

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
May 10, 2021 MINUTES**

**PRESENT** – Trustee Holman, Trustee Jeske, Treasurer Pachman, Supervisor Marcinkowski, Trustee Graham, Trustee Lundell

**ABSENT** – Clerk Fagan

**ALSO PRESENT** – (1) One interested party

**CALL TO ORDER** - Supervisor Marcinkowski called May 10, 2021 Work Session Meeting to order at 10:02 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA** - Motion by Trustee Jeske, second by Trustee Holman, **ADOPTED**, to accept the amended May 10, 2021 Work Session Township Board Meeting Agenda.

*Upon Voice Vote: 6 AYES – motion carried*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – There were none.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS** –

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** –

1. **1760 McMillan Rd – update – removal of vehicles and other equipment from property** – Supervisor Marcinkowski will be checking in with Mr. Bennet within the next week to see how much progress has been made.
2. **Technology – Township Hall Phone System – waiting on 2 more quotes** – Supervisor Marcinkowski is still waiting on at least 2 more quotes.
3. **Ecology Station – Strategic Planning – letters; prints made for planning purposes** – Supervisor Marcinkowski and Trustee Holman continue to work on future planning. He is asking the Board for permission to bring in an outside person to help with master planning. Supervisor Marcinkowski also reported that one of the recipients of the letters, Mike Byam, has responded favorably and wants to discuss options further.
4. **McMillan Rd end stair and platform removal** – Supervisor Marcinkowski has sent out paperwork for quotes twice. One quote came back above \$30,000. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time information was posted, he received no responses. He has reached out to a few tree trimming companies and was told they would not be able to look at it until later this year. He has also contracted the Conservation District after finding an email from last year in which they discussed the removal. The original contact is no longer at the Conservation District, but they are looking into whether it is something they can help us with. Trustee Graham and Trustee Lundell suggested that there might be grant money

available to help with the removal. After some discussion, the Board thought the best course of action would be to fix and keep the observation platform and potentially consider stairs down in an effort to keep people from getting hurt by trying to go down the side.

5. **Duck Creek Natural Area** – Supervisor Marcinkowski started a discussion about the plans and future of the Duck Creek Natural Area. He discussed applying for grants, which would require some funding matching from the Township. There are different types of grants depending on how the project is viewed and set up (all at once or in phases). The consensus was to keep the 6 phase plan. They also discussed having “buffer” areas around the edge of the DCNA to keep visitors off neighboring resident properties. It was also discussed that the Friends of Fruitland Trails have already been approved to do work on the Duck Creek Natural Area, but it may be time to have a contractual agreement between Fruitland Township and the Friends of Fruitland Trails to ensure their fundraisers go to support the DCNA.

#### **NEW BUSINESS –**

1. **3905 Scenic Dr – Being used as a business – commercial rental property – Planning Commission meeting public comment – Attorney Even to draft “Cease and Desist” document** – Supervisor Marcinkowski reported that this property was recently bought and has been marketed as a short-term vacation rental. A few weeks ago there was a large group that rented the home and caused many of the neighbors to complain. Attorney Even discussed that with such a large amount of guests being allowed (49 per listing), they are acting more as a commercialized resort and it seems clear that the owner never plans to live at the property. With these issues Attorney Even feels that because the area is zoned for “single-family residential” this would fall outside of the zoning compliance and he is able to send a “cease and desist” letter to the owner. The Board also discussed the possibility of drafting an regulatory ordinance regarding short term rentals in residential areas.
2. **Review and comparison of “Good Neighbor Policy” plus the Noise and Nuisance Ordinance from Chikaming Township and similar Fruitland Township ordinances.** Trustee Graham presented some relevant ordinances that she found that may help the Board to consider similar ordinances that would be relevant to ongoing issues. Trustee Jeske suggested looking into a full-time ordinance enforcer to help with some of the current complaints as well. Trustee Graham and Trustee Lundell will look further into the ordinances and our current ordinances.
3. **Quotes for tree removal at Township Hall and WRLS.** – Supervisor Marcinkowski shared some two quotes he received to remove some trees that are very close to the Township Hall and could cause damage, as well as at the WRLS. Supervisor Marcinkowski will work on getting a 3<sup>rd</sup> quote.
4. **Quotes for winter tires – new truck – for snow removal** – Supervisor Marcinkowski shared two quotes for new winter tires for the new truck. Trustee Holman recommended getting a quote from PM Tires on Duck Lake Road.
5. **Scenic Drive Rd end – boat ramp, dock, light, camera, life jacket stand, fire connection** – Supervisor Marcinkowski shared some updates on Scenic Drive Rd end. He has found that there is electricity and other necessary items to possibly add a light and a camera near the boat launch and dock. Consumers Energy was contacted about a light, but a light put in by then it would be active all hours of the day, which may bother neighbors. He has explored other options for motion sensors or push button but there are concerns that they would fail.

Supervisory Marcinkowski presented quotes to possible security camera installations. Consensus of the Board was to continue gathering information and talking to companies to determine the best course of action.

6. **White Lake Drive Rd end – direction needed – engage current property owners for improvements – seeking grant information from EGLE** – Supervisor Marcinkowski asked the Board if the Board wants to focus on making improvements to the small boat launch at the end of White Lake Drive. He stated the City of Whitehall may be interested in helping if we can get an easement from neighboring property owners. Trustee Jeske suggested that for now it is being well maintained on it's own and we should leave it alone. Trustee Holman argued that he has heard residents request that we improve the spot, and it was referenced in the Planning Commission survey sent to residents last year. Trustee Holman also mentioned that Commissioner Huch have been working with the property owners to improve the area down there. The Board decided to not take any action at this time.
7. **Technology – website upgrade** – Supervisor Marcinkowski shared that I.T Right has let us know they will no longer be managing our website. He has also received information from Revize and will continue to gather quotes and information.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION –**

- Trustee Lundell inquired about the issues brought to our attention on Park Street at the last minute. Supervisor Marcinkowski reported that he has still been getting complaints and has been working with our PINS officer and Ordinance Enforcer. The landlord of the property has been contacted and asked to ensure that her tenants are following the ordinances and regulations.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Trustee Jeske, ***ADOPTED***, to adjourn the May 10, 2021 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland at 12:31 PM.

*Upon Voice Vote: **6 AYES – motion carried***

Respectfully Submitted,

Breann Fagan, Clerk  
Township of Fruitland