

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GRAND BLANC**  
**Minutes of Joint Meeting of Township Board, City Council, and Fire Commission**  
**Held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, August 6, 2010**

A Joint Meeting of the Township Board, City Council, and Fire Commission was called at the request of the Fire Subcommittee for the purpose of providing an update of the Subcommittee's findings and to discuss the ballot language for the November 2, 2010 Election. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Hoffman in Fire Station #1, 117 High Street, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439.

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

Township Board Absent: Trustee Paul Bush [Fire Commission Representative and member of the Fire Subcommittee].

City Council Present: Council Members: James Bappert, Susan Soderstrom, and Michael Wolfgram.

City Council Absent: Mayor Michael Matheny [Fire Commission Representative and member of the Fire Subcommittee], City Council Members: John Freel, Connie Lesley, and Steve Robinson.

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

Others Present: Fire Chief Jim Harmes, Township Manager Richard Dunnill, Township Attorney David Lattie, City Manager Randall Byrne, City Attorney Tim Knecht, Battalion Chief Robert Burdette, Residents: Ed Erdt and Frank Doherty.

**238-2010 – Fire Protection Services and Ballot Language**

Township Trustee Hans Rodgers provided a Power-Point presentation of the information compiled since the Joint Meeting on May 6, 2010, and Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration/National Fire Data Center, "Structure Fire Response Times," Topical Fire Research Series, Volume 5 – Issue 7 revised August 2006. The group also received copies of the proposed ballot language from the City Attorney and Township Attorney.

The components for understanding Total Response Time are:

1. Ignition;
2. Combustion;
3. Discovery;
4. Call Processing and Dispatch Time [when the emergency call is answered and emergency responders are dispatched;
5. Turnout Time [begins when emergency responders are notified and ends when appropriate apparatus actually leaves the station;
6. Drive Time [begins when the apparatus leaves the station and ends when it arrives at the scene;
7. Setup Time [Fire Department arrives, pulls hose lines, establishes water supply, varies with size of fire, type of structure, and setbacks from the curb;

8. Combat [ Fire Department applies extinguishing agent to fire, looks for victims, and searches for fire extension; and
9. Fire Extinguished.

The data showed the Grand Blanc Fire Department:

1. Capitol Equipment Fund is currently underfunded \$189,369.00 and needs to be brought up-to-date;
2. needs \$346,649.00 annually to meet replacement costs for equipment , breathing and ISI packs;
3. requires funds to reinstitute regular training sessions which had to be discontinued due to City/Township budget reductions;
4. to decrease the response time from its average of 12.9 minutes to 7.5 minute average, will require three (3) full-time drivers supplemented with part-time staff for 24/7 coverage at an estimated cost of \$522,600.00; and
5. requires an estimated \$708,989.00 to operate - the proposed .5 mill from each municipality's General Fund and the .5 mill ballot proposal from the City and Township is estimated to generate \$724,153.00.

The ICMA Consulting Services Final Report for Fire/EMS Operations for the City of Novi, Michigan, showed the average response time for structure fire calls was 7.7 minutes and for outside fire call 6.9 minutes. Additional information was cited from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Central Jackson County Fire Protection District, and the Southern Platte Fire Department District. Novi, Michigan, with 36 square miles is comparable in size to the City/Township Fire District and they have demonstrated response times can be improved by supplementing some full-time drivers with part-time firefighters.

The goal is for City and Township taxpayers to pay the same rates for fire service – the City would reduce to .5 mill the current funding from their General Fund and the Township would increase their General Fund contribution to .5 mill for the Fire Department and each community would support the .5 mill ballot proposal on the November 2, 2010, Election.

Comparing the City/Township ballot proposals, there was consensus: the simpler Township language would be easier for voters to understand, dates should be specific, and, because this is a joint venture, the proposal to include a statement the millage must pass in both the City and Township to be effective, i.e.,

“Shall the limit on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the [Charter Township of Grand Blanc /City of Grand Blanc], Genesee County, Michigan, be increased .5 mills (\$.50 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for a period of ten (10) years, from December 1, 2010, to November 30, 2019, to provide for fire protection? Because this is a joint venture between the Township and City, this ballot proposal must be approved in both the City and Township of Grand Blanc to be in effect.”

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Township Clerk Cathy Lane

**Board Approved: August 12, 2010**