

GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

June 26, 2017

The Grand Rapids Township Trustees met at 7:00 P.M. in the Grand Rapids Fire Hall. Roll call was answered by Rita Foos, Eric Flora and Tracy Punches. There were eight guests present.

Eric Flora moved to approve the minutes and dispense with reading the minutes of the previous meeting as copies were made available to guests. 2nd by Rita Foos. Roll Call YES: Rita Foos, Eric Flora and Tracy Punches. Motion carried.

Bills in the amount of \$12,694.78 were presented for approval by the Fiscal Officer. Tracy Punches moved to pay all bills as presented. 2nd by Rita Foos. Roll Call YES: Eric Flora, Rita Foos and Tracy Punches. Motion carried.

Richard Keifer reported fire runs 69-74.

John Topp addressed the board and said that it was his understanding that some statements were made at the last meeting about him and his business, Topp Excavating, Inc. by Tracy Punches that were not true. John asked Tracy to read the minutes from the last meeting. After he finished reading the minutes John Topp said that he was never asked to come back and fix anything for the township. Tracy Punches claimed that there were issues with the Sycamore road project that John Topp Excavating, Inc. should have addressed. John Topp also asked to see the court documented records Tracy Punches referred to and asked Tracy to read them and show them to him. Topp claimed that Tracy made false statements. Tracy Punches declined to read the court document and stated that he was not going to get into this during a meeting. John Topp said that he will give Tracy and the board two weeks to provide court documented evidence that he or his company does not warranty his work. He also stated that if this is not provided he will do what he has to do.

Dave Chamberlain spoke and brought up that when he was the zoning inspector the meetings were recorded and asked why they were not recorded any more. Fiscal Officer Cary Long spoke and said that the township had been advised not to record the meetings anymore and only put in the minutes certain statements that are made and decisions that are made.

Eric Flora informed the board that the EMS district is sending the squad to Cleveland for a service but will have a replacement squad to use during the service.

Dave Chamberlain asked the board what they were going to do with the old set of jaws once the new set is placed in service. He was told that the old set will be sold if the fire department does not keep them.

Rita Foos said that GT Contracting, Inc. had completed the crack sealing on Long Judson Road and in the cemetery as we had agreed on and that she felt they did a good job.

Gary Haas informed the board that the cemetery mower is back in service. He also mentioned that he liked the rear discharge demo they sent out and that the township could get a 60 inch rear discharge mower for \$11,500.

Gary Haas brought up the letter from Lionel Long that was mentioned in the last meeting and asked the board if they wanted to discuss it. Gary asked Bob Bachman who was mentioned in the letter to come to the meeting and give his opinion on the job that Gary is doing. Bob Bachman spoke and said that when he was mowing the township roads he was only mowing about five foot of the road side and that Gary is mowing about ten. Bob also said that this is not the time of year to be mowing the back side of ditches and that he didn't think the township should be spraying round-up because of the risk of crop damage. Bob claimed that Gary is doing a better job on township roads than what he did and asked Gary to keep up the good work. Gary said that he has been spending three hours a day spraying round-up and that it has been difficult because it has been very windy this year. Gary said that he was told to only mow the back side of ditches once a year and to do it in the fall. Gary asked the board for guidance on what he should be mowing and what the board wanted him to spray. He was told not to spray around poles and guide wires except at intersections where there are visibility issues.

Gary Haas asked the board if he was hired by the board as a civil service employee and that it was his understanding that a civil service employee is an hourly employee. He also asked the board why he is not getting sick leave; he claimed that every other township employee in the county gets 12.9 days of sick leave each year as do all city and county employees. Gary also brought up a pay raise and mentioned that he usually gets a raise every year in March but has not received a raise this year. Gary said that he has done a good job maintaining the township and meeting with contractors; sometimes after work hours.

Tracy Punches said that the board had to look into the civil service employee issue. Gary Haas asked if he was at the top of his pay rate and that if he was he should still get cost of living raise. Rita Foos said that at his current rate of pay and the CSI a cost of living raise would be \$.13 an hour. Gary also brought the use of his personal cell phone. Gary was informed that he

was given a \$.25 an hour increase in pay in the past to cover the use of his cell phone. Gary said that this was acceptable to him.

Rita Foos asked Tracy Panches if he had received any bids on the Benschoter Road drainage project. Tracy said that he had not. Rita said that she would like to get this project moving because there is an exposed hole on the side of the road. Rita Foos stated that Topp Excavating, Inc. was the low bid and that they have done work for the township in the past along with work for the Village, other townships and work for residents in the township.

Rita Foos moved to hire Topp Ecavating, Inc. to do the drainage work on Benschoter Road. 2nd by Eric Flora. Roll Call YES: Rita Foos, Eric Flora. NO: Tracy Panches. Motion carried

Eric Flora moved to go into executive session to discuss employee issues. 2nd by Tracy Panches. Roll Call YES: Eric Flora, Rita Foos and Tracy Panches. Motion carried. Tracy Panches moved to exit the executive session. 2nd by Eric Flora. Roll Call YES: Rita Foos, Eric Flora and Tracy Panches. Motion carried.

It was decided to have Rita Foos contact the Wood County prosecuting Attorney's office on the civil service employee issue .

The meeting was adjourned.

Trustees

Fiscal Officer

