

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: ROBERT MONTGOMERY
GEORGE WELLS

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

Liz Montgomery spoke regarding Robert Montgomery's past experience with the Township and his nature to be a "helper" and his involvement with the Township and community.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. INTERVIEWS & APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER:

Supervisor Crawford explained this appointment would be effective through November 20, 2024. If the appointee desires to continue the position, they would need to run for and be successful in the 2024 Primary & General elections.

Robert Montgomery introduced himself and his family and described his past and present career experiences. He currently serves on the Townships Zoning Board of Appeals and Parks Commission. Prior to that he served a four (4) year term as Trustee.

George Wells introduced himself and gave and gave a brief description of his family and years living in Fort Gratiot, as well as his past career experiences.

Treasurer Oprita explained the daily, weekly & monthly tasks and responsibilities, above & beyond sitting on the Township Board, noting that two employees work under the Treasurer's supervision and the operations of the Treasurer's department.

Trustee Kish noted the importance of the Administrative responsibilities to the Township employees and citizens.

Noting that neither applicant has any past experience with municipal treasury, Supervisor Crawford asked each what they feel would be their biggest challenge of the position and how they would face it?

Mr. Montgomery replied, his biggest challenge would be learning the duties of the Treasurer. However, he has a good working relationship with Mrs. Oprita and knows he can count on her knowledge if he has any questions. He also noted that the Deputy Treasurer has a great knowledge of department the duties required. He would utilize the staff with the learning process. He is familiar with basics of the BS&A Software the Township uses.

Mr. Wells agrees he isn't knowledgeable in municipal treasury, however, he knows there are set policies and procedures in place and must be followed. Although it is a learning curve, he learns new things every day and is open to it. He agreed with Mr. Montgomery that it is important to use the existing resources available.

Mr. Montgomery also stated another good resource, being the MTA. They offer classes and can be contacted with questions. He utilized them as a Trustee.

Trustee Armbruster asked each applicant how comfortable they are with the fact that they will have to run for office at a future election to keep the position; and how comfortable each would be with making decisions that some residents may not like.

Mr. Montgomery stated he is familiar with the election process.

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

ITEM #1, NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

Mr. Wells stated he has never had to run for an election for a position. He has been appointed to many boards and re-elected, but rather than being up to the public, it was up to the individual boards. The election process is not something he is afraid of and he understands that you can't please all of the people all of the time.

Mr. Montgomery stated, as being a Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, he is very familiar with having to work with residents who may not be happy with a decision that has been made.

Trustee Armbruster asked if either applicant had any budgeting experience. Each applicant gave a brief description of experiences they have had with budgets.

Treasurer Oprita noted the need to like working with numbers and paying attention to details and being organized.

Supervisor Crawford explained that Treasurer Oprita can offer input and be involved with the discussion, in this matter, but State Law does not allow her to vote on this matter.

Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Kish, to approve the appointment of Robert Montgomery to the position of Township Treasurer, effective August 11, 2023, to fill the remaining term of resigning Treasurer Oprita.
Roll Call Vote, 2/4, Bradley, Bruckner, Buechler and Crawford voting no. **MOTION FAILED.**

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the appointment of George Wells to the position of Township Treasurer, effective August 11, 2023, to fill the remaining term of resigning Treasurer Oprita.
Roll Call Vote, 4/2, Kish and Armbruster voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Board thanked both applicants for putting in their letters of interest, noting that there will be positions open next year and noted deadlines, for those positions, will be toward the end of April, 2024.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Trustees Armbruster and Bruckner also thanked both applicants for their interest in the position. Trustee Armbruster stated they are both very worthy candidates. He also thanked everyone in the audience for showing up.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: NONE

Motion by Kish, seconded by Armbruster, to adjourn. Time, 6:40. Time, 6:40 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