

MEMBERS PRESENT: CRAWFORD, WELLS, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, KISH AND ARMBRUSTER
 MEMBERS ABSENT: BRUCKNER
 ALSO PRESENT: ROB MONTGOMERY, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS / PARKS COMMISSION
 DEAN MARLAR, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
 LIEUTENANT, BRENT WOOLMAN, FIRE DEPARTMENT & KIM WOOLMAN

Motion by Kish, seconded by Wells, to approve the Minutes of the SPECIAL MEETING of December 20th, 2023 (6 PM); the REGULAR MEETING of December 20th, 2023 (7 PM); and the SPECIAL MEETING of December 27th, 2023 (6 PM), as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. MOTION PASSED.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

Brent Woolman re: Proposed Firefighters Letter of Understanding
 Steve Goudy re: Proposed Fire Fighters Letter of Understanding; and Union negotiations team and Board participation.
 Joe Stolz, President of Local 5392 Fort Gratiot Professional Fire Fighters Union, regarding negotiations process.
 Angela Defrain re: Proposed Fire Fighters Letter of Understanding and wage increases.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of Item #5, NEW BUSINESS: *Partial Contract Ratification between Township and Fort Gratiot Professional Fire Fighters IAFF Local 5392.* Vote, Unanimous. MOTION PASSED. AGENDA APPROVED, AS AMENDED.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,248,702.29
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 1,103,494.15
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 170,187.36
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 218,555.14
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 118,061.81
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 156,931.01
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 2,607,153.74
TOTAL	\$ 6,623,085.50
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 819,890.82
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 7,442,976.32

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Armbruster, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 7,442,976.32.

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 116,983.10
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 41,704.43
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 7,815.16
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 0.00
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 0.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 60,014.70
TOTAL	\$ 226,517.39
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MAINT. & IMP.)	\$ 6,994.80
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 233,512.19

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 233,512.19.

* 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 Armbruster, seconded by Buechler, to approve the Fire Department's request to hire Jason Smith as Probationary Paid-on-Call Fire Fighter, starting at \$11.00 per call, effective immediately.
POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Captain Shagena spoke on behalf of Mr. Smith who could not attend tonight's meeting as it is his first night of Firefighter Academy.
Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
2. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bradley, to approve the DIRECTV *Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement* (Renewed Agreement), as presented; and authorize the Township Clerk to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Township.
POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Last Agreement signed by Township was in 2014.
Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
3. Motion by Buechler, seconded by Wells, to adopt Resolution 2024-001 *In Support of the Michigan Recreation Passport Grant Program Development Project Agreement* for Parker Road West Trail Development Grant RP23-0007, appropriating \$37,500.00 to match the grant; and authorize the Township Supervisor to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Township.
POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * ARPA Funds to be used to match the Grant.
Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION 2024-001, ADOPTED.**
4. Motion by Kish, seconded by Buechler, to approve the *Annual Agreement for Engineering & Surveying Services* with BMJ Engineers & Surveyors, Inc. for 2024, with hourly rates listed in *Appendix A*.
POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Engineering & surveying company comparisons.
Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
5. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Wells, to accept the recommendation from Fort Gratiot Charter Township negotiating team and approve the Partial Contract Ratification, effective January 1, 2024, between the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot and the Fort Gratiot Professional Fire Fighters IAFF Local 5392.
POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Contract dates to be January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2026.
* The proposed agreement wage and the budgeted wages begin January 1, 2024.
* The proposed Paid Time Off (PTO) be credited to the Fire Fighters starting January 1, 2024.
* The proposed calculation of overtime to begin January 1, 2024.
* Lieut., B. Woolman rank & pay follow the proposed Letter of Understanding beginning January 1, 2024.
* Phasing out of "Lieutenant" position, over three years, while promoting up to "Captain".
* Incoming Fire Chief having an opportunity to review the Proposed Contract.
* "Partial" Contract and "Final" Contract.
Roll Call Vote, 4/2, Kish and Armbruster voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- 2024 MTA Capital Conference on January 23, 2024, (8 am-4 pm) - In-depth presentation outlining impacts and requirements of new laws; and the significant changes made to permitting process for utility-scale renewable energy siting facilities, including solar, wind and battery storage.
- MTA Capital Conference in Grand Traverse, April 22 - 25, 2024.
- Review of IAFF Partial Contract by new Fire Chief.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Angela Defrain re: Board adoption of Resolution in opposition to legislation taking local authority away with regard to solar, wind and battery sites and asked that the Resolution be sent on to government representatives. Also, regarding the development of an Assisted Living Community near Wal-Mart.

Steve Goudy regarding New Fire Chiefs review of Contract; elimination of Lieutenant Position and current SOG's; Amended Agendas.

Sarah Beebe also thanked the Board for the adoption of Resolution re: local authority. Also spoke regarding Letter of Understanding under the Fire Department Contract.

Kim Woolman regarding negotiations of the Firefighter Contract and Letter of Understanding.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Buechler, to adjourn. Time, 7:36 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