

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 MINUTES**

PRESENT: Trustee Hampel, Trustee Bard, Trustee Holman, Treasurer Pachman, Trustee Cisneros, Clerk Fagan and Supervisor Jeske

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Kevin Even and (5) interested parties

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Jeske called the September 14, 2020 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 Trustee Cisneros, **ADOPTED** to accept the September 14, 2020 agenda.
Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES - motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Patrick Bohland, 2760 Scenic – Expressed concern about costs for the required maintenance and inspection of the Duck Lake Channel Weir and minimum lake level.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS: Supervisor Jeske shared an update from the Parks and Rec Commission – they are planning a public meeting on Oct 5 at 5pm regarding their master plan and the final step is adoption of a resolution by the Township Board. Also, all pads for the disc golf have been removed. Playground equipment for Nestrom Park has been delivered and will be installed within 2 weeks and the old equipment has been disposed of. Insurance has been updated. Supervisor Jeske shared her input on the Parks and Recreation Commission Master Plan.

Supervisor Jeske shared that the Water Policy and Waste Water Boards met last week, presented balanced budgets and noted no rate increases in 2021.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Attorney Memo and Quotes for Duck Lake Level Control Structure Inspection – Attorney Even recommended establishing a Special Assessment District. He will prepare a resolution for Monday's meeting. There was discussion about whether to assess per lot or by frontage. Three quotes were presented for the required inspection from Schultz Land & Water Consulting, Inc. (\$1200-\$1500), Soils and Structures (\$1600) and Prein & Newhof (\$1750).
2. Berry Junction Trail Improvements – Update – Supervisor Jeske reported that the Friends of the Berry Junction Trail moved forward with installing the bench, structure and planting despite the Board denying the request. The understanding is the State of Michigan owns the land. The Friends of Berry Junction Trail stated to Supervisor Jeske that Fruitland Township does not need to maintain the portion of the trail that we have been maintaining and that they are willing to take over maintenance.
3. Accept Clerk Karolyn Rillema's Resignation – No Discussion

Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Trustee Cisneros, **ADOPTED**, to accept Clerk Karolyn Rillema's Resignation.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Holman **AYE**, Trustee Bard **AYE**, Trustee Cisneros **AYE**, Treasurer Pachman **AYE**, Trustee Hampel **AYE**, Supervisor Jeske **AYE**, Clerk Fagan **AYE** - **motion passed**

4. Reaffirmation of Clerk Appointment Resolution 2020-18

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Motion by Trustee Cisneros, second by Trustee Hampel, **ADOPTED**, Resolution 2020-18 Reaffirmation of Clerk Appointment of Breann Fagan. *Roll Call Vote:* Trustee Holman **AYE**, Trustee Bard **NAY**, Trustee Cisneros **AYE**, Treasurer Pachman **AYE**, Trustee Hampel **AYE**, Supervisor Jeske **AYE**, Clerk Fagan **ABSTAIN** - **motion passed**

NEW BUSINESS –

1. Monthly Meeting Room Request – Patricia J. Townsend – A letter was presented from Patricia J. Townsend requesting to use the Township Meeting Room for a “Grandmother’s Group” that has been displaced from the library due to COVID-19. Discussion from Trustee Cisneros and Trustee Bard expressed concern that other groups have been denied in the past, and allowing this group to use the room will require us to allow all requests. There were also concerns of increased costs due to cleaning and staff responsibilities if the public is allowed to use the room. Trustee Hampel stated that she disagreed and believes the room should be open for residents.

Motion by Trustee Cisneros, second by Trustee Bard, **ADOPTED**, to suspend for open floor comments from audience member Patricia Townsend.
Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES - motion carried

Patricia Townsend expressed that this would be a temporary arrangement for her educational group and that she is a resident of Fruitland Township. She explained that the library does not have an open room right now but will welcome them back once COVID-19 is over. More discussion from the Board reaffirmed that the Board cannot allow the meetings to happen in the Township Meeting Room.

Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Trustee Cisneros, **ADOPTED**, to suspend from open floor comments.
Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES - motion carried

2. Stair Removal at McMillan Road End Discussion – Supervisor Jeske presented a picture of the stairs at the end of McMillan Road. She suggested hiring a contractor to remove the fallen parts of the stairs and leave the current landing at the top that is still safe. Trustee Bard stated that the stairs were originally built as a community project by Howmet and wondered who is responsible. Attorney Even stated that the stairs are the responsibility of the Township because they are on Township Property and they are a liability issue. Supervisor Jeske added that there are some repairs necessary for the overhang at the Township Building and suggested hiring a contractor to take care of the stairs and the overhang at the same time. The Board agreed to remove the stairs and leave the very top landing and leave it to the new Board to decide if they want to rebuild stairs, and also agreed that Supervisor Jeske should start getting quotes from contractors for the stairs and the overhang.
3. Erosion measures requested at McMillan Road End Discussion – Supervisor Jeske presented an email from Kurt Madsen requesting that Fruitland Township pay for intervention and repair for possible erosion at McMillan Road end. Attorney Even stated that the decision was up to the Board but we are not required to do anything. The Board determined to not repair but will give Mr. Madsen permission to include the property in his repairs if he wishes.

BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION: Supervisor Jeske stated that there are 13 currently active Ordinance Enforcement violations. She also has received property and concerns complaints about the house at 1832 River Road (Mr. Henry’s property). Supervisor Jeske announced the County Recycling Program has been canceled due to COVID and there are tires at the Ecology Station that need to be disposed of. The Board agreed to pay a small fee per tire to have the tires disposed of and also agreed that tires should no longer

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be accepted at this time. Supervisor Jeske presented a "Thank You" card and a copy of the budget from the White Lake Senior Center. Supervisor Jeske recently spoke to Mr. Rypma and he stated that our 2021 truck is being built and should be done before the end of the year, but could not give a more specific time frame. Supervisor Jeske presented a picture of the proposed parking lot and maintenance driveway for the Duck Lake Natural Area. Supervisor Jeske reported that the Duck Creek Natural Area Advisory Committee continues to meet and things are moving along well. They are still reviewing the proposed ordinance. Trustee Bard asked about the status of some road signs. Supervisor Jeske reported that the signs have been received and that maintenance is hoping to have time to install them soon. Trustee Cisneros reported that he talked to a property owner on Johnson Road that was having issues with water in his basement in the Spring. There were a total of 3 houses on the road that had issues and they all have filled in their basements. Trustee Holman reported on the Planning Commission Meeting. They discussed the surveys but haven't had a chance to review them because of the large number received. The Planning Commission is considering an ordinance restricting "Barn Weddings & Special Events" and adding requirements and items to be considered before an event would be approved. Attorney Even referenced other townships that are adopting "Crowd Generation" ordinances. Trustee Holman also requested that a projector be purchased for use at meetings. The Board agreed that Supervisor Jeske should research a projector with a price point between \$300 -\$500. Supervisor Jeske reported that the vandalism continues at the Scenic Drive boat launch and reiterated the need for a security camera.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Holman, **ADOPTED**, to adjourn the August 10, 2020 Work Session at 11 AM.
Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES - motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Breann Fagan, Clerk
Township of Fruitland