

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: MIKE FRONIMOS, FIRE CHIEF
 BILL SHAGENA, FIRE DEPARTMENT
 ROB MONTGOMERY & CONNIE NEESE, PARKS COMMISSION

Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the Minutes of the following meetings: SPECIAL MEETING of October 14th, 2024; REGULAR MEETING of October 16th, 2024; and SPECIAL MEETING of October 23rd, 2024, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

An *Advisory Petition on the Proposed Portside Solar Installation in Fort Gratiot Township* was presented to the Board; and residents spoke in opposition of Industrial Solar and requesting the Board to rescind their previous approval, on October 23, 2024, of the Consent Judgment to resolve pending litigation in the matter of Portside Solar, LLC v Fort Gratiot Township, ET AL, St. Clair County Circuit Court Docket No. 24-000048:

Mike Martin	Sandra Tannehill, Wales Twp. Planning Comm.	Shane Richardson
John Borkovich	Bob Eick	“Alexander 19”
Scott Wachtel	Brian Martin	Rob Montgomery, FG Twp. Supv. Elect
Dave Rushing, County Commissioner	Michael Bachelor, P.H. Twp. Planning Comm.	Dave Richards
Randy Martinek	Liz Masters, Wales Twp. Supervisor	Tim Robbins
Kathy Mitchowski	Diane Hulett	Jill Barto
Bob Felitz, County Commissioner Elect	Chris Barto	Steve Scouten
Todd Cunningham	Ashley Richardson	Cindy Wile
William Harvey	Ralph Roberts	Andrea Heering
Suzanne Smith	Vance Richardson	Michaela Garand
Sandra Richardson	Terry Dysinger	Brenda Dobel
Angie Defrain	Cheryl Cameron	Travis Richardson

*** Four (4) unidentified residents

Supervisor called for a ten (10) minutes recess. Time, 8:43 o’clock p.m.

8:55 O’CLOCK - RECONVENED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Kish, to approve the Agenda, with the addition of Item #3, NEW BUSINESS: Rescind the approval of the Consent Judgment with Portside Solar from the meeting of October 23, 2024. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. AGENDA APPROVED, AS AMENDED.**

TREASURER’S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 4,495,847.22
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 1,419,204.19
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 325,871.53
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 581,116.11
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 301,756.89
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 135,612.67
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 2,281,104.21
TOTAL	\$ 9,540,512.82
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,191,192.93
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 10,731,705.75

Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Buechler, to receive the Treasurer’s Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER’S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 10,731,705.75.**

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

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$	56,121.65
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	24,603.06
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$	7,815.16
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	0.00
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$	62,786.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	558,390.16
TOTAL	\$	709,716.03
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (PARKS MLG)	\$	29,300.00
(MAINT & IMP)	\$	5,737.34
GRAND TOTAL	\$	744,753.37

Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Wells, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**
BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 744,753.37.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission’s Renewable Energy Workshop on Thursday, November 14, 2024 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Community Center in Goodells Park.

Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Kish, to accept correspondence, as presented. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Wells, to approve the DPW Superintendent’s request to purchase a 32KW Emergency Standby Generator System at Pump Station #13, from Ainsworth Electric, Inc., at an estimated cost of \$38,163.00.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Located on North River Road at Golf Marina Apartments
 * Included in DPW 2024 Budget

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

2. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to approve DTE’s Cost Estimate for Township-at-Large Streetlight LED Conversion, at an estimated upfront cost of \$56,860.27.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * This conversion does not include Individual Subdivision Streetlight Districts.
 * Total light count: 230
 * Approximate savings of \$35,000.00 per year in lighting costs.
 * Grant Application pending; Township can use ARPA Funds for this conversion.

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

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

3. Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Armbruster, to rescind the approval of the Consent Judgment with Portside Solar from the meeting of October 23, 2024.

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION:
- * Public Act 233 of 2023 (Effective 11/29/2024) taking any local control away.
 - * Uncertainty of any changes or repeal to PA 233.
 - * Negotiations made pertaining to height requirements, Sound Decibels and \$50,000 Escrow so Township can determine compliance, Water Testing, Panels not to be manufactured with Cadmium Telluride as a panel component; Recycling & Disposal of Panels, Fire Department Training, Roadway conditions/repairs, landscape screening, Decommissioning Agreement, Host Community Agreement.
 - * Community's desire to pursue the risk and rescind approval of the Consent Judgment.
 - * Current legal action against the MPSC re: Section 226 #8 pertaining to setbacks and noise.
 - * Taxation - Industrail use but taxed as Agricultural. Depreciation scale on equipment.
 - * The time, energy, effort and consideration Board Members put into this issue.

Roll Call Vote, 3/4, Crawford, Buechler, Wells and Bradley voting no. **MOTION FAILED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- \$100,000.00 Grant awarded, from County Road Commission, for culvert replacement on State Road south of Brace.
- Road Commission's email regarding resurfacing work, next year, on Keewahdin Road from M-25 to M-136 and asking the Township to partner with Road Commission in paving a 3' shoulder on one side of that route.
- November 5, 2024 General Election update: Voter turnout during Early Voting, Absentee Ballots and Election Day.
- This is the last scheduled board meeting with Trustee Kish. He was thanked for his 28 years of service to the community serving as a Trustee and a Treasurer.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Bob Felitz thanked the Board for their reconsideration of the Consent Judgment.

Connie Neese regarding pedestrian safety on M-25.

Unidentified resident thanked the Board for reconsideration; disappointed lawsuit option was ignored.

Shane Richardson Trustee's Bruckner, Kish and Armbruster. Importance of transparency and additional mailings. Referenced PA 233 and significance of listening to community members.

Sandra Richardson regarding the Municipal Center and meeting room capacity.

Unidentified resident stated the Board is a bad example and has failed; gave in easily and didn't even try.

Dick West stated the solar project should not have happened; Township should have sued to keep Ranger Power out.

Angie Defrain appreciates Board reconsidering previous action. Board works for and represents community and should have sided with community. Asked Board Members at the County Board of Commissioners meeting tomorrow night.

Jack Dobel regarding Boards action against what the community wanted.

Unidentified resident feels Clerk Buechler is disrespectful in that he doesn't pay attention when someone is speaking. Mr. Buechler explained he, as Secretary to the Board, is taking notes.

Motion by Kish, seconded by Wells, to adjourn. Time, 10:01 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED.

ROBERT D. BUECHLER, CLERK
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RDB/RCC/v0

ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, SUPERVISOR
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP