

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD
WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015
MINUTES**

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

ABSENT: Attorney Even

ALSO PRESENT: Four (4) interested parties.

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor St. Amour called the Monday, September 14, 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 September 14, 2015 Work Session Agenda.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1) Greg Mund, Ken Mahoney and Tanya Cabala – members of the White Lake Environmental Network spoke briefly of the history of their organization formerly known as White Lake Public Advisory Committee.

Motion by Trustee Deur, second by Treasurer Beegle, **ADOPTED**, to suspend for open floor comments from Mr. Mund, Mr. Mahoney and Ms. Cabala at 10:17 AM.

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

Ms. Cabala explained that after the delisting of White Lake, several members of the PAC were encouraged to reorganize and continue their efforts. A small group of existing PAC members has been meeting and is working on a new mission, goals and objectives moving forward. They would like an appointed representative from Fruitland Township (elected official, planning commission member or interested citizen) to participate. At this time, no known monies are required from Fruitland Township. Several board members inquired about potential duplication of efforts with other area groups (White Lake Association, Duck Creek Watershed, and White River Watershed), cost of paid staff for the network and potential goals they would like to accomplish. Trustee Deur did say that he attended the PAC meetings and reported to the board as a non-appointed liason but would not be able to serve as our representative for this organization. Supervisor St. Amour stated that he spoke to many members of other municipalities and some skepticism was acknowledged. Continued talks whether we should participate will continue going forward.

Motion by Trustee Deur, second by Trustee Bard, **ADOPTED**, to close open floor comments at 10:30 AM.

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

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- 2) Lynn Knopf, Parks & Recreation Chairman – Stated that if anyone had questions on the proposed P&R Master Plan to contact her or a member of the Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor St. Amour stated that he has learned that the Street Light survey has been completed and being reconciled and will soon be available for our review. Sable Points Light House Keepers Association would like to update the signage at the White River Light Station to say owned by Fruitland Township and operated by Sable Points Light House Keepers Association. They would pay for the costs. The board okayed this update to the sign. Supervisor St. Amour received an invitation for the launch of the Michigan Good Food Funds in Muskegon County on Wednesday, September 23 at the Hilt Building. Supervisor St. Amour stated that the court case with Ms. Dresen (former WLAA Director) is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14. Supervisor St. Amour received a call about an urn at the cemetery which looked to have been overturned by a mower. Supervisor St. Amour will inquire with the maintenance staff on any occurrences. Consumers Energy sent an email stating that they will be going door to door for their appliance service plan to its qualifying customers in our township. Supervisor St. Amour stated that he will be inviting Drain Commissioner Moore to our work session to discuss updates on the drains in our township. He has requested written information prior to forward with our packet. The Muskegon County Board of Commissioners has requested the use of our township to hold their October 15th meeting from 4:00 – 5:00 PM. The attendance of all trustees was asked. Supervisor St. Amour stated that he received a phone call regarding the flying of a flag other than the American Flag. He responded that he did not have an answer. Matt Biolette emailed Supervisor St. Amour that he was no longer with Chef Container LLC. Supervisor St. Amour will reach out to the new contact.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Zellar Road Quote – Supervisor St. Amour stated that he had not received any updated information from MCRC Engineer Bouman prior to the meeting. He will follow up with him this week.
2. Lamos Road End – Supervisor St. Amour stated that Attorney Even is reviewing documents and will report his findings.
3. R&M/Chef Contracts – Supervisor St. Amour stated that Attorney Even is drafting those contracts. R&M is currently buying out the garbage portion business from SWS which took over from Chef Container. Chef Container continues hauling our recyclables. Supervisor St. Amour received an email from Matt Biolette (Chef Container) that he is no longer employed by Chef Container. Supervisor St. Amour will reach out to the new contact at Chef Container.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. White Lake Environmental Member – discussed above under Public Comment.
2. Lake Michigan Trails Network – An email was received by Supervisor St. Amour by Kathy Evans, Environmental Program Manager for the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) requesting our support for a resolution promoting the Lake Michigan Trails Network. This resolution supports the promotion for water, biking, hiking and automobile routes and trails around Lake Michigan. The board supported this request and a resolution will be prepared for the Monday Regular meeting.
3. Water Policy Board Update – Supervisor St. Amour stated that the County Commissioners voted in closed session a motion to start declaratory action against Laketon, Dalton and Fruitland

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Townships to not allow the County to pay funds from the System's pooled account to pay Attorney Rose's fees incurred in the Collection Case (Dalton, Fruitland & Laketon Townships vs Muskegon Charter Township). Supervisor St. Amour stated that a letter from Attorney Even to himself was given to the County Commissioners for consideration of dropping the declaratory action due to the County not having a dog in the fight. The Collection Case is moving forward as documents are being requested by Attorney Rose from all three townships (Dalton, Fruitland and Laketon).

4. Michigan Blight Nuisance Abatement Committee – Supervisor St. Amour received communication from the Village of Lakewood Club requesting discussion to apply for a Michigan Blight Nuisance Abatement Grant through Muskegon County with Blue Lake, Dalton and Whitehall Townships. Supervisor St. Amour will inquire with Zoning Administrator Jensen his availability to attend on Fruitland's behalf.
5. West Michigan Land Conservancy Communication – Supervisor St. Amour stated his disappointment with lack of communication from the West Michigan Land Conservancy on the status of the grant that was applied for the Duck Lake property. Several board members have been in communication with the Land Conservancy to inquire about the status which is still unclear. Supervisor St. Amour was tasked to invite a representative from the West Michigan Land Conservancy to our October work session to inform the board on information on such grant monies available and applicable use of such.
6. Waste Water Budget – Supervisor St. Amour stated that the committee of the Muskegon Municipal Wastewater Management voted unanimously to recommend to the Muskegon County Public Works that it not increase the wastewater rates for the upcoming fiscal year budget as proposed. A 4.9% increase is being proposed although the fund balance level is \$2,000,000.00 higher than recommended by UFS. Supervisor St. Amour stated that the budget was to be voted upon and will inquire about the vote on the budget at the Monday Regular meeting.
7. Parks & Recreation Master Plan – Each board member was tasked to review and provide their written feedback on the proposed Parks & Recreation Plan for the Monday Regular meeting.
8. Board Comments – Clerk Rillema stated that she will be renewing both Deputy Clerk Dion's and her notary publics which both expire in November 2015. The cost is \$20.00 each (\$10.00 bond fee to Muskegon County and \$10.00 to the State of Michigan Great Seal). The reconciliation of actual revenues to expenditures from the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department for the Partnership in Neighborhoods fiscal year 2014-15 resulted in an increase owed of \$4,522.24. Fruitland Township's percentage is \$1,614.44 which will be added to our next billing. Trustee Rissi shared two emails written between her and Supervisor St. Amour that she was displeased with. She shared her concerns about the letter written to the County regarding the Quality of Life proposals which omitted the campground item. Supervisor St. Amour stated that he did not add that item as there was not enough board support to warrant. He reminded Trustee Rissi that the Citizen's Advisory Committee she headed up was for advisory purposes only and that the Board agreed the letter was okay to send at the Regular meeting. The other topic of discussion was the West Michigan Land Conservancy. Supervisor St. Amour stated that he was disappointed in the information given to Trustee Deur on the possibilities for the Duck Lake Land and not that Trustee Deur contacted him. Trustee Hampel and Trustee Rissi were also in communication with the Conservancy and it was discussed that too much involvement may be confusing, but no consensus was reached. Trustee Rissi also inquired about the Michigan Adventure DEQ permit. Supervisor St. Amour stated that he heard that a public

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hearing was going to be scheduled but no date was given. Trustee Rissi wondered if talks with Michigan Adventure regarding the storm water runoff should be initiated now but Supervisor St. Amour stated that the two items should be kept separate. Treasurer Beegle stated that today was the last day of summer tax collection without penalty. Trustee Deur stated that the Verizon tower was going to be connected to electricity this week. He stated that the Planning Commission met for a work session on Saturday, September 12, 2015 to work on the Master Plan. In the past, a member of the Board of Trustees and Planning Commission were assigned to review the plan, but this time around the Board of Trustees will review and connect with a member of the Planning Commission with their remarks. Trustee Deur stated that he spoke to Planning Commission Chair Roesler and it was agreed to add the links for the Muskegon County Accommodations Tax to our website under the Planning Commission page. Trustee Deur stated that the White Lake buoy item should be added to next month's work session for further discussion. Trustee Bard stated that she has heard nothing but positive remarks on Pro-Med.

Motion by Trustee Bard, second by Trustee Deur, **ADOPTED**, to adjourn the Monday, September 14, 2015 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland at 11:50 AM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karolyn Rillema, Clerk
Township of Fruitland