

MEMBERS PRESENT: MONTGOMERY, WELLS, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, ARMBRUSTER AND CRAWFORD
 MEMBERS ABSENT: BRUCKNER
 ALSO PRESENT: MIKE FRONIMOS, FIRE CHIEF
 CONNIE NEESE, PARKS COMMISSION

Motion by Wells, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING of November 6th, 2024, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

Residents speaking about the impact to their property, on the environment and the health and safety of residents, from the solar installation by Ranger Power, as well as the Consent Agreement signed by the Township:

Dawn Falk, SCC Advisory Board of Health	Margaret Allen	Ashley Richardson	Sarah Beebe
Tyler Meganck	William Harvey	Deloris Pickard	Cheryl Cameron
Judy Wilton	Shane Richardson	Elissa Feher	Steve Scouten
Angie Defrain	Bob Eick	Chad Dell	
Robert Fielitz, SCC Commissioner Elect	Terry Dysinger	John Heering IV	
Andrea Heering	Vance Richardson	Sandra Richardson	

*** Two (2) unidentified residents

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 4,402,717.17
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 1,331,348.10
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 318,231.69
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 581,421.66
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 176,310.51
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 128,631.56
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 1,888,650.04
TOTAL	\$ 8,827,310.73
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,161,376.89
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 9,988,687.62

Motion by Armbruster, 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 \$ 9,988,687.62.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 14,983.27
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 21,899.07
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 0.00
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 0.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 370,070.20
TOTAL	\$ 406,952.54
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MAINT & IMP)	\$ 3,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 410,452.54

Motion by Wells, seconded by Bradley, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 410,452.54.**

* 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 October, 2024, (569). Number of Patrol Hours, (1116). 17 Animal Complaint; 1 Assault & Battery; 76 Assist Other Depts.; 110 Assist Public; 25 B&E/Alarm; 2 B&E Building/Vehicle; 2 Child Abuse; 8 Disorderly Persons; 21 Domestic Assault; 11 Fraud; 13 Harassment & Threats; 2 Juvenile Matter; 9 Larceny; 2 MDOP; 2 PI Traffic Crash; 44 PD Traffic Crash; 10 Retail Fraud; 3 Sex Offense; 1 Stolen Vehicle; 48 Suspicious Incidents; 5 Trespasser; 157 Misc.: School Checks/Warrant Arrests/Follow-up/BOL, 911 Hang-ups, etc.; 94 Traffic Stops; 23 Tickets Issued.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE SHERIFF: * Unidentified citizen asked about crime rate in the Township.
Unidentified citizen thanked the Sheriff's Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total runs for the month of October, 2024, (169).

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of October, 2024, (25). 2 New Homes (Val. 575,000); 17 Residential Addition / Alteration/Repair (Val. 202,030); 1 Accessory Structure (Val. 50,000); 31 Fence (Val. 15,000); 1 Deck/Porch (Val. 1,705); 1 Residential Demo (Val. 350); 4 Commercial Sign (Val. 32,250); 1 Commercial Zoning Compliance (Val. 32,250). Total Valuation, \$ 901,336.00. Total Fees, \$ 6,878.50.

PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of October, 2024, (24). 18 Mechanical (10,450.00); 6 Plumbing (1,151.00). Total Fees, \$ 11,601.00.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT REPORT: Total permits issued for the month of October, 2024, (13). Total Fees, \$ 2,980.00.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT: Total Complaints for the month of October, 2024, (12). 6 Blight; 1 High Grass/Noxious Weeds; 5 Misc. Ordinance Violations. Total Hours, 7.5. Total Miles, 4.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

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

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Buechler, seconded by Wells, to authorize the Township Supervisor and Township Clerk to sign the 2025 Local Road Funding Assistance Program Agreement to replace the culvert on State Road over the Brace Drain (D-03), south of Brace Road, at a cost of \$125,000.00 to the Township.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * \$ 100,000.00 Grant awarded by St. Clair County Road Commission.
Total project cost estimated at \$225,000.00.
* Board adopted Resolution 2024-010 on September 4th, 2024

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

2. Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Metro Act Right-of-Way Permit Application for 123 Net, LLC, under the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Rights-of-Way Oversight Act 2002, PA 48, MCL Sections 48.3101 to 48.3120, for a fifteen (15 year term effective upon approval, with three (3) subsequent renewal terms of five (5) years.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Term: 15 years from effective date with three (3) subsequent renewal terms of five (5) years (Section 7, paragraphs 7.1, sub-paragraphs 7.1.1 through 7.1.5).
* Allows telecommunication companies to work within the rights-of-way.

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

3. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Wells, to approve placing the 2008 L5240 Kubota Tractor (3,379 Hours) with front loader, front mount snow blade and snow blower attachments, "FOR SALE" AS IS, by sealed bid, with a minimum bid of \$25,000.00 and listing for two (2) weeks. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

4. Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Wells, to approve the purchase of L5460 Kubota Tractor and Front Loader, from Wadhams Equipment, at a cost of \$55,587.00.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * 2024 Budgeted Item; proceeds from sale of 2008 Tractor will go toward purchase of new tractor.

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

5. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Buechler, to adopt Resolution 2024-011, *In Support of the M-25 Port Huron/Fort Gratiot Non-Motorized Pathway Project and Future Discussions of Maintenance of The Pathway.*

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Ten (10') foot pathway along M-25, beginning in Port Huron and ending in Fort Gratiot Township at Carrigan Road.

- * MDOT will provide funding for the pathways through grant.
- * MDOT does not provide maintenance for the pathway once it is built.
- * Safety Grant has already been awarded for 2028 construction.
- * Recent number of accidents and fatalities involving pedestrians.

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

6. Motion by Wells, seconded by Armbruster, to set the Public Hearing date to review and approve the 2025 Budget on Wednesday, December 4th, 2024, beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Road Commission communication regarding Keewahdin Road resurfacing project, scheduled for 2025. Presented option of paying additional cost for adding 3' (\$90,000) or 4' (\$120,000) to the shoulder, from M-25 to the Municipal Center.
- Consent Agreement for the Portside Solar Project was signed by the Township and Judge West on 11/19/2024. Because it is a legal and binding Agreement, the Township can take no further action to rescind the Agreement.
- Special Meeting Budget Workshop to review 2025 Budget on 12/04/2024 at 6:00 p.m. before Regular Board Meeting.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Robert Felitz, SCC Commissioner Elect disagreed that there is no further action that can be taken with regard to the Consent Agreement for the Portside Solar Project. Lawsuit by several Michigan counties and local municipalities. Both, physical and mental health affects. Asked Board to come up with ways to help the community, even though the Consent Agreement has been settled.

Several residents, again, spoke but didn't identify themselves, regarding their disappointment that the Township signing the Consent Agreement for the Portside Solar Project and noted that their fight is not over. Arguments brought up included: Shiawassee County, Inefficiency of Solar Power, Boards responsibility to the community, communication and notification system with community, electronic sign in front of Municipal Center, Oath of Office, the Township's hurry to rush the Consent Agreement, terms of the Consent Agreement, Infringements to neighbors rights, mental and physical affects already being felt by residents, 80 acres cleared that weren't even in the original plans submitted, disruption from noise from inverters, concerns with some of the board members who are representing the community, no outside consultation considered, robbing residents involved of their time, commitments and their health.

Sarah Beebe noted that State Road, at the Carrigan Drain, where they did repairs this past summer has still not been restriped. Asked the Township to see if it could be expedited. She also asked why a former County Commissioner was being paid to be the Township Planner Coordinator.

Trevor Defrain asked Supervisor Montgomery to schedule a special meeting to discuss and answer residents' questions about solar power.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD, CONTINUED:

Unidentified resident asked that recordings be posted so they can be accessible to citizens. Agreed with Mr. Defrain noting that residents still don't have their questions answered and asked what can be done to better communication.

Unidentified resident asked if the community will have any opportunity to ask questions at the Budget hearing.

Mr. Felitz noted it is well within Supervisor Montgomery's rights to call a Special Meeting to answer questions from the residents about the solar power project and encouraged him to take that action.

Shane Richardson regarding importance of transparency. Suggested offering an amendment to Item #4, New Business, that the new tractor is only purchased if the old tractor is sold. Also requested an electronic sign in front of the Municipal Center. Feels every resident within the Township should be sent a notice of the Budget hearing. Recording apps available.

Dick West present to support citizens speaking out against the solar project in the Township. Also asked, with regard to the Keewahdin Road project, the Board consider expanding the expanded shoulder all the way to Fort Gratiot Middle School.

Unidentified resident asked Mr. Felitz how residents can contact him, directly. electrobertscc@gmail.com

Sandy Richardson noted the Board allowed for 2 weeks to sell a tractor, but could take an extra 2 weeks to allow for the new Board review the solar project.

Unidentified resident stated regardless of how efficient or safe solar is or isn't, the point is the Board let the community down.

Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Buechler, to adjourn. Time, 8:54 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous.
MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.



ROBERT D. BUECHLER, CLERK
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RDB/RCC/vo

ROBERT MONTGOMERY, SUPERVISOR
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP