

GRAND BLANC HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

February 17, 2010 Minutes

The February HOA Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Grand Blanc Township Police Station Community Center room with seventeen (17) residents and eight (8) Township Employees (Supervisor Hoffman, Trustees Anderson and Thompson, Police Captain Dennis Rariden, Planner Deem, Fire Chief Harmes, DPW Director Richardson and Manager Dunnill) present. Only twelve (12) of the seventeen (17) residents choose to sign in on the attendance sheet. All twelve (12) of the residents signing in supplied their e-mail address. The group continues to express disappointed over the light turnout but everyone remains optimistic about the long term potential to expand the number of attendees. Group members continue to explore avenues for improving the communication link between the subdivisions/residents and the Township.

Since the previous e-mail address information collected over the past year is not available to Manager Dunnill, everyone has been encouraged to spread the word about future meeting dates, times and location. Thanks to the e-mail information provided this evening and with the help of members like Robert Swanson, a new current electronic address list is being developed.

Manager Dunnill introduced DPW Director Richardson who spoke briefly about the need for replacing the Township's current skid steer vehicle. Pictures of the ten (10) year old piece of equipment showing the heavy bottom rust and deterioration were distributed. The vehicle was also made available for hands on inspection but due to the weather, no one elected to go outside and gather any additional information. Several attendees expressed a desire to view the DPW operation and gain a better understanding of what types and quantities of equipment the Department has available for Township projects. Mr. Richardson offered to provide a tour when the weather improves later this spring or summer.

Mr. Richardson answered questions regarding the Township's Water Supply System, hydrant maintenance program and backup well system. Mr. Richardson also explained the difference between the Township's water supply system and the City of Grand Blanc's water supply system.

Supervisor Hoffman spoke about her involvement in County level programs such as: Roads & Bridges, Water & Waste and County Planning activities. She also explained how she is focusing more of her time on grant research and writing.

Mr. Ken Porzondek spoke briefly about an e-mail he had distributed and a conversation he had participated in with Supervisor Hoffman regarding HOAC member public comment time at Township Board Meetings. Manager Dunnill reviewed the Charter Township Act and State law governing the creation of a seven (7) member Charter Township Board and the ability of the Board to appoint a non-voting member to participate in discussion only. This individual is by law referred to as a Superintendent, the position currently held by Richard Dunnill.

Manager Dunnill introduced Fire Chief Harmes. Chief Harmes spoke about the makeup of the Fire Commission (two Fire Commission Members were in attendance, HOAC Member Todd Barnes and Fire Commission Chairperson Patty Rockafellow). Chief Harmes also reviewed the Fire Departments structure, it is a paid on call Department which means Fire Fighters respond from their homes, we do not have full time Fire Fighters in our Fire Stations waiting for an alarm to come in. Chief Harmes continued his presentation by explaining the Fire Commissions desire to see both the City and Township of Grand Blanc replace the current Act 33 which governs the Fire Commissions operations and adopt Act 57. Under Act 57 the Fire Commission would continue to operate as it does today with representatives from both communities sitting on the governing board, however, under Act 57 the Commission could own property, apply for grants and seeking funding through a voter approved millage. Chief Harmes explained the financial impact State and Federal unfunded mandates (for example replacing turnout gear every ten years, recent requirements regarding air packs and new mandates for equipment on the fire trucks) are having on the Departments annual budget. The group discussed their concerns over current response times, lack of full time staffing and concerns over a millage to support fire operations. Chief Harmes suggested that a voter approved 1 mill plus a .2 mill contribution from the City and Township would be a good funding source for the Fire Departments long term operation and allow for hiring Fire Fighters.

Planner Deem and Manager Dunnill will be developing a list of every subdivision, condo association, trailer park and apartment complex within the Township. The information will be placed on a map, numbered and if a contact person is know that information will be listed. If no contact person is currently listed we will add the information to the master list as it becomes available.

The next HOAC meeting will be on March 17th starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Police Department Community Room. Discussion topics will include: explaining the roles and responsibilities of the Township Supervisor and Superintendent, how to organize the Association, need for officers (chairperson, vice chairperson and recording secretary), how to identify missing HOA's, how to entice more participation and the possibility of running a PSA in the local newspaper. Attending members agreed to bring ideas on how to identify and bring more people to the meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Richard F. Dunnill – Township Manager