

MEMBERS PRESENT: CRAWFORD, WELLS, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, KISH, BRUCKNER AND ARMBRUSTER  
 MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE  
 ALSO PRESENT: FIRE DEPARTMENT: CAPTAIN, TRAVIS WOOLMAN; AND NICK PREVOST & JACOB PLATZER  
 STEPHEN JONES, ASSESSOR  
 PATTI BUNDY, UTILITY BILLING CLERK  
 ROB MONTGOMERY, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS / PARKS COMMISSION  
 CONNIE NEESE, PARKS COMMISSION  
 DEAN MARLAR, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Armbruster, to approve the Minutes of the SPECIAL MEETING of December 6, 2023 (6 p.m.); and the REGULAR MEETING of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (7 p.m.), as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. MOTION PASSED.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:** \*

Rob Montgomery regarding New Business, Item #14: Reappointment of Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Members. He, respectfully, requested his name be removed from reappointment to Zoning Board of Appeals, as he will not seek reappointment after his current term expires on December 31, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Wells, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of Item #15, NEW BUSINESS: Drain Commission Approving Disclosure and Continuing Disclosure Undertaking for Carrigan and Grace Drainage District Drain Bonds. Vote, Unanimous. MOTION PASSED. AGENDA APPROVED, AS AMENDED.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,036,140.98
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 1,107,549.35
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 170,187.36
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 218,555.14
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 118,061.81
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 153,912.01
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 2,446,115.12
TOTAL	\$ 6,250,521.77
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 812,797.82
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 7,063,319.59

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Kish, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 7,063,319.59.

**BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:**

GENERAL FUND	\$ 39,301.38
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 2,025.53
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 84,423.20
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 0.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 7,888.73
TOTAL	\$ 133,638.84
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MAINT. & IMP.)	\$ 3,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 137,138.84

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Armbruster, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 137,138.84.

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

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Total Calls for Service for the month of November, 2023, (518). Number of Patrol Hours, (1080). 4 Animal Complaint; 2 Assault & Battery; 29 Assist Other Depts.; 204 Assist Public; 25 B&E/Alarm; 2 Child Abuse; 8 Disorderly Persons; 4 Domestic Assault; 11 Fraud; 12 Harassment & Threats; 1 Juvenile Matter; 10 Larceny; 4 MDOP; 2 PI Traffic Crash; 44 PD Traffic Crash; 3 Retail Fraud; 1 Stolen Vehicle; 27 Suspicious Incidents; 3 Trespasser; 122 Misc.: School Checks/Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hang-ups, etc.; 158 Traffic Stops; 53 Tickets Issued.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SHERIFF:** \* NONE

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Total runs for the month of November, 2023, (127). 8 Fire; 94 Rescue/EMS; 6 Hazardous Condition (No Fire); 4 Service Calls; 7 Good Intent Calls; 8 False Alarm/False Call. Total Cost, \$ 15,049.57.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Total permits issued for the month of November, 2023, (18). 5 Residential Addition / Alteration/Repair (Val. 67,729); 2 Accessory Structure (Val. 165,175); 5 Fence (Val. 36,500); 1 Residential Demolition (Val. 9,000); 1 Commercial Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 200,000); 1 Commercial Accessory Structure (Val. 7,778); 3 Commercial Sign (Val. 6,800). Total Valuation, \$ 492,982.00. Total Fees, \$ 3,418.50.

**PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT:** Total permits issued for the month of November, 2023, (18). 15 Mechanical (3,400.00); 3 Plumbing (600.00). Total Fees, \$ 4,000.00.

**ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Total permits issued for the month of November, 2023, (11). Total Fees, \$ 3,936.00.

**ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT:** Total Complaints for the month of November, 2023, (16). 10 Blight; 1 Sheriff's Department; 5 Misc. Ordinance Violations. Total Hours, 19. Total Miles, 41.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** NONE

Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Bruckner, to accept Reports, as presented. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

**PUBLIC HEARING(S):** NONE

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET RESOLUTION (2023-022):

DEPARTMENT	PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET
TOTAL REVENUES	13,237,818
GENERAL FUND (DEPT. 101-000)	227,400
TOWNSHIP BOARD (DEPT. 101-101)	58,087
CEMETERY TRUST FUND (DEPT. 101-151)	0
SUPERVISOR (DEPT. 101-171)	124,458
CEMETERY (DEPT. 101-209)	58,406
CLERK (DEPT. 101-215)	273,293
BOARD OF REVIEW (DEPT. 101-247)	3,575
TREASURER (DEPT. 101-253)	214,888
ASSESSOR (DEPT. 101-257)	209,705
ELECTIONS (DEPT. 101-262)	103,952
GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS (DEPT. 101-265)	1,705,006
ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT (DEPT. 101-282)	9,793
PASSPORT (DEPT. 101-283)	3,600
DRAINS-AT-LARGE (DEPT. 101-445)	125,000
VELMA DRIVE (DEPT. 101-446)	760
GENERAL FUND STREET LIGHTING (DEPT. 101-448)	166,128
COMMUNITY PLANNING & ZONING (DEPT. 101-721)	107,836
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (DEPT. 101-722)	12,161
PLANNING COMMISSION (DEPT. 101-723)	29,801
PARKS COMMISSION (DEPT. 101-751)	153,260
DOG PARK (DEPT. 101-753)	0
TOWNSHIP GROUNDS MAINTENANCE (DEPT. 101-756)	360,444
POINTE COMMUNITY BUILDING (DEPT. 101-806)	26,295
WATER SHED PLAN (DEPT. 101-960)	4,500
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND (DEPT. 206)	1,489,540
POLICE FUND (DEPT. 207)	1,110,226
PARKS MILLAGE (DEPT. 208)	60,446
TRASH FUND (DEPT. 226)	756,780
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND (DEPT. 249)	197,913
BWATC FUND (DEPT. 250)	310,874
FIRE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND (DEPT. 403)	109,694
AMBULANCE FUND (DEPT. 210)	237,151
MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT FUND (DEPT. 495)	288,441
WATER / SEWER FUND (DEPT. 592)	4,452,705
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	12,992,118
TOTAL REVENUES LESS EXPENDITURES	245,700

Motion by Kish, seconded by Wells, to adopt the Proposed 2024 Budget Resolution (2023-022) of the Fort Gratiot Charter Township, *by Department Level*, as noted above, totaling \$ 12,992,118.00. Roll Call Vote, 7/0.  
**MOTION PASSED.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Bruckner, to adopt *Resolution 2023-030, Declaring Opposition to Legislation Preempting or Otherwise Limiting Local Authority Over Matters of Zoning or Land Use Within Fort Gratiot Charter Township*. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
2. Motion by Kish, seconded by Crawford, to approve the DPW's request to purchase an Underground Locator & Accessories, from Ferguson Waterworks, at a cost of \$6,995.99, for the purpose of locating water and sewer lines.  
POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Replacement for outdated equipment  
Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
3. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Buechler, to adopt the *Resolution 2023-023, to Establish 2024 Per Diem Rate of Pay for the Representative on the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission*, in the amount of \$ 100.00 per meeting attended, effective January 1, 2024. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
4. Motion by Kish, seconded by Wells, to adopt the *Resolution 2023-024, to Establish 2024 Township Boards and Commissions Per Diem Rate of Pay*, in the amount of \$ 100.00 per meeting attended, effective January 1, 2024. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
5. Motion by Buechler, seconded by Wells, to adopt the *Resolution 2023-025, to Establish 2024 Board of Trustees Salary*, in the amount of \$ 4,966.00, effective January 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote, 6/1, Armbruster voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**
6. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Buechler, to adopt the *Resolution 2023-026, to Establish 2024 Supervisor's Salary*, in the amount of \$ 73,432.00, effective January 1, 2024. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
7. Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Bruckner, to adopt the *Resolution 2023-027, to Establish 2024 Clerk's Salary*, in the amount of \$ 71,203.00, effective January 1, 2024.  
POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Additional compensation for added duties and demands of elections.  
Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
8. Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Bradley, to adopt the *Resolution 2023-028, to Establish 2024 Treasurer's Salary*, in the amount of \$ 63,995.00, effective January 1, 2024. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
9. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to adopt the *Resolution 2023-029, to Establish 2024 Department Heads and Employee Salaries and/or Hourly Rates, per Appendix "A"*, effective January 1, 2024. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
10. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Bruckner, to adopt the 2024 Meeting Dates and Times, as noted below:  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center  
PLANNING COMMISSION: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, as needed, at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, as needed, at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center  
PARKS COMMISSION: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Center  
Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
11. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to adopt 2024 Office Hours, January 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>, 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

**NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:**

12. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Wells, to authorize the Township Supervisor or Township Clerk to sign the Agreement, with UHY Advisors, to perform a Water and Sewer Rates Study, at a cost not to exceed \$13,000.00.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Study to determine water and sewer rates that will be sufficient to cover all operating, debt retirement and capital replacement costs.  
 \* Study results to be provided to Township by February 15, 2024.

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

13. Motion by Kish, seconded by Buechler, to approve the Fort Gratiot Charter Township and Fort Gratiot Little League Robert E. Crawford State Road Ball Fields 2024 User Agreement. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

14. Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Wells, to approve the reappointment of Township Planning Commissioners and Zoning Board of Appeals Members, as noted.

MEMBER - BOARD/COMMISSION	LAST APPOINTED	EXPIRES	REQUESTED TERM	EXPIRATION
Anne Hilton - PC	01/20/2021	12/31/2023	3 years	12/31/2026
Shannon Muir - PC	01/20/2021	12/31/2023	3 years	12/31/2026
Nathan Oprita - PC	01/20/2021	12/31/2023	2 years	12/31/2025
Kathy Wurmlinger - PC	02/05/2020	12/31/2024	2 years	12/31/2025
Robert Montgomery - ZBA	01/20/2021	12/31/2023	3 years	12/31/2026
Lowell Marlar - ZBA	01/05/2022	12/31/2024	2 years	12/31/2025
<b>NEW APPOINTMENT</b>			3 years	12/31/2026

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* As Mr. Montgomery has chosen to let his term expire on 12/31/2024, a new appointment will be needed to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals.  
 \* This also corrects the staggering of term limits.

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

15. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bruckner, to adopt the *Resolution Approving Disclosure and Continuing Disclosure Undertaking for Carrigan and Grace Drain Drainage District Drain Bonds, Series 2024 (General Obligation Limited Tax)*.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* County will be applying for Bonds in order to fund the Carrigan and Grace Drainage District.

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

**BOARD DISCUSSION:**

- Special Meeting, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, beginning at 6:00 o'clock p.m.
- Resolutions for terms of the Grant Agreements with DNR
- 2024 Election Season
- Parking lot stripes needed at Pointe Community Center
- SEMCOG meeting regarding Grant opportunities for trail system.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

A resident inquired about the per diem increase for meetings; as well as other increases for elected officials and employees.

Connie Neese announced winners of 2024 Lighting Contest: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - 4085 Pine Ridge Drive - \$100.00;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - 3678 Lantern Lane - \$ 75.00; and  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - 4985 Lakeshore Road - \$ 50.00

Supervisor Crawford and Mrs. Neese also discussed the SEMCOG meeting they attended, highlighting the trail mapping application; and available Grant monies that may be available.

A resident, regarding Item #2, NEW BUSINESS: Inquired why the Board, at a previous meeting, approved to pay a company a large amount of money to do the same thing the Board approved tonight to purchase equipment to find water and sewer lines.

Supervisor Crawford explained the Board recently approved hiring a company to perform *leak detection* on 73 miles of water main. That is not the same thing the Board approved tonight. Item #2 was about purchasing equipment to *locate* underground water and sewer service lines, water boxes and shut-off valves.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to adjourn. Time, 7:44 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