

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD
WORK SESSION
AUGUST 13, 2012
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Trustee Bard, Trustee Binns, Trustee Bole, Trustee Deur, Clerk Rillema, Treasurer Beegle, Supervisor St. Amour

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Even and zero (0) interested parties.

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor St. Amour called the Monday, August 13, 2012 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland Board to order at 10:00 AM at the township hall.

AGENDA:

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Binns, **ADOPTED**, to accept the August 13, 2012 Work Session Agenda.

Upon Voice Vote: **6 AYES, 1 ABSENT**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor St. Amour stated that another political forum will be hosted by Fruitland Township on October 30, 2012 at 6:00 PM for those State, County and Township offices with Democratic, Republican and Non-Partisan candidates running for office. The WRLS will be part of a fall tour and the WRLS will be part of filming for a movie at the end of this month. Blue Cross is now our new insurance carrier but unfortunately at a higher premium rate of \$666.68 for a group plan with one participant. The MCRC brush control program starts today. SPLKA will be having volunteer caretakers starting in October 2012. It was suggested that the current curator, Leslie Griswold, may move off site and allow for potential renting of the living quarters at the WRLS to increase revenue. The Board tasked Supervisor St. Amour to write a letter to SPLKA endorsing this venture. Clerk Rillema stated that our workman's comp insurance carrier, Accident Fund has terminated our coverage on August 21, 2012 due to a loss ratio audit. She has contacted Western Insurance and they are seeking other carriers. Brickley DeLong will be attending the August Regular meeting to review our 2011-12 Fiscal Year Audit. A thank you was received from the Montague-Whitehall Rotary for our donation to the firework fund. The White Lake Assisted Living open house is scheduled for August 22, 2012 and all are invited. Supervisor St. Amour received communication that the Mason/Partridge Drain is being studied. At this time no known costs are associated. Several trees/limbs at the cemetery have fallen or are of concern. The Board authorized Supervisor St. Amour to contract with Stafford Tree Service to remove all trees/limbs that are unsafe.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance Enforcement – Supervisor St. Amour reviewed several ordinance enforcement cases in the township. Deputy Ashker has been contacted for several of the violations.

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2. Civil Infractions – Attorney Even provided the Board with the process of how to process civil infractions and provided copies of a sample Notice of Violation and Citation form to be used. Supervisor St. Amour will work with the Clerk and Treasurer to get the Municipal Civil Infraction Process established.
3. Policies & Procedures, Employee Handbook – Attorney Even reviewed the amended Policies & Procedures and Employee Handbook and will be making some language clarifications in the sexual harassment section and recommended some amendments in how vacation is paid/accrued. Discussion amongst the Board on renaming Sick days to Personal days was agreed. Past history was to offer a paid birthday day off. The Board was split on removing that day and it will be further discussed at the September work session.

Treasurer Beegle arrived at 11:10 AM.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Deur, **ADOPTED**, to suspend for open floor comments from employee, Sally Dion.

Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES

Employee Dion expressed her concern how changes to the employee handbook would affect her as an employee of the township for over ten years. She felt that the benefits she received were less than what is offered by other municipalities. She provided the Board with a listing of what is offered at Laketon Township and Dalton Townships. She would hope that the Board would take any proposed changes under careful consideration before acting on them.

Motion by Trustee Binns, second by Treasurer Beegle, **ADOPTED**, to close open floor comments.

Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES

4. Trustee Priority Listing of Projects for Parks & Recreation Commission – Supervisor St. Amour thanked those that provided him with suggestions for potential projects. Clerk Rillema categorized the suggestions and the list will be forwarded to Chair Shields with the explanation that no monies were allocated as the November Election may change the makeup of either boards.
5. Marcus Park Lawsuit – Attorney Even asked to go into closed session.

Motion by Trustee Deur, second by Trustee Bard, **ADOPTED**, to go into closed session at 11:25 AM.

Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Bole, **ADOPTED**, to come out of closed session at 11:45 AM.

Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES

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NEW BUSINESS:

1. WLFA Articles of Incorporation – Supervisor St. Amour and Treasurer Beegle stated that the WLFA has adopted its amended Articles of Incorporation and are asking the three member units: Fruitland Township, City of Whitehall and Whitehall Township to adopt as amended. Attorney Even will review and report back his findings at the September work session. Supervisor St. Amour stated that the City of Whitehall was expected to adopt as amended at its next meeting.
2. Lamos Road End – Supervisor St. Amour stated that he had asked Attorney Even to retrieve files from Attorney Eklund and locate the letter written to the westerly neighbors a few years back informing them of our ownership and use of the road end. Attorney Even has contacted Attorney Eklund and will be reviewing the files. The Board would like to see a survey and property line stakes placed at the road end once construction to the east is completed.
3. Paper Container – Supervisor St. Amour was asked by Fruitland Evangelical Church if we would be willing to sell or allow them to use the paper container not being used at the Ecology Station. The Board would be willing to sell the container but also inquired if services could be traded to use the Church as a polling location once our agreement with the State for grant monies received for upgrades to the Community Building expired after November 2014. Supervisor St. Amour will discuss this with members of the Church and report back his findings at the September work session.
4. Caller ID – Supervisor St. Amour stated that from time to time, phone calls are received and it would be beneficial to know who is calling. It would cost \$9.99 per line per month to add to our existing service. The Board felt at this time, it was not necessary.
5. Dalton-Fruitland Waste Water Flow Through Agreement – Attorney Even will review the documents and report at the September work session his findings.
6. MCRC Performance and Indemnification Resolution – Supervisor St. Amour stated that although we passed a motion authorizing garbage receptacles and a portable restroom to be placed at the Scenic Drive and Nestrom Road ends, the Muskegon County Road Commission would like to place the Performance and Indemnification Resolution on file. The resolution will be prepared for the Monday regular meeting for adoption.
7. BS&A.net Conversion – Supervisor St. Amour stated that Clerk Rillema and Treasurer Beegle have loaded the new software onto our network. In house training will take place on September 6 and 7, 2012. The office will be closed those two days due to all staff participating in the training.
8. Sign Ordinance/Election Signs – Supervisor St. Amour stated that the Planning Commission was reviewing our sign ordinance but advised them to hold off until Attorney Even had the chance to review as he had received several inquiries about election signs too. Attorney Even stated that the Township has valid authority to remove any signs from Township

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owned property but will review the whole ordinance and report his findings at an upcoming work session.

9. Road Projects – Supervisor St. Amour stated that he received an email from Managing Director Hulka of the MCRC that we are about \$17,000.00 under budget for all our road projects this year. In reviewing road projects proposed for 2013 with the MCRC, Supervisor St. Amour proposed Murray Road, Riley Thompson Road between Orshal & Nestrom Roads and Todd Road between Loreson & Weber Roads. Supervisor St. Amour stated that the partnership Fruitland Township and the MCRC has had in the past few years is probably going to be diminishing because of the monies available to the MCRC. The MCRC has not allocated any monies at this time. Discussion amongst the Board was to task Supervisor St. Amour to research special assessment possibilities for both Murray and Riley Thompson Roads and report his findings at the September work session. Todd Road would likely to be included in one or both of the other road projects if they are feasible for the township to complete.
10. MLCC (Dance Permit) – Supervisor St. Amour stated that a request for a dance permit was received by the State for Lakeside Inn Resort. A Public Hearing will be scheduled during our August Regular meeting to discuss this request. Attorney Even stated that the Township Board has to approve or disapprove the dance permit and place on file with the State.
11. Board Comments – Trustee Bard inquired about two additional ordinance enforcement cases: White Duck Market – horses in rear and White Lake Golf Course – fence on lake side parking lot. Supervisor St. Amour is reviewing with Zoning Administrator Sandel will report at the Regular meeting. Trustee Deur stated that the Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on language changes on the recreational vehicle ordinance and also on the civil infraction amendment for Article R20 and associated fees.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Treasurer Beegle, second by Trustee Bard, **ADOPTED**, to adjourn the Monday, August 13, 2012 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland at 12:50 PM.

*Upon Voice Vote: **7 AYES***

Respectfully Submitted,

Karolyn Rillema, Clerk
Township of Fruitland