

MEMBERS PRESENT: CRAWFORD, OPRITA, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, KISH, BRUCKNER AND MONTGOMERY
 MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE
 ALSO PRESENT: PAT SMITH, FIRE CHIEF
 SHARON WILTON, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR & COMMUNITY EVENTS COORDINATOR
 PATTY BUNDY, UTILITY BILLING CLERK

Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Buechler, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of September 2, 2020, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: * NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$	1,883,597.12
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	850,078.63
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$	366,682.61
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	521,142.83
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$	269,053.09
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	31,405.37
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	1,425,748.60
TOTAL	\$	5,347,708.25
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$	1,429,782.99
GRAND TOTAL	\$	6,777,491.24

Motion by Montgomery, 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 \$ 6,777,491.24.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$	53,043.65
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	2,593.38
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$	7,815.16
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	75,002.41
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$	55,784.91
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	10,616.13
TOTAL	\$	204,855.64
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (PARKS MILLAGE)	\$	35,000.00
(MAINT. & IMP.)		8,845.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$	248,700.64

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Bradley, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 248,700.64.**

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT: Given by representative of Sheriff Department: Lieutenant Hernandez

Total Calls for Service for the month of August, 2020, (348). Number of Patrol Hours, (1116). 14 Animal Complaint; 2 Assault & Battery; 14 Assist Other Depts.; 66 Assist Public; 29 B&E/Alarm; 4 B&E/Building & Vehicle; 1 Child Abuse/Neglect; 13 Disorderly Persons; 14 Domestic Assault; 11 Fraud; 8 Harassment & Threats; 4 Juvenile Matter; 10 Larceny; 4 MDOP; 3 PI Traffic Crash; 33 PD Traffic Crash; 13 Retail Fraud; 2 Sex Offense; 2 Stolen Vehicle; 31 Suspicious Incidents; 68 Misc.: School Checks/Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hang-ups, etc.; 114 Traffic Stops; 19 Tickets Issued.

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

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SHERIFF: * NONE

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total runs for the month of August, 2020, (110). 2 Fire; 85 Rescue/EMS; 5 Hazardous Condition (No Fire); 3 Service Calls; 7 Good Intent Calls; 8 False Alarm/False Call. Total Cost, \$20,957.75.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of August, 2020, (30). 16 Residential Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 126,270); 6 Residential Accessory Structure (Val. 85,460); 8 Fence (Val. 26,640); 1 Commercial Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 65,000); 1 Sign (Val. 3,000); 1 Commercial Zoning Compliance (Val. 174,332). Total Valuation, \$ 480,702.00. Total Fees, \$ 3,915.50.

PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of August, 2020, (15). 13 Mechanical (2,143.25); 2 Plumbing (220.00). Total Fees, \$ 2,363.25.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of August, 2020, (12). Total Fees, \$ 2,358.00.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: Total complaints in the month of August, 2020, (10). 1 Blight; 2 High Grass/Noxious Weeds; 2 Unlicensed Vehicles; 5 Misc. Ord. Violations.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. St. Clair County Memorandum regarding Solid Waste Disposal Fee Increase, effective October 1, 2020.
2. Letter from Comcast regarding changes to Xfinity TV services effective in October, 2020.

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Bruckner, to accept Reports and Correspondence, as presented. Vote, Unanimous.
MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Kish, to modify the Retiree Healthcare Reimbursement to remove requirement of having health insurance; and changing the language to set the age at 59 rather than Social Security eligibility.

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION:
- * Still waiting on further numbers from Mr. Bailey, Township Auditor.
 - * This amendment will affect 10 employees hired before 2011.
 - * Based on 2019 Audit, page 36 - Actuary is based on the age of 55; therefore, the age of 59 should actually make our audit numbers better. It would be less unfunded liability than what the audit shows.
 - * 401a is able to be withdrawn by an employee, with no penalty, at the age of 59½; yet if an employee doesn't stick around until the age of 62, they forfeit this benefit.
 - * If an employee were to become disabled prior to retirement age, the Retiree Healthcare Reimbursement would be effective immediately, which would increase liability.
 - * Montgomery noted in his discussion with Mr. Bailey, that it was Mr. Bailey who suggested the requirement that an employee must be on the Township's Healthcare because it's just costing the Township money; you wouldn't want someone to get on this just to collect the benefit. Mr. Bailey also indicated that it would be better if we stated "years of service" (which is already included), as well as a fixed age, rather than the current requirement of "Social Security eligibility".
 - * Retiree Health Care comparison with the City of Port Huron, Port Huron Township and Sheriff's Department. All require their employees to contribute to an HSA; or a 457 account. This can be used to purchase healthcare benefits when an employee retires. The city and the county also allows a retired employee to buy their insurance, at full cost of the annual premium to the employee.
 - * Standard age of retirement for a fighter is 55 years old; up from 50 years old.
 - * Most employees considering retirement wait until they are Medicare eligible before retiring because of the high cost of health insurance.
 - * Prior to 2011, the Township contributed 60% toward health insurance premium while the retiree contributed 40%.

Roll Call Vote, 3/4, Bradley, Buechler, Buckner and Crawford voting no. **MOTION FAILED.**

Board Members will investigate this matter further and likely bring it back at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Oprita, seconded by Buechler, to set the Public Hearing Date to review and confirm the following Special Assessment Rolls and/or Millage Rates on Wednesday, October 21st, 2020, beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m.
 - 2021 Residential Solid Waste/Yard Waste and Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Services;
 - 2020 Special Assessment for Fire Protection;
 - 2020 Fire Capital Improvement Voted Millage;
 - 2020 Police Protection Voted Millage;
 - Velma Drive Annual Road Maintenance Special Assessment Roll
 - Township-at-Large Highway Lighting Assessment District; and Individual Lighting Assessment Districts

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

2. Trustee Kish referred to a letter sent to him regarding a charge of misconduct in dealing with a drainage issue at a home within the Lake Huron Manor Subdivision. He stated when he agreed to get involved with the issue, he did not understand that all he was to do was to have a meeting between the resident and the Drain Commissioner. He noted that he neither requested, authorized nor condoned the use of Township personnel and/or equipment. He feels very good that his conscience is correct in what he has done. But the letter pinpoints him as an object that did do those things; and that was upsetting to him. If there was going to be a cost or an activity that required Board attention, he, definitely would have come to the Board first. If there was a cost involved, he would have come to the Board first. The Township paid a \$104,000 Drain Assessment... on a drain that doesn't work. He stated he's very disappointed that two people on this Board did not call him or confront him, personally. Or, did not sit down with him before generating a letter with falsities in it. His conscious is clear. He had nothing to do with anything that relates to personnel and/or equipment, verbally or otherwise. He asked that the Board apologize to him, publicly, for accusing him of doing something that he did not do.

Supervisor Crawford apologized to Mr. Kish for taking the letter offensively. Crawford stated this was his response to the report that Mr. Kish had given the night before. He misunderstood.

Trustee Kish gave an update on the drain issue.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Trustee Montgomery noted his disappointment in the rejection of his proposed amendments to the retiree healthcare issue he brought forward.
- Possible expansion of the Presbyterian Village
- Bike Path maintenance done last week; Grounds crew backfilling along the edge. \$17,500 Grant covered half the cost.
- Received Governmental Grant for Corona Virus Relief. Still waiting on the Payroll and Hazard Pay from the State of Michigan.
- Strategic Plan 2020-2022 Draft
- Sheriff Department Contract
- St. Clair County Chapter of the MTA Meeting at the Fort Gratiot County Park on September 24th, 2020

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Anna Moody and Kathryn Cowles, of Lake Huron Manor, thanked Trustee Kish.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Oprita, to adjourn. Time, 7:49 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

The Charter Township of Fort Gratiot complies with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" and if auxiliary aids or services are required at the meeting for individuals with disabilities, please contact Clerk, Robert C. Crawford, 3720 Keewahdin Road, Fort Gratiot MI 48059, (810)385.4489, three days prior to said meeting.