

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD
WORK SESSION
February 10, 2009
MINUTES**

PRESENT –

Supervisor Sam St. Amour, Treasurer Debbie Boyer, Clerk Karolyn Rillema, Trustee Mary Ann Bard, Trustee Norma Binns, Trustee Gary Bole and Trustee Jan Deur.

ALSO PRESENT –

Attorney Bob Eklund and (1) interested party.

CALL TO ORDER –

Supervisor St. Amour called the Tuesday, February 10, 2009, Work Session of the Fruitland Township Board to order at 4:04 PM.

SPECIAL GUEST –

1. Ed Garner, President & CEO of Muskegon Area First, along with Whitehall City Manager Scott Huebler and Blue Lake Supervisor Don Studevan spoke on the benefits of continuing our membership to Muskegon Area First. As a member of Muskegon Area First, we receive a complimentary membership to the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce. Clerk Rillema informed Mr. Garner that we had been paying the chamber membership for a number of years. Mr. Garner will contact Clerk Rillema to discuss. Although manufacturing business is down in Muskegon County, the unemployment figures have remained neutral due to retail jobs rising. Mr. Garner invited us to attend their board meeting which is the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM.
2. Bob Weavers, Representative of the West Michigan Coast Riders, along with Norm Kittleson asked for authorization for use of Nestrom Park on Sunday, June 7, 2009 for the West Michigan Coast Riders Bicycle Time Trials. Mr. Weavers provided a very detailed listing of the route and explained how involved the group would be in maintaining cleanliness of our grounds and bicycle route. Attorney Eklund agreed to look over the insurance coverage they provided.

AGENDA –

Motion by Trustee Bard, second from Trustee Deur, **ADOPTED**, to accept the February 10, 2009 Work Session Meeting Agenda as submitted.

Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES

MINUTES –

Motion by Trustee Deur, second from Trustee Bard, **ADOPTED**, to accept the December 10, 2008 Work Session Minutes and December 15, 2008 Regular Township Board Minutes.

Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES

OLD BUSINESS –

1. Marcus Park –

Supervisor St. Amour and Clerk Rillema met with five residents representing Marcus Dunes, Winterwood Shores and Duck Lake Association on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. Supervisor St. Amour stated that through investigation there could be two additional parties involved in the

discussions. Clerk Rillema stated that all parties were willing to be part of the Citizen's Advisory Marcus Park Committee and that the next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

(Place Citizen's Advisory Marcus Park Committee members on Monday's agenda for approval)

2. Policies & Procedures Handbook –

Supervisor St. Amour received back sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Policies and Procedures Handbook with two corrections. Supervisor St. Amour will be asking for Board approval at the Regular Township Board meeting.

(Place on Monday agenda)

Clerk Rillema stated that Trustee Deur, Treasurer Boyer and herself have made corrections/additions to section 4.0 – 4.6 and will have it for presentation to the Board with their packets for Monday's Board meeting. Clerk Rillema asked Supervisor St. Amour if they could be allowed sections 4.7 – 4.11 for review also as it pertains to information in sections 4.0 – 4.6. Supervisor St. Amour assigned section 4.7 and 4.8 at this time but is willing to allow additional sections at Monday's Board meeting if so desired.

(Place on Monday's agenda)

3. Nord Road –

Supervisor St. Amour and Trustee Bole held an informational meeting on February 5, 2009 with 6 property owners on Nord Road and discussed options for the future maintenance of the road. Nord Road property owners will be checking with Muskegon County Road Commission for a deed possibly that would change the status of who is responsible. Nord Road property owners will report back to the Board their decision at a future date. If a special assessment is decided, Treasurer Boyer requested that we take into consideration road frontage as part of the assessment price. The Township Board has agreed to continue snow plowing thru the current winter.

4. Nestrom Road –

Supervisor St. Amour had no report at this time.

5. 1562 Duck Lake Road –

Supervisor St. Amour stated that no report was expected until the April 16, 2009 deadline, but did mention that Clerk Rillema had received a call from Ms. Stewart and she will be providing the Board with an update at Monday's Regular Board Meeting.

6. 5623 Murray Road –

Supervisor St. Amour stated that an appeal to 5623 Murray Road was received and a hearing has been scheduled with our Zoning Board of Appeals on February 23, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

7. Duncan Property Sale –

Supervisor St. Amour was pleased to announce that the survey was completed for the land sale to Kathryn Duncan by surveyor, Paul Privacky in the amount of \$750.00. Attorney Eklund has written Ms. Duncan a letter to inform her of the process to close the deal.

Motion by Trustee Bole, second from Trustee Bard, **ADOPTED**, to approve payment to Paul Privacky in the amount of \$750.00 for the survey on the property sale to Ms. Duncan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Trustee Deur **AYE**, Trustee Bard **AYE**, Trustee Bole **AYE**, Trustee Binns **AYE**, Treasurer Boyer **AYE**, Clerk Rillema **AYE**, Supervisor St. Amour **AYE**

8. 1994 Truck Status –

Supervisor St. Amour had no report at this time.

9. Maintenance – Ecology Station – Punch Card –

Supervisor St. Amour asked the Board if this item could be placed at the end of the agenda. All Board members verbally agreed.

10. Blank Road Culvert –

Supervisor St. Amour stated that Muskegon County Road Commission would contact him when the weather was appropriate for the repair work to be completed.

11. Blueberry Festival –

Trustee Binns stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission is interested in holding a 5k/10k walk/run to replace the Festival for this year. Treasurer Boyer was contacted by the Fruitland Evangelical Covenant Church with their interest in holding the pancake breakfast this summer. Supervisor St. Amour asked Trustee Binns to continue being the Board representative on the Citizen's Advisory Blueberry Festival Committee and will forward her the names of four interested parties to prepare for 2010. Trustee Binns will report to the Board the Parks and Recreation Commission plans for the walk/run.

12. Fruitland Township Representation –

- Muskegon Area First – Supervisor St. Amour asked all Board members their comments on the presentation from Ed Garner and will ask for a motion at Monday's Regular Board meeting to either continue membership or withdraw membership for 2009.
(Place on Monday's agenda)
- Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce – is complimentary with the Muskegon Area First membership otherwise governmental agencies are not allowed to join.
- Joint Planning Commission/West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission/Muskegon Area Wide Plan – Supervisor St. Amour received response back from Sean Dey of West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development informing that reference to Public Act 226 should be brought before the North Central Muskegon County Joint Planning Commission. Supervisor David Kieft of Muskegon Charter Township will be calling a meeting to discuss this issue. Chairperson Carol Kooistra will be attending the next meeting of the Muskegon Area Wide Plan Implementation Committee and will report back to Supervisor St. Amour if she should continue attending or send a representative from Fruitland Township.

13. Scenic Drive Stimulus Package Submission –

Supervisor St. Amour presented the Board with a copy of the letter to West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development submitting the Scenic Drive Restoration Project for inclusion in the Federal Stimulus Package project list for Muskegon County.

14. Board Goals –

Supervisor St. Amour pleaded for two Board members to turn in their goals for 2009.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. West Michigan Coast Riders –

Supervisor St. Amour asked the Board to comment and will be asking for a motion to support at Monday's Regular Board meeting.

(Place on Monday's agenda)

2. Planning Commission (MTA Book Order) –

Clerk Rillema stated that she received a book order request from Planning Commission Chairman Carol Kooistra for the purchase of (9) copies of the Township Guide to Planning & Zoning at a cost of \$45.00 each for the seven Planning Commission members, Don Sandel and Sally Garvey.

Motion by Clerk Rillema, second from Trustee Bard, **ADOPTED**, to have Fruitland Township Board authorize the purchase of nine (9) copies of the Township Guide to Planning & Zoning at a cost of \$405.00.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Clerk Rillema **AYE**, Treasurer Boyer **AYE**, Trustee Binns **AYE**, Trustee Bole **AYE**, Trustee Bard **AYE**, Trustee Deur **AYE**, Supervisor St. Amour **AYE**

Trustee Bole asked that the clerk check to verify that Planning Commission still has money in its budget for this expense.

3. Lamos Road End –

Supervisor St. Amour stated that Mr. Joe Vihtelic will be speaking during Public Comment regarding Lamos Road End and will ask the Board for possible considerations to this property.

4. Citizen's Advisory Committees(Board Representative) –

Clerk Rillema asked that any Board member(s) serving as representatives on Citizen Advisory Committees please keep their own minutes in a binder and inform her of all meeting dates so she may update the meeting book to avoid possible conflicts with other meetings at the township hall.

5. Citizen's Advisory/Board/Committee Representatives –

Clerk Rillema asked that the Board member(s) serving as representatives please provide her with a typed or handwritten note prior to Regular Board meeting to ease in taking minutes.

6. Passport Training –

Clerk Rillema stated that she would like to send Sally Garvey and Ericka DeCair to a free seminar in Chicago on Monday, February 23, 2009 for Passport Training. Clerk Rillema will be asking for a motion at Monday's Regular Board meeting to authorize sending these two individuals, paying for a hotel room and reimbursing them for mileage/meal expense.

(Place on Monday's agenda)

7. Land next to Cemetery –

Supervisor St. Amour was asked if Fruitland Township was interested in purchasing a piece of property adjacent to the Cemetery at a cost of \$7000.00. At this time, the Board verbally agreed that we are not interested at that price.

8. Simonelli Road –

Supervisor St. Amour met with a few residents on Simonelli Road who are requesting road improvements on a section of Simonelli Road between Bard and McMillan Roads. Supervisor St. Amour asked the Board for their permission for him to meet with the Muskegon County Road Commission to discuss this section of road. The Board verbally Okayed this request.

9. 2745 Lorenson Road –

Supervisor St. Amour along with Attorney Eklund stated that a letter was written to Ms. Cooper's attorney, Frank Carrozza, informing him of three court cases involving 2745 Lorenson Road. Ms. Cooper has been ticketed for ordinance violations and has pleaded not guilty and is awaiting a pre-trial date. Attorney Eklund will keep Supervisor St. Amour abreast of the court case date.

10. Street Light –

Supervisor St. Amour has been working with Consumer's Energy to shield the street light on South Shore Drive and Hill Street because it shines into a home on South Shore Drive. Supervisor St. Amour has asked Trustee Bole to advise the Board of the progress.

11. Law Suits –

Supervisor St. Amour provided the Board with a listing of township lawsuits for the period of 2006-2008 for informational purposes only.

12. Board Comments –

Supervisor St. Amour asked for comments on agendas, board packets, etc, to make sure that the Board was receiving sufficient information. All were very grateful and thankful for his timeliness of providing packets for board meetings with adequate time for review.

13. Planning Commission Request for Seminar –

Trustee Deur will be asking for a motion at Monday's Regular meeting for the Board to authorize to send Don Sandel and himself to attend the Varnum Water Law Seminar in Grand Rapids on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at a cost of \$40.00 each.

(Place on Monday's agenda)

14. Planning Commission Letter of Support Request –

Motion by Trustee Deur, second from Trustee Binns, **ADOPTED**, to authorize sending the letter written by Planning Commission Chairperson Carol Kooistra to the Muskegon Conservation District supporting the MiCorps Duck Creek Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program.

Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES

Item #9 from Old Business

9. Maintenance/Ecology Station/Punch Card –

Supervisor St. Amour handed out a spreadsheet with 2008-09 Ecology Station deposits, expenses and wages that were incurred by this department. Supervisor St. Amour explained that the Ecology Station will be at an approximate loss this year of about \$10,000.00. There was discussion among the Board about changing procedures on cash collection at the Ecology Station and switching to only punch cards and checks, review staffing and re-negotiate charges with Allied Waste. Supervisor St. Amour asked the Board to review and make suggestions prior to the next budget work session.

ADJOURNMENT –

Motion by Trustee Deur, second from Trustee Bard, ADOPTED, to adjourn the Tuesday, February 10, 2009 Work Session of the Fruitland Township Board at 6:55 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karolyn Rillema, Clerk
Township of Fruitland