

**GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009**

WORK SESSION – 6:00 P.M.

1. Staff noted that by changing vendors from Standard Insurance to AUL for Life and UNUM for disability, GHT would save approximately \$8,932 per year. Staff will be seeking Board approval to change vendors during the Consent Agenda. There were no objections.
2. Cargo noted that seven (7) of the fourteen (14) respondents to the survey regarding options for the Sunset Trails SAD were opposed to proceeding. Staff is recommending that the project be discontinued for the following reasons:
 - a. Because at least 50% of the property owners do not believe that the special benefit will enhance the value of their property in a like or greater amount;
 - b. Because the cost increase could result in GHT spending – up-front -- \$321,000 for the special benefit of only fourteen (14) property owners;
 - c. Because the cost increase could create the potential for property owners to make a legal argument that the special benefit accruing to their property from the SAD (i.e., *availability of municipal water and enhanced fire suppression*) is less than the cost of the assessment (i.e., *about \$17,196*).

The Board discussed staff recommendation and agreed to drop the SAD request.

3. Cargo noted that GHT received on Monday, May 11th a request from the Ottawa County Conservation District to participate in the 2009 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. (*The information was distributed to the Board at the meeting.*) The total program cost is estimated at \$123,100 with the local units paying 50% of the total. For GHT that figure is estimated at \$10,720 for treating 487 acres. The Conservation District was delayed in providing information to the locals due to the unexpected loss of a state grant to offset the cost and is now coming before the locals at the last minute. A decision needs to be made immediately as to whether GHT should participate. The options for the GHT Board include:
 - a. Authorize Cargo to sign the agreement and participate in the gypsy moth suppression program for 2009, at a cost of \$10,720 with the understanding that staff will prepare the necessary budget amendments or line item transfer to cover the expenditure;
 - b. Decline participation with the understanding that this could result in “hot spot” infestations that would create a significant nuisance for property owners in these hot spots.

The Board instructed Cargo to place on the consent agenda.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor French called the regular meeting of the Grand Haven Charter Township Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

Board members present: Jenkins, Veach, Kieft, Worthington, Larsen, Buitenhuis and French
Board members absent: None.

Also present were Manager Cargo, Community Development Director Waterman, and Fire/Rescue Chief Gerencer.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Trustee Jenkins and seconded by Trustee Larsen to approve the meeting agenda. **Which motion carried.**

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve April 27, 2009 Board Minutes
2. Approve Payment for Invoices
3. Approve Business Day Proclamation (*Generation Care*)
4. Approve Change of Vendors for Life/LTD/STD Insurance
5. Approve Sale of Surplus Equipment (*i.e., 1985 GMC Tanker Truck*) through Fenton Fire Equipment.
6. Approve 2009 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program (\$10,720)

Motion by Trustee Jenkins and seconded by Supervisor French to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. **Which motion carried.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Motion** by Trustee Jenkins and seconded by Trustee Worthington to discontinue the proposed Water Special Assessment District for the Sunset Trails area of the Township that was designed to create a special benefit to fourteen property owners. The so-called Sunset Trails Water SAD is cancelled due to (1) anticipated cost increases over the original construction cost estimates; (2) a survey that indicates that 50% of the owners no longer support the program; and (3) an uncertainty on the part of the Grand Haven Charter Township Board that the cost of the assessment would equal the special benefit being created by the Sunset Trails Water SAD. It is noted that all costs incurred during the creation and subsequent engineering for the Sunset Trails SAD will be responsibility of the Township. Staff is instructed to write a letter to each of the property owners to explain the Board's decision. **Which motion carried.**
2. Discussion was held regarding Chapter 8 (*i.e., the Joint Robbins Road Plan with the city of Grand Haven*) of the proposed Township Master Plan.

Motion by Trustee Larsen and seconded by Trustee Veach to table the Chapter 8 of the Proposed Master Plan and instructed staff to schedule a special work session with the Planning Commission to discuss, as well as have a presentation of the roundabout and TND issues. **Which motion carried.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Motion** by Trustee Larsen and seconded by Clerk Buitenhuis to approve and authorize the purchase of an AED through the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department at a cost of \$2,109.27. Further, the Superintendent is authorized to prepare either a line item transfer or a budget amendment, if necessary, to cover this non-budgeted equipment purchase. **Which motion carried.**
2. **Motion** by Trustee Worthington and seconded by Trustee Larsen to approve an exception for Rich Street east of 168th Avenue (*i.e., a private road constructed along an unimproved McNitt right-of-way*) to the following sections of the Private Roads and Driveways Ordinance pursuant to Section 7:
 - Allowing a roadway with a 12' in width with a 5' roadside ditch rather than the 23' width required;
 - Allowing a roadway with a minimum clear and passable area 16' in width rather than the 27' required.
 - Allowing construction of a gravel roadway with 12 inches of crushed concrete rather than a bituminous roadway constructed to OCRC standards required;
 - Allowing a private roadway that does not have a maintenance/special assessment agreement as required by the ordinance;
 - Allowing a roadway without a cul-de-sac that meets the requirements of the OCRC;
 - Allowing a roadway that is not served by municipal water as required by the ordinance.

This exception is only for the existing homes and four vacant lots (*i.e., 100-017; 100-046; 100-047; and 200-011*). This exception will **not** be provided to or be used to authorize any split/land division or newly created lot.

This exception is granted pursuant to the following findings:

- a. That the strict application of the literal terms of this ordinance would impose an undue hardship.
- b. That emergency vehicles better access the property if the improvements are completed.

It is noted that this exception does not relieve the property owners from meeting all other environmental, permitting, or other requirements that may arise during the course of the road improvement construction.

Further, although not a condition of approval, it is recommended that the property owners along this private road develop a maintenance agreement. **Which motion carried.**

VIII. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence was reviewed.
2. Committee Reports
3. Superintendent's Report

- a. Cargo noted that because of the adverse grade between 168th Avenue and 160th Avenue (*i.e., about ten feet*), it will not be possible to address the storm drain issues along 168th Avenue/Hiawatha (*i.e., sections 33 and 34*) by extending the Cooper Drain District. Rather, it appears that it is necessary to create a new drain district that would convey storm water to Lake Michigan or Little Pigeon Creek. The Drain Commissioner will need to complete an engineering study to determine where the storm water in these sections of the Township can be conveyed. Cargo will be meeting with the Drain Commissioner on Wednesday, May 13th.

- b. Cargo noted that issue within the Vincent Drain District along 178th Avenue began with complaints/issues from the Fairmount Court, Oakhill Court, Hunters Lane, Pepperridge and 178th Avenue areas in July of 2008. Issues ranged from standing water on property to flooded basements. A petition requesting drainage improvements was received by the Drain Commissioner's Office on January 5, 2009. Petition was circulated by David Rodgers, 15030 Fairmount Ct. and signed by 18 property owners (*only 5 signatures are required by statute*). A public hearing is the next step and is in the process of being scheduled, probably in mid-June at the Township Board chambers.

Emergency maintenance was performed to the existing Vincent Drain along the east side of 178th Avenue, which included cleaning out the drain bottom from just south of Hunters Lane to approximately 600' north of Brucker. Maintenance to the drain from this point downstream was performed last year. Emergency work also included temporarily pumping water from the Hunters Lane area across 178th Avenue to the Vincent Drain after it was determined that this activity would not have a negative impact on drainage along that corridor. Project from the mid-90's required bonds to be issued. The 2009 special assessment is for installment 14 of 20.

Cost estimates to improve this section of the Vincent Drain are \$200,000+. Recall that improvements to this area of the Vincent Drain district were removed from the original Vincent Drain project in the mid-1990's in an attempt to reduce costs and because residents in the area did not believe the improvements were necessary.

- c. Cargo noted that cost estimates from the OCRC for gravel road improvements, including maintenance on roadside ditches, have been received from the OCRC. The total length of the proposed gravel road program is approximately 5.8 miles with a total estimated cost \$296,650 with GHT contributing \$236,677 (*or about 80%*) and the OCRC contributing \$59,977 (*or about 20%*). Cargo had tentatively projected a budget of about \$145,000 for this project in 2009. The Public Works and Transportation Committee will be meeting to decide what portions of the plan, besides Buchannan Street, to complete in 2009.

4. Others

IX. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

1. Marsha Bly, 10166 Hiawatha, addressed the Board with concerns regarding the flooding at Hiawatha/Lakeshore.
2. Steve Diehardt, corner Lakeshore/Hiawatha, addressed the Board with concerns regarding the flooding

- at Lakeshore/Hiawatha.
3. Dave VanderLaan, 9647 Fillmore, also discussed flooding in the township.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor French adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Buitenhuis
Grand Haven Charter Township Clerk

Karl French
Grand Haven Charter Township Supervisor