

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 10, 2025 MINUTES**

**PRESENT** – Supervisor Marcinkowski, Treasurer Roggero, Trustee VanOosterhout, Trustee Cross, Trustee Brower, Trustee Holman, Clerk Steffes

**ABSENT** –

**ALSO PRESENT** – Attorney McGahan + Attorney Even

**CALL TO ORDER** – Supervisor Marcinkowski called the November 10, 2025, Work Session Meeting to order at 10:00 AM and led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA** - Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Trustee Cross, ***ADOPTED***, to accept the November 10, 2025 Work Session Township Board Meeting Agenda as amended.  
*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES – motion carried*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** –

Gary Griner- 6250 Blank Rd- Spoke about a resolution he has proposed over the last few months to reaffirm our state's sovereignty.

Carlet Mitenbuler- 4623 Nestrom Rd- Spoke about needing a new Parks & Recreation Commissioner. They are recommending Doug Potts for the vacancy. She stated the other candidate was wonderful but Mr. Potts had more applicable qualifications. Asked if the second person could take a temporary position until Bob Murray is able to return.

Terri Hampel- 6171 Duck Lake Rd- Expressed her support for Mr. Griner's proposed resolution. Stated many municipalities are getting the same resolution brought to them and she anticipates broad support. Expressed her support for an ordinance change regarding hunting in Duck Creek Natural Area.

Lynn Knopf- Advised when they had the steering committee for the Duck Creek Natural Area and said they discussed issuing tags or permits or have certain dates for archery hunting only.

**PRESENTATIONS** –

- a. **Mike Holman – Planning Commission meeting – 11/6-** Provided PC Meeting update
- b. **Lynn Knopf – Parks Commission meeting – 11/5-** Provided P&R Meeting update. They voted to move forward with the traditional built restroom over the storage container restroom.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS –**

- a. **October Check disbursement report-** Will be placed on file
- b. **October Ordinance Enforcement report-** Will be placed on file
- c. **October Zoning report-** Will be placed on file
- d. **October PINS report-** Will be placed on file
- e. **Master Plan Steering Committee meeting on 11/13 at 6 PM to draft survey review**
- f. **Dangerous Building Hearing – White Lake Cabins – 11/21 at 9am – Township Hall**
- g. **Veteran’s Day Dinner – 11/11 at 6pm at Township Hall**
- h. **VC3 – Windows 11 upgrade – week of 11/10**
- i. **Clerk Steffes - Election update-** The Whitehall School District Bond Proposal passed in Fruitland Township with 674 Yes Votes and 636 No Votes. We had a total of 1310 votes, approximately 70% were absentee votes.
- j. **Nestrom Drain – MCRC inspected the drain that is owned by Fruitland Township, report of inspection information will be placed in file.**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

- a. **Additions to Maintenance staff –** Supervisor Marcinkowski is working on the checklist of duties with Arron Ferris.
- b. **Ambulance Services-** Supervisor Marcinkowski asked the board to authorize him to meet with the WLAA to ask questions about putting a millage initiative on the ballot next year and meet with Trinity Health to see how they can provide better service to our township. The board asked him to move forward with those conversations.

#### **NEW BUSINESS –**

- a. **Volunteer Plaque –** Supervisor Marcinkowski asked the board to allow him to get a list of the volunteers that worked on the DCNA trails and bridge work to have a plaque put up.
- b. **Fruitland Township comparison to Meridian Township-** Supervisor Marcinkowski presented information about the differences between Meridian Township and Fruitland Township to shed light on the differences between tax rates. Will be placed on file. Supervisor Marcinkowski also expressed that the board has not approved anything to build a community center in Fruitland Township.
- c. **Letter from the Friends of Fruitland Township Trails –** Letter requesting an ordinance change to remove hunting from DCNA. Will be placed on file. Supervisor

Marcinkowski agreed with the option of allowing limited bow hunting but not allowing firearm use in DCNA due to the heavy foot traffic. Stated there are other pieces of property open to hunting in the township. Trustee VanOosterhout stated that he respects where the letter came from but expressed his concerns. He has spoken with many hunters that see more limitations being placed on hunters because hunting and other public use can't coexist. He stated there is information that shows that removing hunting from an area impacts biodiversity and that there is an overpopulation of deer in the area. There are people that rely on the meat they get from hunting. He stated he would like more data about the impact to the natural area before moving forward with any changes. Supervisor Marcinkowski asked the township attorney what the township's liability is if someone gets hurt by hunting on township property.

- d. **Planning Commission – definition of a basement – changes**
- e. **Zoning Change-** Planning Commission voted to change the zoning for parcel 61-06-101-400-0001-10 to HDR. Supervisor Marcinkowski explained there is still enough property in the township to meet the MHD requirements.
- f. **Closed session for the purpose of discussing ongoing litigation in the matter of *Serkaian v. White Lake Fire Authority et al* and in Re: *Steven Beck* Petition for *superintending control* and to review the Township's Attorney's legal opinion regarding the township's authority to repeal an ordinance.**

Motion by Clerk Steffes, second by Trustee Holman, **ADOPTED**, to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing ongoing litigation in the matter of *Serkaian v. White Lake Fire Authority et al* and in Re: *Steven Beck* Petition for superintending control and to review the Township's Attorney's legal opinion regarding the township's authority to repeal an ordinance.

*Roll Call Vote:* Trustee Cross **AYE**, Clerk Steffes **AYE**, Supervisor Marcinkowski **AYE**, Trustee Brower **AYE**, Trustee VanOosterhout **AYE**, Treasurer Roggero, **AYE**, Trustee Holman, **AYE** – **motion carried**

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, second by Trustee Holman, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Roberts Rules.

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

Questions from Board to Mr. Baatz (contractor for Mr. Beck) and Mr. Beck regarding dangerous building:

Is there any basement underneath the portion of the home that will be demolished?

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Mr. Baatz stated it is slab concrete underneath the portion of the building that would be taken down. Stated there are footings underneath the entire portion that will be rebuilt. Stated he will have drawing available with permit application.

Will a retaining wall be placed to reduce further erosion?

Mr. Beck stated they will be doing that in the spring. Right now they are trying to get the dangerous portion off and seal it off before winter.

Building Inspector Jensen stated he will need to go to the property to review their plans before approving a building permit.

Motion by Supervisor Marcinkowski, second by Trustee Holman, **ADOPTED**, to reenter Roberts Rules.

*Upon Voice Vote: 7 AYES – motion carried*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Bob Brown- Commented about the Nestrom Road Drain. Stated it crosses 3 parcels he owns, he regularly cleans out what he can and it gets clogged on a regular basis.

Dave Rice- Discussed the hunting ordinance, read the portion of the ordinance that states allowable uses. Asked the board to consider changing the verbiage in the ordinance to make it more clear and concise.

Carlet Mitenbuler- Asked that we bring back microphones for the board and podium.

### **BOARD COMMENTS/DISCUSSION –**

Supervisor Marcinkowski discussed the resolution that Mr. Griner asked the board to adopt regarding state sovereignty. He discussed the state and federal laws pertaining to the National Guard.

Trustee VanOosterhout discussed the issue of deploying National Guard and cases of the federal government deploying National Guard in the civil rights era and states pushing back. Appreciated Mr. Rice's flexibility regarding a solution to the issue of hunting in DCNA.

Treasurer Roggero discussed the issue of short-term rentals in the township. Stated we should have a regulation if they are going to be allowed. Asked that the planning commission consider that in the Master Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trustee Holman, second by Trustee Cross, ***ADOPTED***,  
to adjourn the November 10, 2025 Work Session of the Township  
of Fruitland at 12:09 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexa Steffes, Clerk  
Township of Fruitland