

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD
WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 9, 2015
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Trustee Hampel, Trustee Bard, Trustee Deur, Trustee Rissi, Treasurer Beegle, Clerk Rillema, Supervisor St. Amour

ALSO PRESENT: (4) four interested parties.

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor St. Amour called the Monday, November 9, 2015 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 Deur, **ADOPTED**, to accept the November 9, 2015 Work Session Agenda.

Upon Voice Vote: **7 AYES - motion carried**

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

SPECIAL GUESTS: White Lake Community Library Representatives Sally Schwartz & Tom Grein presented the Board of Trustees with the 2014 audit of the Library along with an overview of the services and programs offered. The audit will be placed on file in the Clerk's office.

Muskegon County Drain Commissioner Brenda Moore and Deputy Drain Commissioner Stephanie Barrett shared information regarding the Mason & Partridge Drains' special assessments for engineering costs which will be placed on the 2015 winter tax roll. Supervisor St. Amour asked Drain Commissioner Moore to provide the total costs for each project which are unknown at this time above the engineering costs. Mason Drain is being assessed at an engineering cost of \$5000.00 to 117 parcels and Partridge Drain is being assessed at an engineering cost of \$7,000.00 to 71 parcels. Fruitland Township is responsible for 10% of the cost for each. No assessment is occurring at this time for the SAXE Drain. Supervisor St. Amour tasked Drain Commissioner to provide him with the total costs and completion time frame for all three drains. Drain Commissioner Moore stated that she does her best to update her website with all pertinent information and will get that information to him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor St. Amour stated that the annual MTA conference will be held in Detroit this January. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Clerk. The MCRC 2015-16 Adopted Budget was received at the Roadkill Dinner and will be placed on file in the Clerk's office. Supervisor St. Amour has requested our 50% of the Porter Smith Life Ring Grant monies available for 2015 in the amount of \$404.00. A request from the White Lake Senior Center for our budgeted donation of \$1000.00 has been received. A motion will be prepared for the Monday Regular meeting. Supervisor St. Amour received word from Seaver's Lawn service that they will no longer be taking the leaves at the Sustainability Center. Contact Supervisor St. Amour if you know a source that would be interested in the leaves. The wood pile at the Sustainability Center is also contracted to be chipped this week. The Blight Nuisance Abatement Grant meeting that Zoning Administrator Jensen attended was in his opinion not applicable to Fruitland Township. Although it doesn't apply to our township, Supervisor St. Amour will inquire if we need to do anything to be of help if the other townships need to apply for the grant.

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OLD BUSINESS:

1. Zellar Road – (Proposed Special Assessment District) – Supervisor St. Amour stated that he has been working on the draft letter to be sent out to the residents in the proposed Zellar Road Special Assessment District but the details of the project have not been solidified from the MCRC. He is awaiting figures for culvert cost only (not including removal of culverts, replacement of culverts and driveway approach costs for an additional option to fund the project by both a special assessment and use of township funds.
2. R&M Contract – Attorney Even is finalizing the contract and a motion will be prepared for the Monday Regular meeting.
3. Muskegon Township Litigation (Water Policy) – Court ordered mediation – Supervisor St. Amour stated that no results were attained from the mediation with Muskegon Charter Township on the 28th of October. A meeting of the Northside Water Policy Board is to be held on Tuesday, November 10. Supervisor St. Amour suggested that information from this meeting could result in further action against Muskegon Charter Township.
4. Fire Station #2 Potential Sale – Supervisor St. Amour stated that the White Lake Fire Authority (WLFA) is soliciting quotes for a new driveway to our maintenance building, new parking lot and access to the Duck Lake acreage at this time which are the three items that would need to be replaced if the building is sold to them. Treasurer Beegle stated that several items need to be repaired at a cost of over \$6000.00 each at the site. The WLFA would like to own the building if they are paying for the repairs. Supervisor St. Amour has heard both pros and cons on the sale of the building. Trustee Bard is not in favor of selling the building. Trustee Deur has confidence in the current board to maintain financials but would have some concern going forward without Supervisor St. Amour and Treasurer Beegle's involvement. Trustee Rissi is okay with the sale of the board but inquired if the WLFA would be making any building improvements at this site to enhance their ability to capture water. Supervisor St. Amour reminded the Board that several dry hydrants have now been built in the township. Clerk Rillema supports the sale of the building at a cost to offset the replacement items (driveway, parking lot and access) so no township funds would have to be spent. More discussion to come once quotes are received.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Parks & Recreation Commission Vacancy – Supervisor St. Amour stated that a letter of resignation from the Parks & Recreation Commission was received by Laura Shields. Should you have a name to recommend for the vacancy, please contact Supervisor St. Amour.
2. Retirement Plan – Clerk Rillema stated she received a request for an updated resolution for our retirement plan from our Retirement Administrator – Burnham & Flower Insurance Group. The IRS requires retirement plan sponsors to restate their plan documents at regular intervals. A motion for our adoption agreement of the retirement plan and resolution showing adoption will be prepared for the Monday Regular meeting.
3. Health Insurance Premium – Supervisor St. Amour and Clerk Rillema had a telephone conference with our health insurance agent to discuss options after December 31, 2015 for health insurance coverage. Our current carrier – Assurant Health – is discontinuing all medical insurance coverage at year end. Our agent solicited two quotes (Priority Health and Blue Cross/Blue Shield) which were comparable to our current plan for services provided. Although

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both plans compared well, the Priority Health PPO 1000 had the same deductible (\$1000/individual) as our current plan. Costs unfortunately increase by approximately \$390.00 a month. A motion will be prepared for the Monday Regular meeting to switch to Priority Health beginning January 1, 2016.

4. Board Comments – Clerk Rillema stated that the election on November 3, 2015 went well and the canvasser’s minutes showed no issues with our election paperwork. Trustee Deur stated that a request to have Muskegon County print colored copies of the Connect Michigan survey to be included with our winter tax billing came back too high. The survey will be copied in-house. Trustee Deur will inquire about the return date being changed to February 15, 2016 as many property owners do not open the tax envelope until the last date of collection. He will forward the date information to Treasurer Beegle. Trustee Rissi inquired about the Bittersweet removal at the McMillan Road End. Supervisor St. Amour stated that Parks & Recreation Chair Knopf had offered her services and asked Trustee Rissi to contact her for more details.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Treasurer Beegle, **ADOPTED**, to adjourn the Monday, November 9, 2015 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland at 11:30 AM.

Upon Voice Vote: **7 AYES - motion carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karolyn Rillema, Clerk
Township of Fruitland