

In the absence of Supervisor Crawford, this meeting was chaired by Clerk Buechler.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: CRAWFORD AND ARMBRUSTER

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
 KEN CUMMINGS, TRI-HOSPITAL EMS

7:00 P.M. - OPENED PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION ON:
 THE TOWNSHIP-AT-LARGE HIGHWAY LIGHTING AND INDIVIDUAL LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS; AND
 VELMA DRIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT; AND
 2021 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR FIRE PROTECTION; AND
 2021 FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT VOTED MILLAGE LEVY; AND
 2021 POLICE PROTECTION VOTED MILLAGE LEVY; AND
 2022 RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE/YARD WASTE AND BI-WEEKLY CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION
 AND DISPOSAL SERVICES; and proceeded with the Regular Agenda, at this time:

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of October 5th, 2022, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

Bob Hunckler, State Road - Asked about possibility of sewer line on State Road.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,052,347.33
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 1,150,687.27
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 1.04
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 452,047.80
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 207,737.62
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 89,462.26
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 1,969,121.93
TOTAL	\$ 5,921,405.25
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,178,340.46
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 7,099,745.71

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Buechler, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 7,099,745.71.**

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

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$	63,088.77
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	3,866.72
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$	0.00
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	82,388.43
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$	0.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	169.99
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	530,151.63
TOTAL	\$	679,665.54
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (PARKS MILLAGE FUND)	\$	8,664.91
(MAINT. & IMP.)	\$	3,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$	691,830.45

Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Oprita, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 691,830.45.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT: Given by representative of Sheriff Department: Sargent, Dan Bueche

Total Calls for Service for the month of September, 2022, (505). Number of Patrol Hours, (1080). 19 Animal Complaint; 2 Assault & Battery; 44 Assist Other Depts.; 212 Assist Public; 20 B&E/Alarm; 2 B&E/Building & Vehicle; 6 Disorderly Persons; 10 Domestic Assault; 5 Fraud; 8 Harassment & Threats; 3 Juvenile Matter; 5 Larceny; 6 MDOP; 1 Narcotics; 2 PI Traffic Crash; 23 PD Traffic Crash; 4 Retail Fraud; 1 Sex Offense; 3 Stolen Vehicle; 35 Suspicious Incidents; 1 Trespasser; 93 Misc.: School Checks/Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hang-ups, etc.; 159 Traffic Stops; 91 Tickets Issued.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SHERIFF: *

Dean Marlar asked about drug trafficking in Fort Gratiot and St. Clair County.

Trustees Bruckner noted recent panhandling along 24th Avenue near the Verizon store near TJ Maxx.

Trustee Bradley indicated his concern for an elderly man who seems to be living in his vehicle in unsafe conditions.

Trustee Kish inquired about fentanyl incidents in the Township.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total runs for the month of September, 2022, (141). 8 Fire; 118 Rescue/EMS; 2 Hazardous Condition (No Fire); 4 Service Calls; 4 Good Intent Calls; 5 False Alarm/False Call. Total Cost, \$13,140.15.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of September, 2022, (43). 1 New Home (Val. 875,000); 19 Residential Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 412,890); 2 Residential Accessory Structure (Val. 26,000); 5 Fence (Val. 14,530); 1 Deck/Porch (Val. 10,000); 10 Manufactured Mobile Homes (Val. 55,000); 1 Pool (Val. 75,000); 1 Misc. Zoning Compliance (Val. 200); 3 Commercial Signs (Val. 22,000). Total Valuation, \$ 1,490,620.00. Total Fees, \$ 9,923.00.

PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of September, 2022, (35). 20 Mechanical (2,720.00); 15 Plumbing (2,186.00). Total Fees, \$ 4,906.00.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of September, 2022, (13). Total Fees, \$ 4,351.00.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: Total complaints for the month of September, 2022, (11). 4 Blight; 1 Sheriff's Dept.; 6 Misc. Code Violations. Total Hours, 24.5. Total Miles, 47.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Kish, to accept Reports, as presented. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC HEARING(S), CONTINUED:

1. PROPOSED 2022 TOWNSHIP-AT-LARGE HIGHWAY LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT; AND INDIVIDUAL LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS, AS FOLLOWS:

Township-at-Large Highway Lighting	\$	69,890.80
Angus Road	\$	1,593.00
Bardamar Drive	\$	2,234.40
Connie Lane	\$	955.80
Connie Woods Condominium Subdivision	\$	1,596.00
Fairway Drive	\$	5,734.80
Grace Road	\$	1,274.40
Grant Avenue	\$	1,274.40
Greenview Circle	\$	3,830.40
Hidden Forrest Subdivision Phase I	\$	1,596.00
Janice Avenue	\$	2,872.80
Lake Huron Manor Subdivision (Maplewood, Elmwood & Manor)	\$	4,011.00
Lakeshore Terrace	\$	3,791.92
Lomar Drive	\$	1,911.60
Milton Road	\$	955.80
Old Farm Subdivision	\$	10,180.80
Parker Road	\$	637.20
Pollina Avenue	\$	955.80
Shoreview Subdivision (Shoreview Dr., N. Shoreview Dr., S. Shoreview Dr. & San Juan Dr., between N. & S. Shoreview Dr.)	\$	2,173.20
Simpson Road	\$	563.40
Spartan Drive	\$	4,468.80
Stoney Creek I	\$	2,872.80
Stoney Creek II	\$	2,553.60
Stoney Creek III	\$	2,872.80
Stoney Creek IV	\$	5,745.60
Stoney Creek V	\$	2,553.60
Stoney Creek VI	\$	2,872.80
Teeple Avenue	\$	637.20
Watson Drive	\$	434.64
Whitney Place	\$	3,954.72
TOTAL	\$	147,000.08

Clerk Buechler asked for citizen comments, questions and/or objections, at this time. Not one was heard.

After hearing no citizen comments, questions and/or objections, a Motion was made by Buechler, seconded by Oprita, to close the Public Hearing to review and hear citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the proposed 2022 Township-at-Large Highway Lighting Assessment District; and Individual Lighting Assessment Districts, as noted. Time, 7:10 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION: Trustee Kish asked about rate increases incorporated by the utility companies.

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Buechler, to accept the cost estimates provided; and adopt Resolution 2022-014 Confirming Lighting Assessment Districts and Special Assessment Roll for the Township-at-Large Highway Lighting (\$69,890.80); and Individual Lighting Assessment Districts, as noted above, totaling \$147,000.08. Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION 2022-014, ADOPTED.**

PUBLIC HEARING(S), CONTINUED:

2. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE/YARD WASTE AND CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL AT A RATE OF \$ 202.00 PER UNIT:

Clerk Buechler asked for citizen comments, questions and/or objections, at this time:

Lisa Shagena stated she feels the rate for this service is a great deal. In talking with other municipalities, they charge a lot more for less service.

After hearing no further citizen comments, questions and/or objections, a Motion was made by Buechler, seconded by Bradley, to close the Public Hearing to review and hear citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed 2022 Special Assessment District for Residential Solid Waste/Yard Waste and Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal. Time, 7:16 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

- BOARD DISCUSSION: * 2021 Rate was \$192.00 per unit
 * Three (3) year Contract.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the 2022 Special Assessment for Residential Solid Waste/Yard Waste and Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal at a rate of \$ 202.00 per unit; and adopt the 2022 Resolution (2022-015) Confirming the Residential Solid Waste/Yard Waste and Bi-Weekly Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Services Special Assessment Roll. Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION 2022-015, ADOPTED.**

3. 2022 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT RATE FOR FIRE PROTECTION:

2022 RATE PER \$1,000 T.V.	TOTAL TAXABLE VALUATION (REAL PROPERTY ONLY)	TOTAL
2.739	452,413,304	1,239,160,039

* 2021 Rate was set at 2.4900

Chief Smith was present to explain and discuss the requested ten (10%) percent increase to the Special Assessment.

Clerk Buechler asked for citizen comments, questions and/or objections, at this time. Not one was heard.

After hearing no citizen comments, questions and/or objections, a Motion was made by Buechler, seconded by Oprita, to close the Public Hearing to review and hear citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed 2022 Special Assessment for Fire Protection. Time, 7:19 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

- BOARD DISCUSSION: * Special Assessment used for operation costs.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the 2022 Special Assessment Rate of 2.739 Mills per \$1,000 TV for Fire Protection, to be assessed against all Real Properties within the Fort Gratiot Charter Township; and adopt Resolution 2022-016 Confirming Special Assessment Roll for Fire Protection. Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION 2022-016, ADOPTED.**

4. 2022 FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT VOTED MILLAGE LEVY:

2022 RATE PER \$1,000 T.V.	TOTAL TAXABLE VALUATION (REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY)	TOTAL
0.5870	482,961,910	283,498,641

* 2021 Rate was set at 0.5971

Chief Smith explained the voted millage was approved at 0.6000 mills; however, it is affected by a Headlee reduction each year. The voted millage will expire in 2026 and will, again, be presented to the voters.

PUBLIC HEARING(S), ITEM #4, CONTINUED:

Clerk Buechler asked for citizen comments, questions and/or objections, at this time:

Dave Norris asked if the Fire Department has any plans to go “Green” with fire apparatus. Chief Smith replied, not at this time. He stated the Department is, though, going to battery for much of the equipment.

After hearing no further citizen comments, questions and/or objections, a Motion was made by Bradley, seconded by Oprita, to close the Public Hearing to review and hear citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed 2022 Fire Capital Improvement Voted Millage Levy. Time, 7:25 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION: * The question will, again, be put to the voters when the current levy expires.

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the 2022 Millage Rate of 0.5870 for Fire Department Capital Improvement Voted Millage Levy, to be assessed against all Real and Personal Properties within Fort Gratiot Charter Township; and adopt Resolution 2022-017 Confirming 2021 Fire Department Capital Improvement Voted Millage Levy. Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION 2022-017, ADOPTED.**

5. 2022 POLICE PROTECTION VOTED MILLAGE:

2022 RATE PER \$1,000 TAXABLE	TOTAL TAXABLE VALUATION (REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY)	TOTAL
2.5000	482,961,910	1,207,404,775

* 2021 Rate was set at 2.1000

Clerk Buechler asked for citizen comments, questions and/or objections, at this time. Not one was heard.

After hearing no citizen comments, questions and/or objections, a Motion was made by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to close the Public Hearing to review and hear citizen comments, questions and/or objections to the Proposed 2022 Police Protection Voted Millage Levy. Time, 7:27 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION: * Fund Balance
 * Current Contract will expire in 2023. The millage renewal will be placed on the ballot in 2024.

Motion by Oprita, seconded by Kish, to approve the 2022 Millage Rate (after Headlee Rollback), of 2.100 mills per \$1,000 T.V. for Police Protection Voted Millage Levy, to be assessed against all Real and Personal Properties within the Fort Gratiot Charter Township; and adopt the Resolution 2022-018 Confirming the Police Protection Voted Millage Levy. Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION 2022-018, ADOPTED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Oprita, to approve the *Agreement for Ambulance Millage Distribution*, as presented; and authorize the Township Supervisor and/or the Township Clerk to sign on behalf of the Township.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Term of Agreement will be for a period of four (4) years - Jan. 1, 2023 thru Dec. 31, 2026
 * Funds will be received from the County on or before June 1st of each year.

Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED. AGREEMENT, APPROVED.**

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

2. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to approve the *First Amendment to Ambulance Agreement between Fort Gratiot Charter Township and Tri-Hospital Emergency Medical Services Corporation*, as presented; and authorize the Township Supervisor and/or the Township Clerk to sign on behalf of the Township.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Mr. Cummings was present to explain and discuss the Amendment, stating it basically states that the Township agrees to, within 30 days of receiving the Funds from the County, send those funds to the Ambulance Service.

Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Motion by Oprita, seconded by Buechler, to adopt Resolution (2022-019) of Intent to Collect Winter Taxes for St. Clair County for the year 2022, as follows:

Voted Senior Citizens Millage	-	0.7983 mills
Voted Library Millage	-	1.2000 mills
Voted Parks Millage	-	0.4944 mills
Voted Veterans Millage	-	0.0998 mills
Voted County Roads	-	0.2495 mills
Voted Drug Task Force	-	0.5598 mills
Voted Ambulance Service	-	0.5000 mills

Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION 2022-019, ADOPTED.**

4. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Bruckner, to approve hiring Courtney Reckker as Planning Commission Recording Secretary, at an annual stipend of \$ 4010.00.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * The 2022 Stipend will be prorated to cover the monthly meetings remaining this year (\$859.28).

Roll Call Vote, 5/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Clerk Buechler update on November 8th General Elections.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: NONE

Motion by Kish, seconded by Oprita, to adjourn. Time, 7:38 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