

MEMBERS PRESENT: MONTGOMERY, WELLS, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, BRUCKNER AND CRAWFORD

MEMBERS ABSENT: ARMBRUSTER

ALSO PRESENT: ROB BENNATTS, FIRE DEPARTMENT
CONNIE NEESE, PARKS COMMISSION / ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PATTI BUNDY, UTILITY BILLING CLERK

Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Buechler, to approve the Minutes of the **REGULAR MEETING** of April 16, 2025, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: *

Angela Defrain again asked about the possibility of video recording meetings; and including documents of items to be voted on to be included with the Agenda. County Board of Commissioner's adopted the County Health Departments Solar & Battery Energy Storage Regulations and referred to Section 6, noting construction cannot be started prior to obtaining authorization from the Health Department. Also asked for more information regarding Item #7, New Business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,386,237.52
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 1,500,447.41
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 463,608.21
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 790,631.25
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 200,439.83
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 98,529.06
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 1,596,316.27
TOTAL	\$ 7,036,209.55
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 1,366,089.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 8,402,299.05

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 \$ 8,402,299.05.**

BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 26,382.21
FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 4,103.63
FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 7,815.16
POLICE PROTECTION FUND	\$ 16.80
TRASH / RECYCLING FUND	\$ 0.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 70.55
UTILITY RECEIVING FUND	\$ 709,032.02
TOTAL	\$ 747,420.37
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS (MAINT & IMP)	\$ 7,955.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 755,375.87

Motion by Wells, seconded by Bruckner, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED. BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 755,375.87**

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. St. Clair County MTA Chapter Spring Meeting in Casco Township, May 15, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.
2. Notification, from Comcast, that effective June 25, 2025, multicast channels WJBK, Fox Weather, Hero's & Icons and Comedy, will no longer be available.

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bradley, to accept Correspondence, as presented. Vote, Unanimous.
MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Buechler, seconded by Bradley, to accept the *Letter of Resignation*, from Lisa Shagena, from the Fort Gratiot Township Fire Department, effective April 21, 2025. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**
2. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Wells, to accept the *Letter of Resignation*, from Molly Perry from the position of Assessing Clerk, effective May 1, 2025. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**
3. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bradley, to approve hiring Troy Pope, Seth Vincent and Jesse Withey as Part-Time Fire Fighters on the Fort Gratiot Fire Department, effective immediately.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Interviews conducted last week. Candidates are fully certified in FF1 & FF2 and EMT
Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Wells, to approve the Fort Gratiot Fire Department Rules and Regulations 2025, as presented.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * If approved, full implementation to begin on June 9, 2025 after being posted for 30 days (May 8 to June 8, 2025).
* Has been reviewed by FD collective bargaining unit. Revisions may be possible within the 30 day posting prior to implementation.

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

5. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Buechler, to accept the Proposal from Rescue Training Services, for Confined Space Rescue Equipment for the DPW, at a cost of \$11,865.00, plus shipping.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Shipping costs not yet determined.

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

6. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bradley, to approve the Contract Service Agreement with Ace Pyro, LLC, for fireworks display scheduled on June 28, 2025 at the Fort Gratiot Kettlewell Pond, at a total cost of \$15,000.00.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Deposit amount of \$7,500.00
* Have received \$250.00 in donations; and we will receive a contribution from the Carnival that will return to Birchwood Mall this year.

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

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

7. Motion by Buechler, seconded by Bruckner, to authorize either to purchase or construct wetlands to comply with EGLE Wetland Permit, at a cost not to exceed \$98,000.00, using Fund 101-265-809-000.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Brief history of previous wetland mitigation; and current disturbance of wetlands and possible mitigation.
 * Possibility of reducing the amount from the \$98,000 range.
 * Current investment in the campground project.
 * Mitigation required in order to obtain the grants that have been awarded for the project.

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

8. ST. CLAIR COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION WORK ORDER AGREEMENTS:

LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	TOTAL PROJECT COST	COST TO TOWNSHIP
70/30 Cost Sharing Using Local Limestone Program Funds			
CARRIGAN ROAD	Spread and Shape 22A Limestone (6 Loads - 336 Tons)	\$ 8,809.92	\$ 2,642.98
50/50 Match Funds Using Local Limestone Program Funds			
VARIOUS GRAVEL ROADS	Spread and Shape 22A Limestone (28 loads - 1,568 tons)	\$ 41,112.96	\$ 20,556.48
VARIOUS GRAVEL ROADS	Chloride Gravel Roads -1 st Application (23,000 Gallons) est. 11.5 miles	\$ 5,520.00	\$ 2,760.00
	2 nd Application (23,000 Gallons) est. 11.5 miles	\$ 5,520.00	\$ 2,760.00
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 60,962.88	\$ 28,719.46

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * This is only for the gravel and chloride portion of road work agreements; other road work agreements, for maintenance, to follow at a later date.

Motion by Wells, seconded by Bradley, to approve St. Clair County Road Commission Agreements, at a total cost to the Township of \$28,719.46, as noted above. Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

9. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Crawford, to accept the Introduction of Proposed Ordinance No. 234, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 36, UTILITIES, OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FORT GRATIOT CODE OF ORDINANCES; TO FURTHER DEFINE OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, BILLING AND PENALTIES AND TO PROVIDE FOR MONTHLY BILLING FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL CONSUMERS.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: * Updating our current water/sewer ordinance: Billing commercial customers monthly, rather than quarterly in order to mitigate losses to the Township from businesses that close.
 * Will be presented for adoption on May 21, 2025 after accepting introduction.

Roll Call Vote, 6/0. **MOTION PASSED. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 234, ACCEPTED.**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Dan Gerstenberger resignation from Planning Commission, effective April 30, 2025.
- Quotes for new Township phone system. Current system no longer serviceable after June, 2025.
- Port Huron Recreation Program increasing costs from \$15,000 to \$100,000. Current program runs through August, at which time the increase will go into effect in order to offer the programs to our township residents.
- Krafft Road project (from M-136 to Parker Road) delayed until May 19, 2025.
- Video of meetings being looked into.
- New website is tentatively scheduled to go live the end of May or beginning of June.
- Portside Solar Update. No permits have been pulled to date. Tentative construction was March of 2027; and going online in March of 2028.
- Trustee Bruckner passed around a handout she received from the State of the County she attended last week, which contained data from St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission; and a couple booklets from the Chamber of Commerce.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Andrea Heering regarding the request that the Township update the Solar Ordinance to include battery and wind energy. She asked if anything has been done with the update.

Kerry Ange, District 2 County Commissioner, spoke regarding Countywide Solar Ordinance, adopted last week. The Ordinance was put together with the County Attorney and the St. Clair County Health Department, Dr. Neven and Health Officer, Liz King. It was constructed as a way to provide safeguards for the health, safety and wellbeing of all County residents. The Board also adopted a Resolution that enacted the Ordinance immediately. She also noted that the Board approved a Landfill Consent Agreement that county attorneys negotiated with EGLE; includes statutory period for public comment (30 days). Also updated on the status of the "Class Action" lawsuit against the landfill.

Supervisor Montgomery advised residents that the Township's attorney is currently working on adjusting the Solar Ordinance.

Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Bradley, to adjourn. Time, 8:03 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.**

ROBERT D. BUECHLER, CLERK
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RDB/RM/vo

ROBERT MONTGOMERY, SUPERVISOR
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP