

MEMBERS PRESENT: CRAWFORD, OPRITA, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, KISH, BRUCKNER AND MONTGOMERY
 MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE
 ALSO PRESENT: NONE

7:00 O'CLOCK P.M. - SUPERVISOR OPENS PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW OLD FARM SUBDIVISION LIGHTING ASSESSMENT ROLL; and the 2019 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT RATE FOR FIRE PROTECTION; and continued with the Regular Agenda at this time.

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING of November 6th, 2019, as printed and posted; and the SPECIAL MEETING of November 14th, 2019, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. MOTION PASSED.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: * NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Kish, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of the Item #2, PUBLIC HEARINGS, 2019 Special Assessment Rate for Fire Protection. Vote, Unanimous. MOTION PASSED. AGENDA APPROVED, AS AMENDED.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,812,984.81
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 607,294.63
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 219,525.88
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 345,493.73
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 143,917.80
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 32,093.26
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 1,657,914.65
TOTAL	\$ 4,819,224.76
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,568,987.84
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 6,388,212.60

Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Bradley, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 6,388,212.60.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 56,733.66
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 4,933.21
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 62,850.63
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 55,435.43
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 155.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 30,364.09
TOTAL	\$ 210,472.02
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (Maint. & Imp.)	\$ 73,939.15
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 284,411.17

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Buechler, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 284,411.17.

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

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT: Given by representative of Sheriff Department: Under Sheriff, Paulus
 Total Calls for Service for the month of October, 2019, (406). Number of Patrol Hours, (930). 5 Animal Complaint; 2 Assault & Battery; 38 Assist Other Depts.; 54 Assist Public; 36 B&E/Alarm; 6 B&E Building/Vehicle; 1 Child Abuse/Neglect; 4 Disorderly Persons; 9 Domestic Assault; 13 Fraud; 8 Harassment & Threats; 14 Juvenile Matter; 3 Larceny; 4 MDP; 4 PI Traffic Crash; 38 PD Traffic Crash; 12 Retail Fraud; 2 Sex Offense; 24 Suspicious Incidents; 2 Trespasser; 127 Misc.: School Checks/Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hang-ups, etc.; 163 Traffic Stops; 66 Tickets Issued.

Under Sheriff Paulus explained the *Test Phase* in progress, since October 1st, 2019 regarding drugged driving testing device.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SHERIFF: * NONE

Discussion regarding Police Protection Millage and police coverage.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total runs for the month of October, 2019, (129). 2 Fire; 105 Rescue/EMS; 5 Hazardous Condition (No Fire); 7 Service Calls; 3 Good Intent Calls; 7 False Alarm/False Call. Total Cost, \$23,234.25.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of October, 2019, (27). 10 Residential Addition / Alteration/Repair (Val. 209,520); 3 Residential Accessory Structure (Val. 20,000); 6 Fence (Val. 17,345); 1 Deck/Porch (Val. 300); 15 Manufactured Mobile Homes (Val. 6,000). 1 Pool (Val. 39,500); 1 Residential Demolition (Val. 15,000); 4 Commercial Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 5,245,000). Total Valuation, \$ 5,552,165.00. Total Fees, \$ 21,418.75.

PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of October, 2019, (21). 16 Mechanical (2,340.00); 5 Plumbing (2,260.00). Total Fees, \$ 4,600.00.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of October, 2019, (20). Total Fees, \$ 4,986.00.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: Total complaints in the month of October, 2019, (11). 1 Blight; 1 High Grass / Noxious Weeds; 3 RV Storage; 2 Unlicensed Vehicle; 4 Misc. Ord. Violations.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to accept reports, as given. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED:

1. PROPOSED ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE OLD FARM SUBDIVISION:

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION: *
- * Installation of 35 72-Watt LED Colonial Style Street Light Fixtures, black fiberglass street lamp posts, fed by underground distribution utilities.
 - * Special Assessments are billed each year on the December 1st (WINTER) Property Tax
 - * Special Assessment costs divided equally among each individual Parcel ID Number (213) and assessed over a three (3) year period at an interest rate of 4%:

ASSESSABLE UNIT	1	2	3
	01/2019	02/2020	03/2021
UNPAID BALANCE	1,339.08	892.72	446.36
PRINCIPAL	446.36	446.36	446.36
INTEREST (4%)	53.56	35.71	17.85
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE	499.92	482.07	464.21

* No interest to be charged if unpaid balance is Paid-in-Full prior to October 31st, 2020.

Supervisor Crawford asked for citizen comments, questions and/or objections, at this time:

William Shanahan, Old Forge Drive, asked when the Assessment would be billed. Clerk Buechler stated the first billing would be on the December 1st, 2020 (WINTER) Property Tax Notice. Mr. Shanahan referred to the chart, above, noting it states the 1st payment is in 2019.

The Board clarified that the chart was created for 2019, however, it will not begin until December, 2020. Residents within the District will have the opportunity to pay the Construction Assessment of \$1,339.08, IN FULL, prior to October 31st, 2020, without interest. (\$107.12 savings).

Clerk Buechler stated, if the Assessment Roll is approved and adopted, everyone within the Subdivision will receive a notice as to how much the Assessment will be; and that they have the opportunity to Pay-in-Full the entire assessment of \$1,339.08 prior to October 31st, 2020, with no interest.

PUBLIC HEARING, ITEM #1, CONTINUED:

Motion by Kish, seconded by Oprita, to close the Public Hearing to review and confirm the Old Farm Subdivision Lighting District Assessment Roll. Time, 7:17 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

BOARD DISCUSSION: * SEMCO Energy gave an original cost estimate of \$84,000 to remove the existing gas lights and disconnect the gas service. Supervisor Crawford offered \$55,000 and SEMCO rejected that offer, countering back with a cost of \$67,200.00. This equals, roughly, a savings of \$79.00 per parcel.
* DTE Energy is ready to begin constructing and installing the LED lamps and lights within 6 - 8 weeks. Negotiations are ongoing with SEMCO Energy, due to the fact that they wanted 12 months to remove the existing gas lights. Part of what is being negotiated is if an existing gas lamp is in the way of installing the LED System, that SEMCO Energy address that issue and remove that particular gas lamp. It appears that there could be three (3) gas lamps in conflict with the construction of the LED System. Additionally, once all of the LED lamps and lights are installed, he is requesting SEMCO shut the gas off to the gas lamps, immediately, thereby, allowing SEMCO Energy to remove the lamps and disconnect the gas service at their convenience.
* Supervisor Crawford noted that the Assessment, noted above, does not reflect the savings of the lesser negotiated cost by SEMCO Energy. The full cost is figured into the Assessment, however, the Township can always levy less; it cannot, however, levy more than what is approved tonight.

Letter of Opposition to the Assessment from Brandi and John Schemansky, 3692 West Surrey Lane, received.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the Old Farm Subdivision Lighting District Assessment Roll, totaling \$285,224.04, to be divided into three (3) annual installments with the 1st installment to be billed on the December 1st, 2020 Property Tax Notice at a rate of four (4%) percent interest per year on the unpaid balance, however property owners will be allowed to pay the Special Assessment In-Full prior to October 31st, 2020 with no interest charged; and adopt Resolution No. 5, Resolution Confirming Special Assessment Roll. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
RESOLUTION #5, ADOPTED.

2. 2019 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT RATE FOR FIRE PROTECTION:

2019 RATE PER \$1,000 T.V.	TOTAL TAXABLE VALUATION (REAL PROPERTY ONLY)	TOTAL
2.0580	405,190,200	833,881.43

Supervisor Crawford explained this is a designated fund that goes for Fire Department operations, only; and asked for citizen comments, questions and/or objections, at this time. Not one was heard.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Buechler, to close the Public Hearing to review and confirm the 2019 Special Assessment Rate for Fire Protection. Time, 7:24 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Oprita, to approve the 2019 Special Assessment Rate of 2.0580 for Fire Protection, to be assessed against all Real Properties within the Fort Gratiot Charter Township. Roll Call Vote, 7/0.
MOTION PASSED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to adopt the *Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to enter into and execute a Contract with Ferguson Waterworks for the purchase and installation of the Neptune Water Meter and Reading Equipment pursuant to the 10/18/2019 proposal; and to further authorize the Supervisor to enter into an Agreement with Eastern Michigan Bank to borrow the funds necessary to purchase the Neptune Water Meter and Reading Equipment at competitive Tax Exempt Rates.*

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Eastern Michigan Banks Board, today, approved financing this project at their meeting yesterday.

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

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

2. Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Buechler, to approve the Fire Chiefs request to change the pay rate for Paid-on-Call and Shift Work Personnel to Time and a Half (1.5) the Board approved Compensation for responding to calls and staffing the Department on the following Township approved Holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; and to approve Time and a Half (1.5) Comp Time to all Full Time Fire Department employees that work any approved Township Holiday. Both to be effective beginning Thanksgiving 2019.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Currently, only paid straight time for holidays
* Salary compensation and comparisons of surrounding Departments
* Compensation Time Policy

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

3. Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Buechler, to adopt the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Millage Renewal Request Resolution, establishing the date of the Special Election to be held on May 5th, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.:

RENEWAL OF BLUE WATER AREA TRANSPORTATION MILLAGE

"Shall the limitation on the total amount of all taxes which may be assessed against all real and personal taxable property in the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot, St. Clair County, Michigan, be increased up to 0.6173 mills of taxable value (61.73 cents per \$1,000 of state taxable value) as finally equalized for each of the next four (4) years, to expire in 2024, for the purpose of providing funds, estimated to be 268,000 for the first year of levy, for the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot's share of the operation of the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024? This is a renewal of a 2016 millage passed for the same purpose."

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Renewal of previously voter approved millage affected by Headlee
* BWATC Power Point Presentation being prepared to be released at a later date


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

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- 2020 Aerial Imagery Flight - Meeting to be held Thursday, November 21st, 2019, from 9 a.m. until Noon at the St. Clair County Administration Building, Donald C. Dodge Auditorium.
- 2020 Budget Public Hearing on December 4th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Special Meeting
- Toys R Us building has been sold. Becoming Godwin's Furniture & Mattress
- Tax Rolls are complete and ready to be printed

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: NONE

Motion by Oprita, seconded by Bruckner, to adjourn. Time, 7:49 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.**


ROBERT D. BUECHLER, CLERK
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RDB/RCC/vo

ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, SUPERVISOR
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP