

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
WORK SESSION MEETING
MAY 9, 2022 MINUTES**

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

ALSO PRESENT – (5) Five interested parties

CALL TO ORDER - Supervisor Marcinkowski called the May 9, 2022 Work Session Meeting to order at 10:00 AM, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA - Motion by Trustee Lundell, second by Trustee Jeske, **ADOPTED**, to amend the May 9, 2022 Work Session Township Board Meeting Agenda by changing the months of the MSU Extension Food Safety Programming to June, July and August.
Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES – motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Dave Rice, 4047 Nestrom – Provided an update for the Friends of Fruitland Township trails. They had a successful work day on April 30th with 13 volunteers. They were able to get Phase 1&2 trails marked and cleaned up. They may have some Boy Scout volunteers considering projects for the Duck Creek Natural Area – possibly an information kiosk and/or bike rack (with Board approval). He suggested that the Board may want to consider a trash can at the entrance but that would require maintenance. Asked about signage and informing neighbors. They continue to work towards grants for ADA accessibility and did recently receive a grant from the Muskegon Community Foundation but had a snag with their 501©3 status.

Manuel Cisneros, 3386 Scenic – Requested an update on the McMillan Road End stairs and when they would be replaced. Also asked for an update on when 3321 Scenic will be demolished and if anything was being done regarding the house on River Rd.

Rich Houtteman, 5640 Oak Tree – Thanked the Board for considering the subdivision road improvements and coming up with innovative ways to serve the residents. Also spoke about Consumers Energy’s commitment to renewable energy and their focus on solar projects in Muskegon County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS –

- a. **Park and Recreation Commission update** – Commissioner Huch gave an update from the Parks Commission. They found a better price for the yearly baseball dust and are still receiving calls for teams that want to play at Nestrom Park. They continue to work on various projects and are considering Project Proposal documents that can be sent out to try to find businesses that might be interested in sending bids for upcoming projects. Talked about the need for sprinkler upgrades and how that may coincide with the planned well upgrade for the township hall.
- b. **IT Right** – System upgrades completed were completed and working well.
- c. **Muskegon County Free Dump Day – 4/30** – Supervisor Marcinkowski helped at the ecology station for the Free Dump Day and said it was very successful. Two dumpsters were filled along with the collection of various electronics.
- d. **Road Projects** – Letters have been started to be sent out regarding chip and seal upgrades on subdivision roads.
- e. **Zoning Administrators Duties** – Building Inspector Val Jensen provided the Board with his responsibilities and their level of priority.
- f. **Duck Lake Cemetery – update – warranty deed with description** – Supervisor Marcinkowski continues to make calls to other surveyors to obtain additional quotes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

- a. **Dangerous Building Hearings May 6 at 9am – 4434 South Shore Dr – Tanis and 3321 Scenic Dr-Zielinski** – Both hearings took place last week and the Hearing Officer has five days to respond with his recommendations.
- b. **MSU Extension – Food Safety Programing – Wade Syers – May, June, and July, and Aug** – Supervisor Marcinkowski shared two draft fliers that will be used to market the MSU Extension program to residents. MSU Extension will handle the marketing and sign ups. Each month will have a different focus.
- c. **WRLS – MCD - invasive species survey conducted** – The survey was completed and Supervisor Marcinkowski is waiting on plan for removal and cost.
- d. **Sample letter from GMED to Fruitland Township businesses sent out.**
- e. **Abandoned vehicle – signed over to the township** – Supervisor Marcinkowski is working on obtaining the title for the abandoned vehicle before anything can be done with it.
- f. **Radar/LIDAR unit for PINS officer** – Supervisor Marcinkowski received a response from Captain Brown regarding the requested LIDAR Unit. The cost will not be shared with the Sheriff's office because it is not required equipment. The unit would be useful for our PINS Officer to monitor speeding in the neighborhood, which continues to be a problem. The Board will be able to ask more questions when there is a Sheriff present at next week's meeting.
- g. **Review Citizen Advisory Committee recommendations on township property** – The Board discussed reviewing a few of the properties at each Regular Meeting over the

next few months. Next week the Board will discuss the properties recommended to be sold.

NEW BUSINESS –

- a. **VAC use** – Fruitland Township senior residents are now able to use the VAC. The township will need to begin marketing campaign to residents. A flier was provided and the Board discussed various ways to distribute the information (fliers, website, e-news, information to be sent with tax bills, etc.).
- b. **FFTT – 501C3 status** – Supervisor Marcinkowski shared that the Friends of Fruitland Township Trails was awarded a grant of approximately \$11,000 from the Muskegon Community Foundation, but it was found at that time that they never received official 501©3 status from the IRS. They are requesting that the Township offer to accept the money on their behalf. The Board would like Supervisor Marcinkowski to check with the township attorneys to see what the options are.
- c. **Building Rentals – North Muskegon Ordinance** – Supervisor Marcinkowski provided a copy of North Muskegon’s rental ordinances. He believes it is likely that Fruitland Township may need to consider something similar in the future and he will continue to provide examples from other municipalities.
- d. **Request the establishment of a Citizen’s Advisory Committee for Grant Research and Writing** – Supervisor Marcinkowski is proposing a new Citizens Advisory Committee that would be ongoing and long term in order to explore more grant opportunities for the township. He has been speaking to resident Mary Shaw and previous board member Manny Cisneros to start the committee, with the addition of one person to start and then the addition of two more members once it is established. Trustee Jeske volunteered to join the committee if a Board member is desired. Trustee Lundell inquired whether this committee would be able to actually write the grants.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Mary Shaw – Introduced herself and her experience that is relevant to the proposed Citizen’s Advisory Committee. She has 35 years of experience with the research and development of grants, though her experience was in the medical field.

Terrie Hampel, 6171 Duck Lake Rd – Thanked the Board for their forward thinking and volunteered to be considered for the Citizen’s Advisory Committee as well. She has experience teaching grant writing and also spent years reviewing grants and choosing grant recipients and understand what a strongly written grant needs. She also explained that the 501c3 status for the Friends of Fruitland Township Trails has been applied for but could take up to six months to be approved. She read a letter from the Friends of Fruitland Township Trails requesting that Fruitland Township accept the money on behalf of the organization and work together with the group to build and enhance trails within the township.

Manuel Cisneros, 3386 Scenic – Thanked Clerk Fagan for her work on the election on May 3rd but wants elections to be more widely communicated because the turn out was very low.

Commented that he does see the PINS officer and has offered his driveway for her to park in to watch for speeding. Also commented that Trustee Jeske would be a good choice for the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Dave Rice, 4047 Nestrom – Thanked Supervisor Marcinkowski for the Veteran SITREP on April 29th. He found it very information and well done.

Mary Ann Bard, 1428 W River – (On Zoom) “New Business C. Why are you not asking townships what their Building Rental Ordinances are? Fruitland Township is a township and not a city. Why are you reviewing North Muskegon which is a city?”

BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION – Trustee Graham shared an example of a newsletter template that she put together. Clerk Fagan stated this could be considered with the new website upgrade but that the current system does not allow us to use pictures or really anything but words. Clerk Fagan stated the new web address for the website has been requested and will need to be approved by the state and once that is approved they will be ready to launch. She is working on scheduling training and updating forms from the current website. Supervisor Marcinkowski commented that his SITREP was well attended and appreciated and that they had two guest speakers that spoke about immigration and homeland security. He also shared some information from the sessions he attended at the MTA conference and that he would like to put together a Vision Statement to go along with the current Mission Statement. Clerk Fagan said the May 3rd election went well; the proposal did not pass and there were approximately 300 in person voters and over 800 absentee ballots. She did notice that Fruitland Township had one of the higher turn outs in the county. Clerk Fagan also let the Board know that the audit is scheduled to begin next week.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Trustee Graham,
ADOPTED, to adjourn the May 9, 2022 Work Session of the
Township of Fruitland at 11:30 AM.

Upon Voice Vote: 7_AYES – motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Breann Fagan, Clerk
Township of Fruitland