

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
WORK SESSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2022 MINUTES**

PRESENT – Trustee Jeske, Treasurer Pachman, Supervisor Marcinkowski, Trustee Graham, Trustee Lundell, Clerk Fagan, Trustee Holman

ALSO PRESENT – (5) Five interested parties

CALL TO ORDER - Supervisor Marcinkowski called the February 14, 2022 Work Session Meeting to order at 10:00 AM, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA - Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Treasurer Pachman, **ADOPTED**, to accept the February 14, 2022 Work Session Township Board Meeting Agenda.
Upon Voice Vote: 6 AYES – motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Alice Gambel, 5730 Oak Tree Ln – Expressed that she was unhappy with the voucher system used for the Senior Millage Grant money. She believes they should be distributed differently and questioned why we include a for profit company in the voucher system. Asked that we make sure we are supporting groups and vouchers that truly serve Fruitland Township Seniors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS –

- a. **Board of Review Training – 2/14** – All Board of Review members are attending training today, including two new members, Meredith Kuipers and Lori Newman.
- b. **Friends of Fruitland Township Trails** – Terrie Hampel gave a short presentation regarding the current 5 year plan for the Friends of Fruitland Township Trails. The group will be asking the Township Board for approval to continue on with their plan for the Duck Creek Natural Area and apply for grants. She clarified that the plan is only for walking/natural trails and that preservation is their focus. They are also looking into seed money from the Community Foundation.
- c. **Park and Recreation Commission update** – Chairman Huch spoke for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He stated that the reason he and some other commission members chose not to approve the Recreation Plan was due to not having time to review the plan and suggest changes. He stated the commission was focused on the budget and felt the Recreation Plan was rushed and changes were made without their approval. Trustee Jeske and Clerk Fagan questioned why they felt they did not have time to review the plan when the Township Board had received a copy of the

plan by December 10th and that the Commission did not meet until January 3rd. Clerk Fagan stated that the Recreation Plan had been made available to township residents as of December 9th per an e-news that was sent to the residents. Chairman Huch continued to state he felt that they did not have enough time, that they were busy working on the budget, they continue to be unhappy with the plans for the Duck Creek Natural Area and the involvement of the Friends of Fruitland Trails and finished by saying the Commission would begin to review the Recreation Plan and make the changes they feel are necessary.

- d. **Next CAC meeting** – The Vacant Township Property Citizens Advisory Committee continues to meet and their next meeting will be 2/15/22 at 7pm.
- e. **White River Light Station** – Curator Report – Matt Varnum provided his yearly Curator Report update for the WRLS. Their 2021 projects included a small roof repair, reglazed and repaired tower windows and a replaced well pump. In 2022 they are hoping to repaint the exterior trim and workshop exterior, as well as repair a picket fence and construct an observation deck. He will send information over regarding the platform. He also stated that there was a small price increase last year, and still saw slightly lower attendance for the year, likely still due to Covid-19. They did see an increase in sales and had success with their yearly fundraiser. He is requesting that the Board approve the planned 2022 fundraiser on August 12, 2022.
- f. **Senate Bills 783 & 784 Veteran’s Property Tax Reform** – Senator Bumstead has introduced a bill to reimburse local units of government for the property tax exemption for disabled Veterans.
- g. **Department of Homeland Security – Human Trafficking Statement** – Supervisor Marcinkowski shared a statement from the Department of Homeland Security regarding Human Trafficking.
- h. **CY 2021 PINS Report** – Supervisor Marcinkowski shared the calendar year PINS report provided from the Muskegon County Sheriff’s office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

- a. **Senior Millage** – Supervisor Marcinkowski recommended \$10,000 to White Lake Senior Center, \$5,000 to Agewell Services, and \$10,000 for ecology station coupons from the Senior Millage grant as well as \$10,000 to VAC via ARPA funds and \$10,000 to Living Well Senior Services via ARPA funds. Trustee Graham suggested a Senior Open House hosted by Fruitland Township with booths available for vendors to be invited to provide information about their services or products. Board members asked Supervisor Marcinkowski to get an updated quote from the VAC and an estimated number of spots available for services with Living Well Senior Services as well as a quote for their services.

NEW BUSINESS –

- a. **RESOLUTION 02-2022 - Resolution of Intent – Opposing Incorporation as a Charter Township** – Clerk Fagan shared the letter and certificate received from the State of Michigan that Fruitland Township is eligible to incorporate as a charter township and the requirement of publishing a notice for the residents about the eligibility. She stated all past Boards have opposed incorporation as a charter township and that she has prepared the resolution as such. Attorney Even spoke briefly about the pros and cons of being a charter township.
- b. **Network Upgrades – IT Right quote** – Supervisor Marcinkowski stated that IT Right had been at the township hall a week ago to fix a computer issue and that they took a look at the current set up and equipment and recommended some upgrades.
- c. **Dangerous Building – 4434 South Shore Dr – Tanis and 3321 Scenic Dr-Zielinski** – Attorney Even provided a memorandum regarding the responsibilities and options of the Township Board regarding dangerous buildings. Building Official Jensen has declared both of these buildings to be dangerous. A title search has been completed on both properties. 3321 Scenic Drive recently had a Sheriff's Deed sale and has a current mortgagee so more research and discussion may be important before a decision is made about this property.
- d. **Republic Services** – Republic is raising their rates due to rising costs. We are currently in a 3 year agreement with them.
- e. **GMED/Fruitland Township Agreement** – Greater Muskegon Economic Development has created a contract agreement to use them as administrator for the ARPA funds. They also included an example of one of the RFPs they have written.
- f. **2022-2023 Budget** – Supervisor Marcinowski shared some notes on the 2022-2023 budget. It will include 3% wage increases for staff and trustees. The Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer have chosen not to take the wage increase. Supervisor Marcinkowski planned a 5% increase for ongoing operational items such as utilities and maintenance due to current inflation and increased costs. Short Term Disability Insurance is being considered for front desk staff and maybe the maintenance supervisor. Currently road projects total \$211,383 with an additional \$50,000 escrowed for possible paving of a section of Simonelli road and State Shared Revenue is expected to increase to \$513,106.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Carlet Mitenbuler, 4623 Nestrom – Wants everything done legally and correctly. Emphasized that the Parks and Recreation plan is a **Recreation Plan**, not a *Master Plan*. Her research shows that the Duck Creek Natural Area has not been formally dedicated to the Parks and Recreation commission. She wonders if the neighbors of the DCNA are aware of the plans.

Terrie Hampel, 6171 Duck Lake – Thanked the Board for their continued support of the Duck Creek Natural Area. Expressed support for Senior Millage Grant funding being used for the VAC. Encouraged the Board to ask/encourage residents to use other methods of transportation for the WRLS music nights and fundraiser because parking is so limited, and suggested that a bike rack might be a good investment for the WRLS.

BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION –

Trustee Holman expressed a need to keep moving forward with decisions regarding the ambulance service for Fruitland Township. Stated he recently waited 40 minutes for a Pro-Med ambulance for a family member. The Board discussed that this should be brought straight to the residents for a vote for the August election versus waiting on a Citizen’s Advisory Committee. Clerk Fagan will find out when the ballot language would be due and what the process is. Supervisor Marcinkowski shared that more discussion is happening regarding the deteriorated state of Todd Road and said that this project will need to involve the Muskegon County Road Commission, the Muskegon County Drain Commission and the Township Board. Trustee Jeske and Clerk Fagan both expressed disappointment in the updates from the Parks and Recreation Commission in that they feel more like a complaint session than an actual update focused on what the Commission is working on.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Trustee Lundell, ***ADOPTED***, to adjourn the February 14, 2022 Work Session of the Township of Fruitland at 12:23 PM.

Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES – motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Breann Fagan, Clerk
Township of Fruitland