

MEMBERS PRESENT: CRAWFORD, WELLS, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, BRUCKNER AND ARMBRUSTER  
 MEMBERS ABSENT: KISH  
 ALSO PRESENT: PAUL BAILEY & TAMMY PITZER, UHY LLP, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
 MIKE FRONIMOS, FIRE CHIEF  
 ROB MONTGOMERY & CONNIE NEESE, PARKS COMMISSION  
 DEAN MARLAR, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
 PATTI BUNDY, UTILITY BILLING CLERK

Motion by Wells, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Crawford, to approve the Agenda, amending NEW BUSINESS, Item #8 to include giving approval to purchase tabulator & ballot box; and to move NEW BUSINESS, Item #1, 2024 Audit Report to be heard after Correspondence and Reports. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

GENERAL FUND	\$ 4,386,430.70
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 1,593,705.04
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 333,477.45
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 674,654.23
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 308,328.99
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 129,639.53
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 2,853,591.39
TOTAL	\$ 10,279,827.33
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,149,777.35
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 11,429,604.68

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Buechler, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 11,429,604.68.**

**BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:**

GENERAL FUND	\$ 50,471.03
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 15,210.62
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 287.60
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 0.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 1,146,742.98
TOTAL	\$ 1,212,712.23
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MAINT & IMP)	\$ 4,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,216,712.23

Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Wells, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 1,216,712.23.**

\* 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 Pohl

Total Calls for Service for the month of August, 2024, (518). Number of Patrol Hours, (1116). 15 Animal Complaint; 4 Assault & Battery; 46 Assist Other Depts.; 122 Assist Public; 24 B&E/Alarm; 2 Child Abuse; 18 Disorderly Persons; 26 Domestic Assault; 5 Fraud; 11 Harassment & Threats; 8 Juvenile Matter; 10 Larceny; 6 MDOP; 1 Narcotics; 5 PI Traffic Crash; 10 PD Traffic Crash; 8 Retail Fraud; 3 Sex Offense; 1 Stolen Vehicle; 46 Suspicious Incidents; 8 Trespasser; 120 Misc.: School Checks/Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hang-ups, etc.; 123 Traffic Stops; 26 Tickets Issued.

Captain Pohl gave brief follow-up on recent domestic dispute within the Township with search for suspect and his apprehension.

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

Rob Montgomery asked why Fire Department wasn't called to respond to the domestic dispute incident.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Total runs for the month of August, 2024, (129).

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Total permits issued for the month of August, 2024, (44). 1 New Home (Val. 697,800); 25 Residential Addition / Alteration/Repair (Val. 352,358); 3 Accessory Structure (Val. 28,920); 7 Fence (Val. 24,700); 1 Deck (Val. 0); 2 Manufactured Mobile Home (Val. 12,000); 1 Misc. Zoning Compliance; 2 Commercial Addition/Alteration/Repair (Val. 274,000); 1 Sign (Val.0); 1 Commercial Demolition (Val. 10,000). Total Valuation, \$ 1,399,778.00. Total Fees, \$ 9,077.00.

**PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT:** Total permits issued for the month of August, 2024, (17). 8 Mechanical (1,265.00); 9 Plumbing 1,336.00). Total Fees, \$ 2,601.00.

**ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Total permits issued for the month of August, 2024, (10). Total Fees, \$ 2,872.00.

**ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT:** Total Complaints for the month of August, 2024, (26). 4 Blight; 14 High Grass/Noxious Weeds; 3 RV Storage/Parking; 5 Misc. Ordinance Violations. Total Hours, 29.5. Total Miles, 77.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** NONE

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. PAUL BAILEY, CPA & TAMMY PITZER, CPA WITH UHY, LLP, PRESENTING 2023 AUDIT REPORT:

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Management's Discussion & Analysis; Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2023; Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control; Audit Communication Letter.

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Bruckner, to accept the 2023 Audit Report, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

**PUBLIC HEARING(S):** NONE

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Wells, to remove UNFINISHED BUSINESS, Item #1, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan 2025 Renewal, from the table. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

1. Motion by Wells, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the renewal of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Health Care Coverage for 2025, as presented, at an estimated total cost of \$320,932.00.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* 14.01% increase from 2024. 2024 Increase from 2023 was 0.1%.  
\* Comparisons obtained & provided

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

**NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:**

2. Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Fire Chief's request to put surplus used fire truck tires up for bid, starting at \$100.00 per tire.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Recoup cost of replacing tires on emergency vehicles (28 Tires for 7 vehicles).  
\* Posting availability on social media

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Armbruster, to approve the Fire Chief's request to place, "For Sale", as is, to the highest bidder, apparatus listed, below:

SQUAD 1 (2021 FORD F-650/SPENCER ENGINE) - Minimum bid on Squad - \$430,000.00  
ENGINE 36 (1997 HME/SPENCER ENGINE/TENDER)

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Have applied for a Grant through FEMA for \$857,000. Will know approximately end of October if it will be awarded.  
\* After reaching out to sell locally (within Michigan) the apparatus may be sold through a vender.  
\* Vehicle appraisals

If apparatus doesn't sell by the end of October, 2024 in Michigan, the Fire Chief will work with a vender.

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the Fire Chief's request to approve the sale of old, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's) MSA AirPacks at Fair Market Value; or approve donation if they do not sell.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Due to age and availability of parts  
\* Received a Grant in 2023 and upgraded breathing apparatus from MSA AirPacks to SCOTT brand.  
\* If unable to sell we could donate

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

5. Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Fire Chief's request to approve the sale, at Fair Market Value; or if they don't sell, donation of fire hose that has been taken out of service.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* 30-40 sections of various length and size fire hose that has failed annual testing, either by age or pressure test

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

6. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Buechler, to approve the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission 2024 Request for Local Millage Distribution, in the amount of \$64,711.00; and authorize the Township Supervisor to sign the request on behalf of Fort Gratiot Township. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

7. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Armbruster, to accept the Introduction of Proposed Ordinance No. 231, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FORT GRATIOT, to rezone 4007 Pine Grove Road (74-20-021-3027-000) from R1B-Single Family Residential to C1-Neighborhood Business.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Recommended for Approval by the Fort Gratiot Planning Commission on March 20, 2024; and Recommended for Approval by SCC Metropolitan Planning Commission on April 10, 2024.  
\* Consistent with the Township's Master Plan.  
\* Located on the Northwest corner of Pine Grove Road and Krafft Road. (Former Party Store)

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED. INTRODUCTION. ACCEPTED.**

**NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:**

8. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Bruckner, to accept the awarded Grant, from *Institute for Responsive Government*, in the amount of \$10,000.00; and authorize Clerk Buechler to sign the acceptance on behalf of Fort Gratiot Township; and authorize purchase of ICP2 Tabulator Kit with Ballot Box at a cost of \$7,493.00.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Non-matching Grant Opportunity  
\* Funds will be used to purchase a new tabulator

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

9. Motion by Buechler, seconded by Armbruster, to set the Public Hearing Date to review and confirm Special Assessment Rolls and/or Millage Rates on Wednesday, October 16<sup>h</sup>, 2024 beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m:
- 2024 Residential Solid Waste/Yard Waste and Curbside Recycling Collection and Disposal Services;
  - 2024 Special Assessment for Fire Protection;
  - 2024 Fire Capital Improvement Voted Millage;
  - 2024 Police Protection Voted Millage;
  - Township-at-Large Highway Lighting Assessment District; and Individual Lighting Assessment Districts
  - Velma Drive Annual Maintenance Special Assessment

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

**BOARD DISCUSSION:**

- US Department of State Facility Passport Manager appointment.
- Special Meeting, October 10, 2024. Date and time to be finalized and posted.
- Municipal Center Generator is, currently, *Out of Service*.
- FGLL flagpole light has shifted and is blinding northbound State Road traffic.
- Request for street light at Parker and Oakleaf.
- November 5<sup>th</sup> Election Update. Ballots should be ready to mail out by end of September. Early voting from October 26 through November 3.
- MTA Regional Meeting on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

Rob Montgomery - Parks Commission will begin a Bench Donation Program. Approved purchasing 4 ADA compliant picnic tables to be placed under the pavilion next to the Pickleball Court.

Connie Neese regarding Bicycle groups concern about surface of bridge on the trail.

Tyler Meganck regarding Items the Grant awarded by the Institute for Responsive Government; and the proposed zoning change.

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Armbruster, to adjourn. Time, 8:11 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