPERVISOR
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RDB/RCC/vo