

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD  
WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 14, 2011  
MINUTES**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Eklund and six (6) interested parties.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Supervisor St. Amour called the Monday, February 14, 2011 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland Board to order at 10:03 AM at the township hall.

**AGENDA:**

Motion by Trustee Binns, second by Trustee Bard, **ADOPTED**, to accept the February 14, 2011 Work Session Agenda.  
*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- 1) Betsy Grein, 5780 Oak Tree Lane – Stated that she does not support any raises during these difficult times and does not support the ordinance enforcer pay to the Supervisor either.
- 2) Judy Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – Inquired if the election pay to the Clerk was still proposed for the 2011-12 budget. Supervisor St. Amour stated that it was removed for this upcoming budget cycle.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. 5623 Murray Road – Attorney Eklund stated that no information has been received on the appeal.
2. Ordinance Enforcement – Supervisor St. Amour stated that the owner of 1490 W. Duck Lake Road court date was rescheduled because of the snow storm earlier in the month to February 16, 2011. Ms. Pyle of 3350 Bard Road has been contacted about the boats/boat lifts and will be removed once the weather is applicable. Mr. Ball of 4540 Weber Road has a bench warrant out for his arrest due to not showing up for his arraignment. Deputy Ashker is aware of this warrant.
3. Rental Property Ordinance – Trustee Bard provided the Board with an email that she received that was opposed to us adopting an ordinance for rental property. Mr. Steve Nagengast of the Citizens Advisory Residential Rental Committee was in the audience and the following motion was put forth.

Motion by Trustee Deur, second by Trustee Bard, **ADOPTED**, to suspend open floor discussion to allow Mr. Steve Nagengast to speak.  
*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES*

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Mr. Nagengast inquired about the author of the email and Trustee Bard replied it was anonymous as the author did not wish to be disclosed. Mr. Nagengast does believe that Fruitland Township should adopt such ordinance and is in hopes that the Board will do so.

Motion by Trustee Deur, second by Trustee Bole, **ADOPTED**, to unsuspend open floor discussion.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES*

Supervisor St. Amour asked Attorney Eklund to review the email and issue his opinion at the March work session.

4. McMillan Road End – Supervisor St. Amour stated that he has discussed the stairway project with Jeff Auch of the Muskegon Conservation District. At this time, Mr. Auch does not recommend the log pathway but does suggest the building of a stairway. An Alcoa grant of approximately \$3,000.00 is available along with the approximate \$2,000.00 of donations received by Fruitland Township for the building of such stairway. Mr. Auch is researching other available means of volunteer labor and others that may be interested in the project. Maintenance of a stairway would likely be the responsibility of the township.
5. Riverside Exploration – Discussion amongst the Board of Trustees resulted in a 4-3 decision not to pursue a lease with Riverside Exploration. Supervisor St. Amour stated that Riverside Exploration has signed over 400 + acres of property with residents of Fruitland Township.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Deur, **ADOPTED**, to suspend for open floor discussion.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES*

Dr. Holly reminded the Board that Fruitland Township could sign a contract with one company and that company has the ability to sell the mineral rights to another. Fruitland Township would have no say in this sale of mineral rights once an agreement of such is agreed upon.

Judy Marcinkowski stated that if the Board was interested in exploring mineral/gas exploration, a Citizens Advisory Committee should be formed.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Bole, **ADOPTED**, to unsuspend open floor discussion.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES*

6. 2011-12 Proposed Budget Discussion –

Motion by Trustee Deur, second by Trustee Bard, **ADOPTED**, to suspend open floor discussion for Parks & Recreation Chair Laura Shields to present their requests for the 2011-12 proposed budget.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES*

Mrs. Shields presented the Parks & Recreation Commission proposed 2011-12 budget. The Commission would like to remain at \$35.00 a meeting. They are requesting Postage for \$25.00, are unsure if Sports-n-Shorts will continue due to a price increase and would like the

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Township Board's opinion and are requesting an increase in the repairs & maintenance to \$5000.00. A list of items, prioritized for consideration was provided with projects consisting of new signage, painting, tree removal, update of equipment at both Nestrom Park and Duck Lake Road Park. The Board of Trustees would like to see Sports-n-Shorts included in the upcoming budget and will review the list provided.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Deur, **ADOPTED**, to unsuspend open floor discussion.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES*

Trustee Deur stated he was displeased with the budget process and had several areas throughout the budget he had questions or needed clarification on. Those items were addressed and Clerk Rillema will research those items that needed further investigation and report at the Regular meeting. Supervisor St. Amour noted that the Board is still split on the increase in wages/meeting pay but stated no changes would occur until the public budget hearing was held before making any additional changes/additions to the proposed budget.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. MCRC – Brining 2011 –Supervisor St. Amour received a letter from MCRC in regards to participating in the 2011 dust control program with a request date of February 15. The Board of Trustees would like to participate in the brining program and authorized Supervisor St. Amour to write a letter stating our participation.
2. Parks & Recreation Commissioner Vacancy –Supervisor St. Amour stated that two interested persons are interested in the vacancy – Lee Holly and Mary Nagengast.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Deur, **ADOPTED**, to suspend open floor discussion for Laura Shields, Chair of the Parks & Recreation to speak.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES*

Mrs. Shields stated that the Commission had not received any interested person to nominate at this time.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Treasurer Wilks, **ADOPTED**, to unsuspend open floor discussion.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES*

Discussion amongst the Board led to Mary Nagengast being nominated for the vacancy. A motion will be prepared for the Regular meeting scheduled Tuesday.

3. Muskegon County Wastewater System Master Contract – Supervisor St. Amour and Trustee Deur have had several meetings with developer Brad Van Bergen regarding the possibility of sewer along the Whitehall/White Lake Drive corridor. Although this project is in its early stages, Fruitland Township would need to sign the contract. Attorney Eklund was asked to look at the proposed contract.

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4. Road Ends – Supervisor St. Amour stated that he would like to establish a Citizens Advisory Scenic Drive Dock Road End Committee to work on the portable dock which requires a safer, stable presence. Supervisor St. Amour also received the agreements from MCRC for the Scenic Drive Road End and Nestrom Road End for the placement of a portable restroom, trash receptacle and lawn mowing provided by Fruitland Township. The Board authorized the Supervisor to sign the agreements.
  
5. Board Comments – Supervisor St. Amour stated that he received a \$150.00 permit fee to be paid from the Fred Meijer Berry Junction Rail Trail Fund that required his signature. The Board authorized the Supervisor to sign such agreement authorizing the fee payment. 92<sup>nd</sup> District House Representative Marcia Hovey-Wright has requested Fruitland Township to be a host site for two coffee hours in which residents can come and talk with her. The dates scheduled are March 11 and May 13 from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM. Supervisor St. Amour received a complaint for 4108 Duck Lake Road for a dog at large. Sunday liquor sales permits have been granted by the State of Michigan for McCormick’s Gas Station and Bent Pine Golf Course. Our PINS patrol vehicle was in a collision on Murray Road and a spare car is currently being used by Deputy Ashker until being repaired. Supervisor St. Amour received many thanks from residents about providing the reports of the WLFA and WRLS in the latest e-news. Fruitland Township may be asked to encourage our residents to take part in the recycling of electronics in coordination with Laketon & Dalton Townships. An article recently in the White Lake Beacon featured Fire Marshal Ben Novak who was instrumental in a life saving experience of a child. Supervisor St. Amour has been communicating with Duck Creek School and Deputy Ashker regarding the alternative school students and smoking which has disturbed neighbors near the school. Deputy Ashker is patrolling and will issue citations as needed. Communication from Senator Geoff Hansen with contact information and boards he is currently serving on was received.

Clerk Rillema stated that Supervisor St. Amour, Treasurer Wilks and herself attended the Muskegon County Chapter of Michigan Townships Association’s meeting on January 31 hosted by Muskegon Charter Township. MTA Representative Jim Stover reported that the popular annual conference at Muskegon Community College was cancelled for this year due to funding cuts. The MTA annual conference held in Grand Rapids this January was down in attendance and is of concern to the MTA. Clerk Rillema also stated that she will be preparing budget amendments for the Regular meeting through February.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Treasurer Wilks, second by Trustee Bole, **ADOPTED**, to adjourn the Monday, February 14, 2011 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland at 12:30 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karolyn Rillema, Clerk  
Township of Fruitland