

MEMBERS PRESENT: CRAWFORD, OPRITA, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, KISH, BRUCKNER AND MONTGOMERY
 MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE
 ALSO PRESENT: PAT SMITH, FIRE CHIEF
 CAPTAIN KING, ST. CLAIR COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
 SHARON WILTON, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR/COMMUNITY EVENTS COORDINATOR
 PATTI BUNDY, UTILITY BILLING CLERK
 DEAN MARLAR, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBER

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Oprita, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of September 16th, 2020, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: * NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of Item #7, NEW BUSINESS: Request to extend Real Estate Listing Agreement for vacant property on Keewahdin Road; and to correct the amounts noted for the Law Enforcement Agreement under Item #2, NEW BUSINESS: 2021 - \$965,394; 2022 - \$988,661; & 2023 - \$1,013,078. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED AND CORRECTED.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,852,448.10
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 777,332.66
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 358,880.59
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 492,959.82
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 213,268.18
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 54,594.47
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 1,632,364.71
TOTAL	\$ 5,381,848.53
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,417,298.89
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 6,799,147.42

Motion by Kish, seconded by Buechler, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 6,799,147.42.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 29,158.64
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 7,501.17
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 87,815.16
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 218.40
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 56,615.63
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 100.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 225,918.03
TOTAL	\$ 407,327.03
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (PARKS MILLAGE)	\$ 105.00
(UTILITY BOND)	\$ 90.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 407,522.03

Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Bradley, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 407,522.03.**

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

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Buechler, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the Agreement with UHY, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, to perform calculations for water and sewer rates for 2021, at a cost not to exceed \$8,500.00; and authorize the Township Supervisor to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Township Board.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * This study is to determine that the revenue covers expenses.
* This study is done annually and includes operational costs of the DPW.

Roll Call Vote, 6/1, Kish voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Motion by Buechler, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between the St. Clair County Sheriff and the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot, for a period covering January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2023, at the rates noted below; and authorize the Township Supervisor and Township Clerk to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Township Board.

2021 Police Service Contract Costs:	\$ 965,394.00
2022 Police Service Contract Costs:	\$ 988,661.00
2023 Police Service Contract Costs:	\$ 1,013,078.00

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * 2019 Audit comparisons
* Voter approved millage up to 2.5000 mills for law enforcement. 2019 Millage was set at 2.0000 mills per \$1,000 Taxable Value. 2019 also did not include the additional officer added in 2020.
* With the voter approved millage amount, enough revenue will be generated to cover thru 2023.
* Tax payers may see a tax increase over last year because the Board set the millage rate at 2.0000 mills; less than the voter approved 2.5000 mills. Board sets rates based on projected tax revenue.
* Additional officer was a 6 hour deputy increased to 12 hours.
* Public Hearings will be held October 21st to confirm 2020 millage rates.
* Contracts costs for surrounding contracting municipalities are figured exactly the same as Fort Gratiot; this is not a negotiated Contract.
* Replacement of vehicle(s).

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

3. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Oprita, to adopt the Fort Gratiot Charter Township of Fort Gratiot Strategic Plan 2020-2022.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Set of goals hopefully accomplished together with the Board of Trustees, Parks Commission and Planning Commission.
* Little League and Sports Park. Letter of Understanding has been signed by Little League and will be sent back to the Township. This understanding puts plans on hold until both parties are able to move forward.

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Oprita, to adopt the Fort Gratiot Charter Township of Fort Gratiot Strategic Plan 2020-2022. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

4. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to accept the Letter of Resignation from the position of Ordinance Enforcement Officer, from Liz Austin, effective October 15th, 2020.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Enforcement will be handled in-house until determining the 2021 Budget.

Vote, 6/1, Crawford voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

Supervisor Crawford stated he truly appreciates all the effort Mrs. Austin has put into this position.

5. REQUEST APPROVAL TO POST THE POSITION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/PAYROLL/GENERAL LEDGER ACCOUNTANT:

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Dave Jewell is retiring at the end of this year. A couple employees have shown interest in this position.
* Clerk prefers not to post a salary range, due to the fact that the range is astronomical, depending on qualifications and experience.
* Posting internally and publicly can and will be done simultaneously.
* Job Description.
* Pay Range on posting of position.
* Probationary period.

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Kish, to approve posting, with the amendment for adding a salary range, for the position of Accounts Payable/Payroll and General Ledger Accountant.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Discussion re: pros and cons of including salary range in job posting.
* Township Auditor indicated starting pay for CPA, with no experience in private practice, is \$60,000+.
* Pay range of \$35,000 - \$60,000 discussed.

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

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Oprita, to approve the posting for the position of Accounts Payable/Payroll and General Ledger Accountant, as presented.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * The hiring for this position will be brought to the Board for approval upon recommendation by Hiring Committee, along with a recommended salary.

Roll Call Vote, 4/3, Kish, Bruckner and Montgomery voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

6. **NO ACTION TAKEN** on Proposed Resolution Amending the Retiree Health Care Benefit.
7. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Buechler, to extend the Agreement with Allie Dado, KW Realtors, for listing the vacant property on Keewahdin Road for another six (6) months. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Presbyterian Village.
- Bike Path maintenance.
- Retirement / Health Savings Account (HSA) Information
- Election Update.
- Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) Grant.
- COVID Funding.
- St. Clair County Sheriff's Department.
- Fire Department has received Hazard Pay Grant and half of Payroll Reimbursement Grant.
- Shop with a Fire Fighter will be done again. Date to be determined.
- New Fire/Rescue Truck being built.
- Fire Department videos being sent to schools promoting Fire Safety.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to adjourn. Time, 8:16 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