

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
WORK SESSION  
JANUARY 8, 2018 MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Trustee Hampel, Trustee Bard, Trustee Holman, Treasurer Beegle, Trustee Cisneros, Clerk Rillema, Supervisor Jeske

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Even and (two) 2 interested parties.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Supervisor Jeske called the Monday, January 8, 2018 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland Board to order at 10:00 AM at the township hall and led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Treasurer Beegle, **ADOPTED** the January 8, 2018 work session agenda.  
*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES - motion carried*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- 1) Emily Grasch - Muskegon Conservation District – shared information on a Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant in which the Muskegon Conservation District would like to apply for with the support of the township for monies to do wildflower plantings in the oak barren area, replenish reptile/amphibian basking areas in creek area and help supply interpretive signage throughout the Duck Creek Natural Area property. No funds would be necessary from the township other than using the funds from the potential conservation easement as a match. The program focuses on the stewardship and restoration of coastal, wetland and riparian ecosystems. Its goal is to meet the conservation needs of important species and habitats, providing measurable and meaningful conservation and educational outcomes. The program requires the establishment and/or enhancement of diverse partnerships and an education/outreach component. Ms. Grasch stated that continued partnership with the Duck Creek Watershed Assembly, The National Parks Service, Fruitland Township Parks & Recreation Commission and Fruitland Township Board of Trustees would continue. Clerk Rillema explained to Ms. Grasch that this natural area has yet to be fully accepted by the Board of Trustees as we are awaiting an appraisal from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan for a potential conservation easement and the strategic plan for the area. Ms. Grasch explained that the grant application deadline is January 31, 2018 and if accepted would still require authorization from the Township.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS:** There were no announcements or communications.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no unfinished business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business to discuss.

**BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:** Trustee Bard inquired if the White Lake Fire Authority's 2018 budget had been adopted. Treasurer Beegle replied yes in September. Clerk Rillema updated the board regarding the payroll quote solicitation that Paychex was willing to discount their bi-monthly fee by 45% and processed the last payroll of 2017 at no charge. At this time, no changes

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will be made in payroll service. Clerk Rillema also stated that she is working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget amendments for Tuesday's regular meeting. Supervisor Jeske shared a letter requesting better participation from the local municipalities at the Muskegon County Chapter of MTA which will be held on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 7:00 PM. The meeting is being held at the Dalton Township Hall. Supervisor Jeske also stated that she will be attending the one day Capital Conference on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Supervisor Jeske shared with the Board all communication with Mr. Stribley regarding his burned out home at 5720 Whitehall Road and that it is time for this property to get cleaned up. Most recently, a police report was filed by the Township for threatening emails to Building Official Hall, Attorney Even and Supervisor Jeske from Mr. Stribley. Supervisor Jeske received a phone call this morning from the Elk Rapids area regarding the demolition of such building. The property will continue to be monitored for cleanup progress. Treasurer Beegle stated that she had received several inquiries from residents regarding the recently signed legislature bill on pre-payment of property taxes. Pre-payment is not allowed in Michigan as Michigan's property taxes will be assessed in 2018 and are not deductible on a taxpayer's 2017 tax return. Supervisor Jeske commented that she is working on the 2018-19 proposed budgets. Increases in ecology station services are expected from the Muskegon County Solid Waste Authority with tonnage rates increasing from \$27.00/ton to \$27.50/ton. Chef Container recycle services are increasing from \$160.00/haul fee to \$200.00/haul fee and a new processing fee of \$45.00/ton. Supervisor Jeske is researching other vendors for recycle service. She also polled the board regarding wage increases. Trustee Bard, Trustee Hampel and Trustee Cisneros were not in favor of any increases. She stated that the cost of living percentage increase for 2018 is 2%. Trustee Hampel stated that the MTA Conference is being held this April in Traverse City. She would like to encourage members of the Parks & Recreation Commission to attend.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Treasurer Beegle, **ADOPTED**, to adjourn the January 8, 2018 Work Session at 10:36 AM.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES - motion carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Karolyn Rillema, Clerk  
Township of Fruitland