

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GRAND BLANC
Minutes of Joint Meeting of Township Board, City Council, and Fire Commission
Held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2010

The Joint Meeting of the Township Board, City Council, and Fire Commission was called at the request of the Fire Commission for the purpose of discussing Act 57 of 1988 and how it would affect the operation of the Fire Department. The meeting started at 6:00 p.m. in Fire Station #1, 117 High Street, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439, with hamburgers and hot dogs cooked by the firefighters.

Township Board Present: Supervisor Marilyn Hoffman, Clerk Cathy Lane, Treasurer Earl Guzak, and Trustees: Larry Anderson, Paul Bush [Fire Commission Representative], Ben Clevenger, and Ryan Thompson.

City Council Present: Mayor Michael Matheny [Fire Commission Representative] and Council Members: James Bappert, John Freeland, Connie Leslie, Steven Robinson, Susan Soderstrom, and Michael Wolfgram.

Fire Commission Present: President Patti Rockefeller, Todd Barnes, and Dennis Christman.

Others Present: Fire Chief Jim Harmes, Township Manager Richard Dunnill, Township Attorney David Lattie, City Manager Randall Byrne, Alexis Davlantes, Captain Peter Alexander, Deputy Chief Robert Burdette, Battalion Chief Troy Brancheau, Township Engineer Roger Buell, former City Councilman/Fire Commission Representative Keith Baldwin, Firefighter Don Welch, Sheila Welch, and Deputy Chief Richard Ferriby.

001-2010 – Discussion of Act 57 of 1988

Chief Harmes presented a video developed by Jeffery Rockafellow showing the Fire Department in action at various fires.

Fire Commission President Patti Rockefeller made a power-point presentation illustrating the initial goals of the Fire Commission and background information for the long-term growth and viability of the Fire Department to determine if the City Council and Township Board would support their request to change from Act 33 of to Act 57 of 1988. The Fire Commission intends to host an Annual Joint Meeting with the Township Board and City Council on the first Wednesday in January at Fire Station #1 to keep everyone apprised of what is happening and to discuss any concerns.

Under Act 57, the Fire Department can: own land; enter into agreements with other agencies; and would perform Fire Inspections and Fire Protection Programs for the City and the Township. The Fire Commission intends to continue having two representatives appointed by the City and the Township rather than an elected Board. If a millage was approved by the voters, it would provide a more definitive income [1 mill would be about \$1,400,000]; the Township and the City have been reducing their contributions over the years to the Fire Department. Some costs comparisons: the 1989 Pump was \$160,000 and the 1993 Pumper was \$193,000 – the 2004 pumper was \$369,475 and the 2009 pumper was \$430,000; \$700 for a set of turnout gear in the mid

1990's versus today it is \$1,525. Mandates are established by the National Fire Protection Agency [NFPA] in Massachusetts and OSHA in Washington, D.C.; there are annual inspections and deficiencies that have increased the insurance rates to our taxpayers. There is a need to have firefighters in the Fire Halls from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to respond to fires; it is planned they would be part-time rather than full-time.

The City and Township officials were in agreement the Fire Commission should proceed to develop a proposal relative to Act 57 and schedule a Joint Meeting when they are ready to make a presentation. There were a multitude of questions on how the concept would be implemented and the Fire Commission needs to be able to enumerate specific reasons why it would be beneficial for our residents to support a millage for the Fire Department.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Lane
Township Clerk

Board Approved: February 11, 2010