

MEMBERS PRESENT: CRAWFORD, OPRITA, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, KISH, BRUCKNER AND ARMBRUSTER

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: PAT SMITH, FIRE CHIEF
 LISA SHAGENA, ASSESSOR
 PATTI BUNDY, UTILITY BILLING CLERK
 ROB MONTGOMERY, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBER
 DEAN MARLAR, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBER

Motion by Kish, seconded by Oprita, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of April 21st, 2021, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

Donna & Bill Galbraith, Fairway Drive - Thanked Township for the wonderful resurfacing job on Fairway Drive.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,471,730.74
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 1,192,245.07
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 478,132.67
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 817,037.87
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 443,185.37
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 32,362.01
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 1,017,363.34
TOTAL	\$ 6,452,057.07
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,453,865.82
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 7,905,922.89

Motion by Bradley, 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 \$7,905,922.89.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 39,556.22
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 68,072.09
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 7,815.16
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 28.00
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 55,725.68
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 303,728.33
TOTAL	\$ 474,925.48
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MAINT. & IMP.)	\$ 3,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 478,425.48

Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Kish, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 478,425.48.**

* 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: Captain, Matt Pohl

Total Calls for Service for the month of April, 2021, (279). Number of Patrol Hours, (1080). 5 Animal Complaint; 3 Assault & Battery; 31 Assist Other Depts.; 45 Assist Public; 14 B&E/Alarm; 6 Disorderly Persons; 12 Domestic Assault; 4 Fraud; 11 Harassment & Threats; 2 Juvenile Matter; 9 Larceny; 3 MDOP; 4 PI Traffic Crash; 19 PD Traffic Crash; 6 Retail Fraud; 3 Sex Offense; 16 Suspicious Incidents; 4 Trespasser; 82 Misc.: School Checks/Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hang-ups, etc.; 187 Traffic Stops; 81 Tickets Issued.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SHERIFF: *

Dean Marlar re: house parties at Northeast corner of North River and Wooded Twigs. Parked vehicles obstruct view of on-coming traffic from the East when pulling off Wooded Twigs.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total runs for the month of April, 2021, (141). 7 Fire; 114 Rescue/EMS; 6 Hazardous Condition (No Fire); 5 Service Calls; 2 Good Intent Calls; 8 False Alarm/False Call. Total Cost, \$24,657.00.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of April, 2021, (44). 5 New Homes (Val. 1,255,000); 10 Residential Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 130,369); 4 Residential Accessory Structure (Val. 7,200); 10 Fence (Val. 24,726); 3 Deck/Porch (Val. 47,180); 1 Multiple Residential (Val. 1,890,000); 3 Pools (Val. 6,700); 1 New Commercial Structure (Val. 70,000); 1 Sign (Val. 10,900). Total Valuation, \$ 3,472,075. Total Fees, \$ 19,540.00.

PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of April, 2021, (32). 23 Mechanical (3,485.00); 9 Plumbing (1,342.00). Total Fees, \$ 4,827.00.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of April, 2021, (20). Total Fees, \$3,998.00.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

Motion by Kish, seconded by Oprita, to accept Reports, as presented. Vote, Unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Representatives from SKYMINT Brands were present to give a presentation of their cannabis company, Michigan's largest medical and recreational license holder. They discussed current Michigan locations and retail footprint, projected economic market, ongoing legalization across the U.S., employment opportunities and economic impact as well as their charitable involvement and community outreach. Also discussed real estate development as far as SKYMINT retail locations.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Trustee Armbruster - Asked about traditional products a consumer would see in a retail store.

Trustee Kish - Concerned about the addictiveness of cannabis and its impact on law enforcement, social services or any number of agencies that deal with people who become addicted.

Trustee Bruckner - Clarifying that the company is only looking for retail area in the Township. Would like to see data verification with regards to law enforcement involvement, accidents, crime, etc. Fort Gratiot has a good relationship with our school community and a number of current and retired school employees; in the past, the County Sheriffs' Department and schools have been very opposed to having retail come into the area.

Representatives addressed concerns and stated they would provide additional information that they haven't been able to provide tonight.

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

2. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Kish, to deny the request from Terry & Marcia Beck, 3211 Keewahdin Road, Lot 37 to reimburse overpayment of water usage due to a faulty meter.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Beck's estimated their overpayment based on the history report given to them by the Utility Billing Clerk.
* They are requesting about a \$2,000 credit (approximately 3 years' worth of water bills).
* Recent history indicates about 1,000 c.f./quarter; prior to that they were at about 3,000/4000 c.f./quarter.
* When the Becks moved in about three years ago, the meter was tested several times and was reading correctly. The meter was not leaking. After the meter had been tested, in January 2020 the eco-meter read a continuous or intermittent leak for 35 days and they were notified; however, they did not contact the Township until August of 2020, after three years after the initial testing. The probable cause was, likely, a leak within the home.
* In January, the eco-meter read a continuous or intermittent leak for 35 days.
* Policy changes in the future for testing of pulled meters.

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

3. Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Armbruster, to accept, with regrets, the Letter of Resignation from Therese Todaro, Building Department Clerk, keeping her on as long as she is available until her out of state move becomes effective. Roll Call Vote, 6/1, Crawford voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Kish, to approve the Hiring Committees' request to interview and hire a Building Clerk, at a salary range between \$29,250.00 (\$15.00/hr.) and \$37,050.00 (\$19.00/hr.).

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * The open position has been posted, with the deadline to apply on May 27, 2021 at 4:00pm.
* The job description and responsibilities remain unchanged, and this salary range is consistent with the two previous Building Clerks.
* Administration would like to conduct interviews and hire a new Building Clerk as quickly as possible.

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

5. Motion by Kish, seconded by Oprita, to approve the posting and/or publishing for the position of Ordinance Enforcement Officer.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Posting on Township Website and Social Media sites and, possibly publish in Times Herald
* Compensation has been approximately \$4,500.00/year.
* A Part-Time position (approx. 10 hours/week) at a salary rate of \$7,500.00/year, which is in line with compensation of surrounding municipalities.
* No change to current Job Description.

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

6. Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Bradley, to adopt the Resolution (2021-006) Requesting MDOT Perform a Traffic Study at the Intersection of State Road and M-136.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * MDOT last studied the intersection in 2014.
* Request of traffic study during school year because the last time the study was done it was done during summer break from school and before little league began.
* Possibility of a roundabout or traffic signal

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

7. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Oprita, to adopt the updates to the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, as presented.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Update to discontinue special COVID-19 pay for those required to quarantine due to exposure, to end on July 5, 2021. Employee's needing sick time, after this date, will need to use PTO.

Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Update on work on the North side of the Fort Gratiot Pond. No plans for resurfacing bike path, at this time.
- May 28th, 2021 at 7:30 a.m. - Placement of Memorial Day Flags for Veterans interred at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Volunteers are welcome.
- Veteran Memorial Banners will be placed on white lamp posts at the Municipal Center.
- Call from a resident that trash and recyclables were put in same truck.
- Donation Boxes have been removed from former Swissel Inn. Now the dumping is occurring at the Kohl's location.
- Potential for Ordinance with regard to medical/recreational marijuana and cannabis. Discussion regarding field tests for drivers under the influence of marijuana.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Dean Marlar requested the Township send a letter to the resident at North River Road and Wooded Twigs notifying him that he is supposed to limit parking on that corner so not to obstruct the view of on-coming traffic.

Dave Norris - Streetlight at the intersection of Lakeshore Road (M-25) and Brace Road is not working.

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Kish, to adjourn. Time, 8:23 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