

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

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Eklund and five (5) interested parties.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Supervisor St. Amour called the Monday, March 14, 2011 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland Board to order at 10:02 AM at the township hall.

**AGENDA:**

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Deur, ***ADOPTED***, to accept the March 14, 2011 Work Session Agenda.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- 1) Judy Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – Stated that the “As Readers See It” in the March 11, 2011, Chronicle was very informative and opposes any pay increase at this time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS:** Supervisor St. Amour stated that a request to ask if Zoning Administrator Don Sandel would like to attend the Michigan Watershed Summit on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 in East Lansing Michigan was received by resident Lee Holly. This summit is at no charge. Supervisor St. Amour will ask Don if it is of interest to him.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. 5623 Murray Road – Attorney Eklund stated that the Court of Appeals of the State of Michigan denied for lack of merit the case brought forward by the Lee & Jane Gardner. Attorney Eklund also stated that the Gardners have 42 days (April 11, 2011) to file for appeal to the Supreme Court.
2. Ordinance Enforcement –Supervisor St. Amour stated that the owner of 1490 W. Duck Lake Road was ordered to get property cleaned up in 30 days. If not cleaned, will spend 28 days in jail and the Township could hire someone to clean it up and place an assessment on his property taxes for repayment. The owner has taken out a permit to reside the home at the present time and is showing progress of cleanup. Supervisor. St. Amour stated that he will contact Mrs. Pyle of 3350 Bard now that the weather is favorable about the removing of boat lifts/boat in yard. Mrs. Ball of 4540 Weber Road has been placed in assisted living and the home has been deemed unsafe. Procedural steps are currently underway with our condemnation hearing officer to set a date for the hearing on the unsafe home at this address.
3. Rental Property Ordinance – The Board of Trustees asked to postpone discussion on this item, due to Mr. Nagengast’s unavailability until the April work session.

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4. McMillan Road End – Supervisor St. Amour stated Jeff Auch of the Muskegon Conservation District continues to gather pricing for materials and researching other available means of volunteer labor and grant funding through Alcoa.
5. 2011-12 Proposed Budget Discussion – Supervisor St. Amour highlighted areas of Revenue that were either increased or decreased ending with approximately \$847,000.00 proposed for fiscal year end 2011-12. Appropriations were reduced slightly because Supervisor St. Amour is proposing a 1.5% increase in wages for the April – October time frame with an additional 1.5% increase in wage if the State Shared Revenue remains at its projected rate or increases. This would equate to 2.5% for the year. Minor changes if any were made in most other departments other than Salary/Office Help/Pension/EMP-ER Soc Sec-Med because of the wage decrease. Trustee Deur opposes any wage increase at this time. Trustee Bard opposes any wage increase at this time. Trustee Bole would be okay with a 1% wage increase and supports the \$5.00 meeting pay increase. Treasurer Wilks supports the wage increase. Trustee Binns is still undecided at this time. Clerk Rillema is willing to further negotiate at this time. Trustee Deur inquired if the line item Life Insurance for the Trustees in Dept 101 could be removed as it will not be used by any of the Trustees. Supervisor St. Amour stated that the contract with Brickley DeLong expires at fiscal year end 2010-11. A proposal has been received with rates of \$5600.00 for 2011, \$5725.00 for 2012 and \$5875.00 for 2013. Supervisor St. Amour also attended the PINS informational meeting with Sheriff Roesler and the contract proposal is quoted at approximately \$42,000.00. A mention of new vehicle purchases was briefly discussed and Supervisor St. Amour will research more on this item.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Muskegon County Wastewater System Master Contract – Supervisor St. Amour stated that Attorney Eklund is reviewing the contract. No additional information or communication from developer Brad VanBergen has been received to date.
2. WRLS – Sable Point Lighthouse Keeper’s Association – Supervisor St. Amour asked the Board of Trustees to review the partnership agreement prepared by Director Cindy Beth Davis-Dykema of Sable Point Lighthouse Keeper’s Association and forward any comments/additions/deletions to him. The SPLKA Board of Directors is meeting Saturday, March 19. Supervisor St. Amour hopes to have information from that meeting to present at the March Monday Regular meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
3. Muskegon Conservation District – Land Proposal – Supervisor St. Amour received a phone call from Jeff Auch of the Muskegon Conservation District asking if Fruitland Township was interested in a donation of two parcels on White Lake (Murray Road/South Shore Drive areas) for public use. The Board of Trustees would like to know exact parcels before a decision is met. Treasurer Wilks cautioned the Board that prior discussion of this board cautioned if Fruitland Township already owned too much land. Supervisor St. Amour will contact Mr. Auch to get parcel information.
4. Muskegon County Solid Waste Free Dump Day Program 201 – Supervisor St. Amour stated that he received written communication from the Muskegon County Solid Waste Director Gregory Laverence stating that the Muskegon County Board of Public Works has again authorized a waiver of tipping fees at the Muskegon County Waste for spring cleanup events

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hosted by local municipalities. The free dump day is a Saturday selected by the municipality and must be free of charge. The Board of Trustees made no decision and will revisit this at a future meeting.

5. 61-06-545-000-006-00 River Road Property – Supervisor St. Amour received a request from Jody Mengel interested in purchasing this parcel from the Township. Supervisor St. Amour requested Attorney Eklund to forward the steps to sell township land if the Board of Trustees is interested. The Board was favorable in this sale of property.
6. Marcus Park – Supervisor St. Amour stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission received notification back from both Marcus Dunes rejecting the agreement and Winterwood Shores non-compliance with the agreement. Parks & Recreation Commission Chair Laura Shield met with Supervisor St. Amour and Attorney Eklund regarding what steps to take going forward. The Parks & Recreation Commission would like to have Attorney Eklund investigate eminent domain and/or consideration of court clarification on both cases. Trustee Bard inquired if the township could sell that strip of land affected. Supervisor St. Amour stated that wouldn't relieve the township of any responsibility because of language in the deed of donation. The Board of Trustees authorized Attorney Eklund to review eminent domain.
7. Board Comments – Clerk Rillema stated that she is preparing additional 4<sup>th</sup> quarter budget amendments for the March Monday Regular meeting. Trustee Deur received written communication from Charles Silky, 4000 Lorensen Road, opposing raises for fiscal year 2011-12.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Treasurer Wilks, second by Trustee Binns, ***ADOPTED***, to adjourn the Monday, March 14, 2011 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland at 11:50 AM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karolyn Rillema, Clerk  
Township of Fruitland