

MEMBERS PRESENT: MONTGOMERY, WELLS, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, BRUCKNER, ARMBRUSTER AND CRAWFORD
 MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE
 ALSO PRESENT: NICK PREVOST, JACOB PLATZER AND ADAM MARSH, FIRE DEPARTMENT
 STEVE JONES, ASSESSOR
 CONNIE NEESE, PARKS COMMISSION
 LOWELL MARLAR, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

7:00 P.M. - SUPERVISOR MONTGOMERY OPENED PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZEN QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO THE PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET; and continued with the Regular Agenda, at this time.

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Armbruster, to approve the Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING of November 20th, 2024, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. MOTION PASSED.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

Citizens addressing the Board regarding the solar project, opposition to the Settlement Agreement between Ranger Power and Fort Gratiot Township, concerns over timing of water testing and residents well systems, Clyde Township meeting in which their Board denied the Settlement Agreement, importance of elected officials listening to their community, and requesting the Board hold a Special Meeting for Q & A regarding solar:

Carol Miller	Sandy Richardson
Andrea Heering	Vance Richardson
Angie Defrain	Chris Barto

Connie Neese, Parks Commissioner re: Proposed 3' or 4' paved shoulder along Keewahdin Road.

Sam Ventimiglia re: adding 3' or 4' paved shoulder along Keewahdin Road and the poor condition of Krafft Road.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 4,419,679.74
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 1,342,080.37
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 326,046.85
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 673,065.32
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 176,310.51
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 130,600.17
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 1,707,993.52
TOTAL	\$ 8,775,776.48
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,181,439.46
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 9,957,215.94

Motion by Bradley, 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 \$ 9,957,215.94.

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

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$	87,326.26
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	80,664.38
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$	69,360.03
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$	91,643.66
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$	0.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$	0.00
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$	7,660.26
TOTAL	\$	336,654.59
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MAINT & IMP)	\$	23,087.57
GRAND TOTAL	\$	359,742.16

Motion by Wells, seconded by Bruckner, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. MOTION PASSED.
 BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 359,742.16.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING(S), CONTINUED:

PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET RESOLUTION 2024-012:

DEPARTMENT	PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET
TOTAL REVENUES	15,090,365.21
GENERAL FUND (DEPT. 101-000)	257,000.00
TOWNSHIP BOARD (DEPT. 101-101)	61,527.00
CEMETERY TRUST FUND (DEPT. 101-151)	0
SUPERVISOR (DEPT. 101-171)	127,584.00
CEMETERY (DEPT. 101-209)	67,560.00
CLERK (DEPT. 101-215)	276,889.00
BOARD OF REVIEW (DEPT. 101-247)	4,161.00
TREASURER (DEPT. 101-253)	216,089.00
ASSESSOR (DEPT. 101-257)	282,625.00
ELECTIONS (DEPT. 101-262)	34,425.00
GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS (DEPT. 101-265)	893,247.00
ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT (DEPT. 101-282)	10,043.00
PASSPORT (DEPT. 101-283)	3,135.00
DRAINS-AT-LARGE (DEPT. 101-445)	163,000.00
VELMA DRIVE (DEPT. 101-446)	1,160.00
GENERAL FUND STREET LIGHTING (DEPT. 101-448)	176,655.00
COMMUNITY PLANNING & ZONING (DEPT. 101-721)	112,647.00
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (DEPT. 101-722)	12,430.00
PLANNING COMMISSION (DEPT. 101-723)	29,946.00
PARKS COMMISSION (DEPT. 101-751)	117,680.00
DOG PARK (DEPT. 101-753)	0
TOWNSHIP GROUNDS MAINTENANCE (DEPT. 101-756)	384,156.00
POINTE COMMUNITY BUILDING (DEPT. 101-806)	36,735.00
WATER SHED PLAN (DEPT. 101-960)	2,000.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND (DEPT. 206)	1,790,231.38
POLICE FUND (DEPT. 207)	1,140,893.00
PARKS MILLAGE (DEPT. 208)	66,600.00
TRASH FUND (DEPT. 226)	769,600.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND (DEPT. 249)	261,637.00
BWATC FUND (DEPT. 250)	331,182.00
FIRE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND (DEPT. 403)	109,694.00
AMBULANCE FUND (DEPT. 210)	270,000.00
MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT FUND (DEPT. 495)	415,500.00
WATER / SEWER FUND (DEPT. 592)	5,626,160.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	14,382,479.84
TOTAL REVENUES LESS EXPENDITURES	707,885.37

PUBLIC HEARING(S), ITEM #1, CONTINUED:

Supervisor Montgomery asked for citizen comments and/or questions, at this time. Not one was heard.

Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Bradley, to close the Public Hearing to review and hear citizen questions and/or comments, at this time. Time, 7:25 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.**

Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Armbruster, to table until December 18th, 2024, action on the Proposed 2025 Budget Resolution (2024-012) of Fort Gratiot Charter Township, by Department Level, as noted above totaling \$14,382,479.84. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED. ACTION TABLED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Montgomery, seconded by Buechler, to approve the Assessor's request to re-appoint Members Bonnie Barrett, Lowell Marlar and Jodi Smith; and Alternate Member Patti Bundy, to the Board of Review for a two (2) year term from 01/01/2025 through 12/31/2026. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the request to amend the 2024 Budget to include specific line items for the CARES Act funding and County Ambulance Millage, as follows:

282-000-007-000	CARES ACT FUNDING	\$478,911.00
210-000-402-000	AMBULANCE MILLAGE LEVY	\$254,964.69

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

3. Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Bradley, to approve the request to the St. Clair County Road Commission to include a 4' paved shoulder along the North side of Keewahdin Road between M-25 and M-136, at a cost of \$120,000.00.

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION:
- * Design/Engineering happening now for proposed repaving in 2025.
 - * Cost would be \$90,000 for 3' paved shoulder, \$120,000 for 4' paved shoulder along one side of the roadway.
 - * ARPA Funds may be available to use for this project.
 - * North River Road bike/pedestrian width is 6' wide on each side.
 - * Taxpayer money being used to finance County Primary Road.

Roll Call Vote, 6/1, Armbruster voting no. **MOTION PASSED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Supervisor has been In communication with Liz King, County Health Department regarding recent letter from Dr. Nevin that will be discussed at the County Commissioner's meeting tomorrow.
- Trustee Crawford met with EGLE and Spicer Group re: Wetlands Permit to construct Phase I of the campground.
- Construction of Sanitary Sewer on Parker Road has begun; have secured another, almost \$203,000 Grant.
- Fort Gratiot Little League would like to construct and install batting cages and, possibly, repaint dugouts.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Sandra Richardson requesting Special Meeting of the Township Board with residents regarding the solar project and how the Board came to their decision with the Settlement Agreement.

Vance Richardson also would like the Board to hold a Special Meeting with residents. Noted the 80 acres, on Metcalf Road, that have now been cleared and leased for the solar project.

Andrea Heering asked for clear answers as to how residents' water supply will be taken care of when wells are contaminated. It's been proven that contamination begins where construction starts.

Unidentified resident asked for clarification re: to the walkway along Keewahdin being along one or both sides? The Board stated the pathway can only go along one side.

Bob Eick regarding the solar project and asked if the Board can prevent future solar projects. He also asked about the potential for a future solar field across from the Fort Gratiot Middle School. The Board noted there is a lease on that property. Mr. Eick noted the physical and emotional health effects should be taken into consideration. Is there a way, with the help of the Health Department, to put the brakes on this?

Trustee Crawford stated, about 5 days ago, PA 233 took effect, taking away any local control on renewable energy projects.

Supervisor Montgomery has spoken with Planning/Zoning regarding the possibility of a placing a Moratorium while looking into the Township's current Solar Ordinance. This would cause any future development to bypass the Township and go directly to the MPSC for approval. With regard to the Board holding a Special Meeting, he has been advised by legal counsel that the Settlement Agreement was stronger than requirements of the MPSC.

Chris Barto asked board members if they would attend a Special Meeting to answer community questions. Clerk Buechler noted he is in his office every day from 8 am until 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday. Call him anytime and he will answer any questions he is given.

Dave Norris asked if the Township can put a requirement in it Ordinance limiting the number of acreages that can be used for renewable energy. Supervisor Montgomery stated his understanding that it would be a possibility.

Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Bruckner, to adjourn. Time, 8:04 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

The Charter Township of Fort Gratiot complies with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" and if auxiliary aids or services are required at the meeting for individuals with disabilities, please contact the Township Clerk, 3720 Keewahdin Road, Fort Gratiot MI 48059, (810)385.4489, three days prior to said meeting.