

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2011**

**FENTON TOWNSHIP CIVIC COMMUNITY CENTER
12060 MANTAWAUKA DRIVE, FENTON, MICHIGAN**

Supervisor Mathis called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mathis, Krug, Tucker, Brown, Goupil, Hill, Kesler, Attorney Cooley and
Operations Manager Broecker

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Supervisor Mathis led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the 3/21/11 Fenton Township Board Meeting agenda as presented.

Motion by: Brown

Seconded: Hill

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried. The agenda is approved.

PRESENTATION:

Proposed Resolution to Support Genesee District Library Millage Proposal

Supervisor Mathis introduced Bev McKenna, a member of the Genesee District Library Board. Ms. McKenna gave a brief overview of the structure of the Genesee District Library (GDL). The GDL has implemented numerous cost-cutting measures but the revenue losses resulting from property value decreases has created a significant budget shortfall. They are asking the voters to approve a .25 mill increase, which would expire in 2016 – the same time as the existing millage. She asked the board to consider adopting a resolution to support the upcoming millage proposal for the library.

Clerk Krug presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-04

WHEREAS, the Genesee District Library was created through cooperative efforts of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and the Grand Blanc Township Board, effective January 1, 1980, to guarantee easy access to books and the enjoyment of learning at a reasonable cost for all our residents, and

WHEREAS, the Genesee District Library is a community-based network of nineteen premier libraries, and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the electors of the Genesee District Library district renewed the 0.7481 mills to operate the libraries for the 10-year period from 2007 through 2016, and

WHEREAS, the original 0.7 mills tax authority and the 0.1 mill tax authority has been reduced by the Headlee rollback provision of MCL 211.34d to 0.7481 mills, and

WHEREAS, the Genesee District Library has already instituted decreases in staff, materials and hours in response to a significant decrease in operating revenues for the Genesee District Library, and

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WHEREAS, the Genesee District Library Board, rather than institute further reductions in library services, wishes to propose an additional millage to attempt to allow operations to continue without significant further reductions in library services, and

WHEREAS, the Genesee District Library has proposed to the electors of the district that said previously approved millage be increased in the amount of 0.25 mills, (25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value), and that said millage be in effect for 6 years, 2011 through 2016, and expire at the same time as the previous existing millage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Fenton hereby supports the May 3, 2011 Library Millage increase and encourages our residents to support this worthwhile endeavor because libraries are critical to a knowledge-based economy, and the Genesee District Library enhances our quality of life, operates at a reasonable cost, and continues to provide each of us with access to information, materials and services to advance our knowledge.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-04 as presented.

Motion by: Krug

Seconded: Brown

Ayes: Mathis, Krug, Tucker, Brown, Goupil, Hill, Kesler

Nays: None

Motion carried. Resolution declared adopted.

MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for the 2/21/11 regular meeting stand approved as presented.

EXPENDITURES:

Motion to approve invoices and expenditures for all funds totaling \$1,128,653.31 for payment as presented.

Motion by: Tucker

Seconded: Hill

Ayes: Mathis, Krug, Tucker, Brown, Goupil, Hill, Kesler

Nays: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

REPORTS:

MTA Genesee County Chapter Meeting – 4/28/11 at Fenton Township

Supervisor Mathis reminded the board that Fenton Township is hosting the Genesee County MTA meeting on Thursday 4/28/11. She asked that all board members try to attend this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES:

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Landscape Contractor Design Standards/1st Reading

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Supervisor Mathis introduced a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to revise the design standards for landscape contractors to permit onsite sale of landscaping material. Treasurer Tucker stated that the Planning Commission believes that allowing retail sale of landscaping materials by landscape contractors is a reasonable provision.

There was no public comment. The second reading of the proposed ordinance will be conducted at the 4/4/11 meeting.

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Doggie Day Care/1st Reading

Supervisor Mathis introduced a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to establish a definition for *Doggie Day Care* and to designate it as a use permitted by special use permit in the C-2, C-3 and M-2 zoning districts. Treasurer Tucker stated that the Planning Commission has recognized that pet care establishments have evolved to a point where housing dogs during the day, but not boarding them overnight, is a use that should be addressed in the Zoning Ordinance.

There was no public comment. The second reading of the proposed ordinance will be conducted at the 4/4/11 meeting.

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Definition of Front Lot Line /1st Reading

Supervisor Mathis introduced a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to revise the definition for *Front Lot Line*. Treasurer Tucker explained that the proposed amendment would require the owner of a through lot (a lot with frontage on two streets) to maintain a front yard setback at both ends of the property.

There was no public comment. The second reading of the proposed ordinance will be conducted at the 4/4/11 meeting.

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Definition for and Storage of Recreational Vehicles /1st Reading

Supervisor Mathis introduced a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to create a definition for *Recreational Vehicle* and to establish provisions and standards for the parking of recreational vehicles on vacant commercial property. Treasurer Tucker reminded the board that this amendment was initiated by the Township Board. The Planning Commission added the definition and revised the screening language. The board discussed the provision requiring that the vehicles not be seen from the right-of-way. Supervisor Mathis stated that she would prefer removing that provision. Other board members agreed, stating that screening could be more of an eyesore than the vehicles.

Motion to amend the first reading of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment regarding the parking of recreational vehicles on vacant commercial property to remove the requirement regarding visibility of the vehicles from the right-of-way.

Motion by: Mathis

Seconded: Krug

Ayes: Mathis, Krug, Brown, Goupil, Hill, Kesler

Nays: Tucker

Motion carried.

There was no public comment. The second reading of the proposed ordinance will be conducted at the 4/4/11 meeting.

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Proposed Amendment to Sign Regulation Ordinance/1st Reading

Supervisor Mathis introduced a proposed amendment to the Sign Regulation Ordinance to revise provisions regarding home occupation signs and digital signs. Treasurer Tucker stated that the proposed amendment allows home occupations to have a sign up to 1 square foot in area, (currently only a nameplate sign is permitted). The amendment also addresses the amount of light emitted by digital signs and limits the digital portion of the sign to 30% of the total sign area.

The board discussed the home occupation signs in more detail. Supervisor Mathis suggested that the sign size limit be increased to 4 square feet (i.e. 2'x2'). Trustee Hill stated that 3 square feet, which is the area of a standard 18"x24" election yard sign, might be a better option.

Motion to amend the first reading of the proposed Sign Regulation Ordinance amendment to permit a home occupation sign of up to 3 square feet in area.

Motion by: Hill

Seconded: Tucker

Ayes: Mathis, Tucker, Goupil, Hill

Nays: Krug, Brown, Kesler

Motion carried.

There was no public comment. The second reading of the proposed ordinance will be conducted at the 4/4/11 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Schedule Election Commission Meeting – 4/4/11

Clerk Krug announced that the Election Commission will meet at 7:00 p.m. on 4/4/11 to appoint inspectors for the 5/3/11 election.

NEW BUSINESS:

2011 Genesee County Road Commission Chloride Contract

Operations Manager Broecker reviewed information regarding the Genesee County Road Commission's dust control program for 2011. The proposed agreement includes one application of liquid calcium chloride on unpaved roads funded by the Road Commission and the option of one or two applications funded by the Township. Based on the mileage of unpaved roads in Fenton Township, our cost would be approximately \$17,997.00 per application. Based on budget concerns it is recommended that the Township authorize one additional chloride application for June.

The board briefly discussed the option of using the 35% chloride formula (rather than 38%), but since the savings was minimal, 38% was chosen.

Motion to approve the 2011 Genesee County Road Commission Dust Control Program, including one application of 38% liquid calcium chloride in June, at a rate of 2,000 gallons per mile at the Township's expense, as presented.

Motion by: Tucker

Seconded: Brown

Ayes: Mathis, Krug, Tucker, Brown, Goupil, Hill, Kesler

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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Propose Extension of Law Enforcement Services Agreement

Supervisor Mathis reviewed a contract extension request from the Genesee County Sheriff Department. Future contracts will be based on the calendar year, therefore they are requesting that the Township approve extending the provisions of the current contract through the end of 2011.

Motion to extend the provisions of the 2010-2011 Law Enforcement Services Agreement with the Genesee County Sheriff Department through December 31, 2011, as presented.

Motion by: Mathis

Seconded: Brown

Ayes: Mathis, Krug, Tucker, Brown, Goupil, Hill, Kesler

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Request for Support – Canada Goose Nest & Egg Destruction Program/Silver & Marl Lakes

Supervisor Mathis reviewed a letter from the Silver-Marl Lakes Area Homeowners Association requesting a letter of support for their involvement in goose population reduction efforts through the MDNRE. She stated that she is not opposed to the nest and egg destruction but is not in favor of killing geese as part of the program. Clerk Krug stated that, according to the DNRE, destroying nests and eggs is really not that effective since the geese will simply build another nest and lay another batch of eggs.

Public Comment:

Marilyn Daniels, 13293 Haddon

Ms. Daniels stated that Lake Fenton is also consider options to controlling the Canada goose population due to e-coli level concerns in the public swimming areas, although seagulls may actually be a more significant contributor to that problem. She contacted a group called Geese Peace, which provided a number of more humane options for controlling the goose problem. The use of repellants, implementing feeding bans, habitat modification, fencing, scare tactics and harassment can be used just as effectively without resorting to killing the geese. She also suggested that public swimming areas could be posted with signs discouraging the feeding of geese.

The board thanked Ms. Daniels for her information. Supervisor Mathis stated that the request for the letter of support must still be considered.

Motion to provide a letter of support for the Silver-Marl Lakes Area Homeowners Association request to participate in the Canada Goose Nest and Egg Destruction Program in an effort to control Canada Goose populations on Silver and Marl Lakes, as requested.

Motion by: Mathis

Seconded: Krug

Ayes: Tucker, Brown, Goupil, Hill, Kesler

Nays: Mathis, Krug

Motion carried.

Proposal for Transition to Electronic Meeting Packets

Operations Manager Broecker reviewed a plan to implement paperless meeting packets, (electronic or e-packets), for Township Board meetings through the use of notebook

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computers. The Township's IT consultant has provided a cost proposal to purchase ten refurbished notebook computers at a total cost of \$2,790.00 (\$269 each plus shipping). Mr. Broecker also reviewed an analysis of costs related to the proposal, which estimates the cost payback period for the notebook computers to be less than two years. The elimination of paper meeting packets is not only environmentally friendly, the use of the notebook computers will allow board members to have additional information at their fingertips during meetings, (ordinances, budgets, minutes from previous meetings, etc.).

The board indicated that they are receptive to the concept of e-packets but would like to explore additional options, such as having one central computer controlled by the Operations Manager with multiple monitors for the board members, or using notebook computers already owned by the board members rather than purchasing refurbished units. These options will be investigated and reported back to the board at a future meeting.

BOARD COMMENT:

Clerk Krug reported that he attended an anti-drug program at Lake Fenton High School earlier today. It was a very powerful presentation that really seemed to hit home with the students.

Clerk Krug noted that the ZBA has been dealing with a lot of cases where accessory buildings are constructed without a permit, and then the owner applies for an after-the-fact permit and/or variance(s). He would like to see additional costs for property owners that use this tactic. This will be investigated.

Supervisor Mathis advised the public that the ice on the lakes is dangerously thin and people should stay off the ice.

PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

None

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Bonnie Mathis, Supervisor

Robert Krug, Clerk

Minutes Posted 3/22/11