

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GRAND BLANC
Minutes for Township Board Regular Meeting
Held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Hoffman with Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Present: Supervisor Marilyn Hoffman, Clerk Cathy Lane, Treasurer Earl Guzak, and Trustees: Larry Anderson, Paul Bush, Hans Rodgers*, and Ryan Thompson*.

Staff Present: Township Manager Richard Dunnill, Township Attorney David Lattie, DPW Director Kirk Richardson, Finance Director Debra Barriger, Planner Michael Deem, Consultant Dan Potter.

Motion by Trustee Anderson, supported by Clerk Lane, to approve the Agenda with the following amendments: remove – Item F, Appointing a Subcommittee headed by the Clerk to update the Employee Handbook to allow further discussion by Department Heads; add – Discussion of Fire Chief’s Contract; and add – Discussion to develop a process for the community’s use of Township property. Voice vote. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Absent: 2 [Rodgers, Thompson]. Motion approved.

091-2010 – Presentation by Liberty National Life Insurance Company

Art Bagley of Liberty National Life Insurance Company located in Dallas, Texas, and their local agent, Patty McBride, were in attendance to make a presentation on a term life insurance program they wanted to provide to Township employees utilizing a payroll deduction with no cost to the Township. To qualify for enrollment, an employee must work 30+ hours per pay period and be employed for a minimum of six (6) months. During the enrollment process, each applicant will learn how certain health conditions may disqualify them from obtaining life insurance. Township Manager asked Mr. Bagley to provide the Township with a list of the pre-conditions. The employee’s premium would be established based on their age and the amount of insurance they requested on the date they enrolled. As long as premiums are paid, the cost and amount of life insurance would remain the same until the employee reached age 100. Additional insurance coverage can be purchased during any open enrollment period. Mr. Bagley stated they would be available six (6) times to meet with employees between now and April 30. Mr. Bagley stated life insurance plans would also be available for a spouse and children. Treasurer Guzak asked if there are a minimum number of employees that would have to enroll in the program before it could be implemented in the Township. Mr. Bagley stated there is no minimum requirement.

During the presentation, Trustee Rodgers* arrived at 6:10 p.m. and Trustee Thompson* arrived at 6:20 p.m.

092-2010 – Public Comments

- Laura Allen-Besser, 7517 Porter Road, the Board’s recent appointment to the Metro Alliance, stated she attended her first meeting. There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Grand Blanc High School on May 15, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In addition, she was concerned about a major safety problem on Porter Road because of the heavy volume of traffic and the speed of the vehicles leaving Woodland Park Academy. The Academy is utilizing the driveway of a home they purchased on Porter Road. On one occasion, she had to wait for thirty-seven (37) vehicles [cars and school buses] to exit the driveway. Mrs. Allen-Besser requested police presence in the area to avoid accidents and injuries. Children are standing along Porter Road by the mailboxes waiting for their Grand Blanc School buses.

- Ed Erdt, 7212 Porter Road, thanked Trustee Anderson for speaking at the Grand Blanc School Board meeting about the School's lawsuit against the Township and Genesee County Drain Commission. Mr. Erdt stated, as an elected official, Trustee Anderson represents eighty (80%) percent of the School's local taxpayers. The cost of this lawsuit is being paid by all the taxpayers, since we pay taxes to Genesee County, Grand Blanc Township, and the Grand Blanc Schools. Mr. Erdt appreciated the Homeowners Association Council meeting and the information presented to the residents. He noted the Supervisor's monthly report was not on the Township Web Site and suggested the recognition of Mark Ingram winning the Heisman Trophy be located on the School's property.

093-2010 – Appointment to Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation Commission

Motion by Clerk Lane, supported by Trustee Bush, to appoint Trustee Hans Rodgers as the Board's Representative to the Parks and Recreation Commission to fill the unexpired term of former Trustee Ben Clevenger. Voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

094-2010 – McFarlen Library Board Appointments

Motion by Trustee Anderson, supported by Treasurer Guzak, to accept with regret the resignation of Debra Rolf from the McFarlen Library Board effective May 1, 2010, because she is moving out of state. Her term expires December 2011. Voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

Motion by Clerk Lane, supported by Treasurer Guzak, to appoint Clark Kent, 5190 Vassar Road, be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Debra Rolf until December 2011 on the McFarlen Library Board. Voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

095-2010 – Google Flint Area Broad Band

Supervisor Hoffman stated she had attended a meeting with Township Manager Dunnill and Planner Michael Deem, which was seeking support to get Google to bring their program to Genesee County. Google has agreed to pay for all of the installation. Approving the "Document of Support" is not a contract and does not commit the Township to any funding. Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids are competing for this project, whichever area garners the most support that is where Google will locate their business.

Treasurer Guzak stated, if the service is provided, residents will have to pay for the service like they do for Comcast. Board members concurred that technology should be supported. They were concerned this service could reduce the funds the Township receives from Comcast, who has the sole franchise at this time. They wanted to hear more details of this project.

Motion by Trustee Anderson, supported by Trustee Thompson, to adopt the "Document of Support for the Google Fiber for Communities Project – Genesee County," as presented. Voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

096-2010 – Election Inspectors for May 4, 2010, School Election

Motion by Trustee Bush, supported by Trustee Anderson, to accept the List of Election Inspectors for the May 4, 2010, School Election presented by Clerk Lane. Voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

097-2010 – DRAFT Fire Authority Articles of Incorporation for Act 57

Trustee Bush, the Board's representative to the Fire Commission, thanked Attorney Lattie for drafting the Fire Authority Articles of Incorporation for Act 57 for presentation to the Township Board and City Council in order to bring this matter to fruition and provide funding for the Fire Department. Trustee Bush stated the City Council has not met as a group to discuss the Fire Department; however, at Fire Commission meetings, Mayor Matheny has stated he wants a study performed. Trustee Bush stated studies can take 18 to 24 months and cost up to \$22,000. Trustee Bush believes the residents should decide if they want to pay a millage.

Chief Harmes reported, under Act 57, the Fire Commission could: bond for equipment without putting the Township or City bond rating at risk; put a millage request to the voters rather than the City and Township having to put a millage on their ballots; they could own property; and grants could be written and would not require approval of the City and the Township. There would be no change to the other functions of the Fire Department. Chief Harmes stated a comprehensive study was done in about 2000 and nothing was done. Costs are split 75/25 between the Township and City; however, the Fire Department is being cut. The major expense is vehicles costing \$450,000+. There are communities who have gone to Act 57, who could be contacted.

Supervisor Hoffman reported it takes two municipalities to form the Fire Commission. The Board was not interested in funding a study. Following the January Joint Meeting, it was agreed to obtain additional information and call another Joint Meeting. It was recommended the draft of the Articles of Incorporation be provided to the City Council and a Joint Meeting be scheduled. The Board needs to know where the City stands on this issue. Does the City want to go from Act 33 to Act 57, do they want to participate in the Fire Commission and do they want to partner with the Township. We need to work on a five-year budget. It was agreed it will take time to work through all of the steps when you make a change. Trustee Bush stated the Fire Commission has been working on this project for over two years and, except for Mayor Matheny, the Fire Commission members want to proceed with Act 57. Attorney Lattie knew communities in Oakland County – Holly Township/Rose Township, Howell, and Brighton – have gone to Act 57.

Motion by Clerk Lane, supported by Trustee Rodgers, to have Attorney Lattie forward the draft of the Articles of Incorporation to the City Council and schedule a Joint Meeting with the City Council with representatives of communities with Act 57 to attend and answer questions. Voice vote. Ayes: 6. Nays: 1 [Bush]. Motion approved.

098-2010 – 2010 Heisman Trophy Recipient Mark Ingram

Township Manager Dunnill reported he received a call from Grand Blanc Schools Superintendent Michael Newton asking the Board to consider erecting a billboard in Creasey Bicentennial Park to recognize Mark Ingram's selection as the 2010 Heisman Trophy Winner. No further information was provided.

Board concerns included: Township does not allow billboards; wanted to consider other options for signs; utilizing a sign above "Entrance to Grand Blanc signs"; wants to support the idea; what is the cost; and desire to spear head a community wide effort. Planner Deem was instructed to investigate our options, as Township should adhere to its own ordinance.

Motion by Trustee Anderson, supported by Trustee Bush, to research the type of sign that could be allowed under our ordinance. Voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

099-2010 – DRAFT 2010 DPW Budget

DPW Director Kirk Richardson distributed the DRAFT 2010 DPW Budget, which was developed with the assistance of Consultant Dan Potter and Finance Director Debi Barriger. Mr. Richardson stated this draft Budget would be discussed at the April 6, Committee of the Whole Meeting, hopefully, it would be ready for adoption at the April 8, 2010, meeting. This is the first DPW line item Budget and should be considered a work in progress during 2010.

100-2010 – Fire Chief Harmes Labor Contract

Trustee Bush provided the Board with a copy of Fire Chief Harmes' Labor Contract and asked the Board to support the Fire Commission's recommendation to extend it two years from 2012 to 2014. Chief Harmes has been Fire Chief for 21 years and hopes to retire from Grand Blanc. Future wages are not being addressed in this contract. Wages will be reviewed annually and could be frozen, as they were for 2010, because of the tough economy. Trustee Bush reported Mayor Matheny presented this contract to a Personnel Committee and they said, No; it was not taken to the entire Council.

Attorney Lattie was asked, if the contract had to have the concurrence of the Township Board and the City Council or if the Fire Commission could approve it. Fire Chief Harmes recognizes these are tough times and wants to make it a smooth transition to a new Fire Chief. Attorney Lattie indicated the Fire Commission negotiates the contract with the Fire Chief; does not believe there is an issue. The Board does not want to see the Chief leave.

Motion by Trustee Bush, supported by Trustee Rodgers, to table Fire Chief's contract. Voice vote. Ayes: 5. Nays: 2 [Anderson, Thompson]. Motion approved.

Supervisor Hoffman noted it could be tabled until the next Board meeting. Board members wanted to extend the contract, not have Fire Chief leave, and retire from Grand Blanc and asked Attorney Lattie to clarify. Attorney Lattie stated the Board could remove from the table so they could deliberate.

Motion by Trustee Thompson, supported by Trustee Anderson, to take the Fire Chief's contract off the table. Voice vote. Ayes: 5. Nays: 2 [Hoffman, Guzak]. Motion approved.

Trustee Anderson wanted the Board to come to a consensus. Wants Trustee Bush to inform the Fire Commission that Fire Chief Harmes is a valuable employee and the Board wants him to stay until 2014; however, he does not want to be sued by the City. Attorney Lattie stated the Fire Commission hires and fires the Chief with the concurrence of both municipalities. It was agreed the City has not taken action on this matter. Attorney Lattie stated this is the same rift we have with financing; we are in a correct position. By approving the proposed contact, we have not expended additional monies. We need to know where the City stands.

Motion by Clerk Lane, supported by Trustee Anderson, to have Trustee Bush inform the Fire Commission the Board accepts the two-year extension of the Fire Chief's contract to 2014. Voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

101-2010 – Anderson Elementary School PTO Car Show

Trustee Anderson reported the Anderson Elementary School PTO was requesting the use of the Township Government Center parking lot for a Car Show on May 8, 2010, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to allow for setting up and tearing down. The monies will be used to fund programs for the students. The Church has agreed that

spectators could utilize their parking lot during this event. Trustee Anderson stated the Board should develop a policy regarding the use of Township facilities in the future.

The discussion included: liability insurance to protect the Township; availability of porta potties; safety of the participants and attendees; ingress and egress to the parking lots; ability of emergency vehicles to respond to other Township needs; use of the more visible Police Department parking lot; danger of crossing to the Police parking lot if Fire Bays were in use; there is a tendency for people to sue; availability of three entrances; and traffic control. Planner Deem stated the Township has an Outdoor Gathering Permit Ordinance, which requires approval of all Department Heads and addresses the Board's concerns.

Motion by Trustee Rodgers, supported by Trustee Bush, to authorize the use of the Township Government Center Parking lot by Anderson Elementary School PTA for their Car Show on May 8, 2010, pending their submittal of the appropriate safeguards and paper work for an Outdoor Gathering Permit , approvals of Chief Stamm and Chief Harms, and final approval of Attorney Lattie and Township Manager Dunnill. Voice vote. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

102-2010 – Management Reports

- **Township Manager Richard Dunnill** – no report.
- **Township Attorney David Lattie** – asked for the Executive Session to include labor contracts and pending litigation.

102-2010 – Executive Session to discuss Labor Contracts and Pending Litigation

Motion by Trustee Anderson, supported by Trustee Bush, to go into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. after a five (5) minute recess to discuss a Labor Contract and pending litigation. Roll call vote. Ayes: Rodgers, Thompson, Anderson, Bush, Guzak, Lane, Hoffman. Nays: 0. Motion approved.

Motion by Clerk Lane, supported by Trustee Anderson, to return to the regular meeting at 10:05 p.m. and take no action. Voice vote. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Absent: 1 [Guzak] Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Anderson, supported by Trustee Rodgers, to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m. Voice vote. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Absent: 1 [Guzak]. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk Cathy Lane

Board Approved: April 8, 2010