

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 9, 2012
MINUTES**

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

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

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor St. Amour called the Monday, January 9, 2012 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland to order at 10:00 AM.

AGENDA: Supervisor St. Amour asked to amend the agenda by moving New Business Item #1 2012-13 Budget Discussion to New Business #4.5 and discuss Old Business #3 Marcus Park Lawsuit towards the end of the meeting.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Deur ***ADOPTED***, to accept the amended January 9, 2012 Work Session Agenda.
Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1) Lisa Schweigert, 4388 Winterwood Shores – Requested that the Board of Trustees consider a global resolution including her subdivision in the potential land transfer approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission for a portion of Marcus Park. She stated that they are concerned citizens and serve as watch dogs of the area concerned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS: Supervisor St. Amour stated that the White Lake Association would like to apply for a grant to replace the dock at the Scenic Drive Road End and inquired if a lock box could be installed at the road end for possible donations. Supervisor St. Amour will research with the MCRC. Trustee Bard reported that excavation work will be conducted for a portion of the Fred Dow Drain located on her property by Double L Enterprises, Inc. authorized by the Muskegon County Drain Commissioner Fisher.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance Enforcement – Supervisor St. Amour stated that Deputy Ashker is taking corrective action with the Orshal Road, River Road and Duck Lake properties. The property owner of 5110 Orshal Road has been ticketed twice for violating the junk ordinance and may need to be ticketed again. Supervisor St. Amour will contact Deputy Ashker to visit this property again.

Unsafe Buildings – Supervisor St. Amour stated that the 4565 Lorenson Road building has been removed and a spring deadline is scheduled for 5560 Simonelli Road for removal of the accessory building or the condemnation process will begin.

2. Transfer Station – Supervisor St. Amour stated that discussion with Dalton Township continues. It was suggested by Dalton's Supervisor to solicit input from both

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communities by way of a survey. Supervisor St. Amour will work with office staff to develop a survey to be placed on the website as will Dalton Township.

3. Civil Infractions – Attorney Even was tasked to present the steps to be taken for handling the issuance of civil infractions and collection of fines, present an ordinance for the creation of a civil infraction bureau and establishment of enforcement officers and review current ordinances with violation penalties to determine penalty fee schedule. Supervisor St. Amour will consult with office staff to inquire if any zoning and/or building ordinances should be reviewed.
4. SAXE Drain Recommendations – Supervisor St. Amour stated that Drain Commissioner Fisher is reviewing and will be making a recommendation in the near future.
5. Sewer Ordinance – Attorney Even was tasked to present to the board for February’s work session a sewer ordinance, rate schedule and resolution accepting the sewer system.
6. Agreement for Municipal Water Supply – Supervisor St. Amour stated that neighboring jurisdictions have postponed adopting the agreement which was never received as a final document due to continuing research and discussions with the County of Muskegon.
7. Township Property Access – The Board of Trustees agreed to take no action with denying access to any township property at this time. Supervisor St. Amour will continue to monitor certain properties and will advise the Board if any action occurs.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Plowing Third Driveway at Nestrom Park – Supervisor St. Amour stated that he had received a request to not plow the southern drive for use by snowmobiles to Duck Lake. Although this winter no snow has been received thus far, the Board of Trustees agreed to continue to plow the drive as many residents use the drive for walking their pets in the winter weather.
2. Tire Grant – Supervisor St. Amour stated that Fruitland Township has been requested to join in a tri-township 2012 Scrap Tire Clean-up Grant which would include Dalton, Fruitland and Laketon Townships. A resolution will be prepared for the Monday Regular meeting supporting such grant request on behalf of Laketon Township. Fruitland Township would be responsible for reimbursing Laketon Township up to \$3000.00 for tires collected from Fruitland Township residents and providing labor to help during the event.

Trustee Binns excused herself from the meeting at 10:55 AM.

3. 2012-13 Budget Discussion – Supervisor St. Amour explained the process he does for preparing the Revenues and Expenditure Allocations when preparing the budget. Revenues were reviewed and agreement among the Board of Trustees was to discontinue processing of Passports. Clerk Rillema stated that although it is a service we provide to our community, the ever changing processing instructions are difficult to retain because of the low number of applications processed by township staff.

4. Marcus Park Lawsuit –

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Deur, **ADOPTED** to go into closed session at 11:36 AM.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Deur AYE, Trustee Bard AYE, Trustee Bole AYE, Treasurer Beegle, Trustee Binns ABSENT, Clerk Rillema AYE, Supervisor St. Amour AYE

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Bole, **ADOPTED**, to come out of closed session at Noon.

Roll Call Vote: Clerk Rillema AYE, Trustee Bard AYE, Trustee Bole AYE, Treasurer Beegle AYE, Trustee Deur AYE, Supervisor St. Amour AYE, Trustee Binns ABSENT

5. 2012-13 Budget Discussion (continued)

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Nagengast was in attendance for explanation of the Parks & Recreation Commissions proposed budget. The Parks & Recreation Commission requests the transfer of additional Township land south of Duck Creek adjacent to the Duck Lake Road Park which is approximately 60 acres for the purposes of recreation enhancements such as hiking/walking/running/skiing trails, nature conservancy and disc golf. Discussion to not transfer additional lands at this time was agreed. A listing of projects totaling over \$25,000.00 was requested by the Parks & Recreation. Board members expressed concern of the amount requested for improvements to the Duck Lake Road Park due to location near the road and lack of visibility for vandalism. Members questioned that the Nestrom Park tennis courts were not a priority for repair by the Commission. The heavy usage the courts receive by the public seemed disturbing to several board members as not being a priority as it was discussed last budget year to approve repairs via a budget amendment if necessary. Supervisor St. Amour tasked Commissioner Nagengast to inform the Parks & Recreation Commission that the amount requested was not realistic and needs to be reconsidered. Supervisor St. Amour continued through the expenditure allocations by department and fund. A request to quote the Assessing contracting fee was asked of Supervisor St. Amour. The telephone at the Ecology Station will be discontinued under Dept 526. Estimates for continuation of the local road improvement plan with MCRC were received in two options resulting in approximately \$399,000.00 in road improvements. The Board favored Option A totaling \$279,300.00 and Option B totaling \$120,008.00 with a few minor suggestions that Supervisor St. Amour will discuss with MCRC Director Hulka. Trustee Bole requested a rating number for the road projects recommended. Supervisor St. Amour requested the Boards thoughts on possible wage increases. Trustee Bole was in favor of 3%, Trustee Bard was against any wage increase, Clerk Rillema was in favor of 2%, Treasurer Beegle was in favor of an increase and Trustee Deur would email Supervisor St. Amour his thoughts. Supervisor St. Amour stated that he would present an increase for discussion at the Monday Regular meeting.

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6. Board Comments – Supervisor St. Amour announced that three Planning Commission vacancies will occur at the end of March 2012. Carol Kooistra, Brian Lernowich and Steven Nagengast have submitted their resignations. Please forward to Supervisor St. Amour any names of residents that might be interested in serving on that commission. Clerk Rillema stated that a motion to authorize 3rd quarter Budget amendments will be presented at the Monday Regular meeting. The highlighted items on the departmental revenues and expenditures for month ending 12/31/11 are the amendments to be requested. Treasurer Beegle asked that her 2012 Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association dues in the amount of \$50.00 be paid and all agreed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Treasurer Beegle, second by Trustee Bole, ***ADOPTED***, to adjourn the Monday, January 9, 2012 Work Session of Fruitland Township at 1:10 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karolyn Rillema, Clerk
Township of Fruitland