

**GRAFTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
November 9, 2006**

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Rossi called the meeting of the Grafton Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting were as follows: Supervisor Rossi, Assessor Ottley, Highway Commissioner Freund, Clerk Frigo, Trustees Brothers, LaPorta, Murphy and Zirk. Also present was Rose Anne DiRenzo.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was administered at this time.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of meeting Minutes

Supervisor Rossi called for a motion to approve the October 12, 2006, minutes per the following corrections:

Trustee Brothers referenced page 9, paragraph 2, line 2, as follows: Rose Anne will see to my duties in lieu of me **or** in my absence only. Delete the word: **or**.

Supervisor Rossi referenced page 11, paragraph 5, line 7, as follows: I asked you if you would meet with Mr. Freund and I to discuss his budget and you **did** meet. Delete the word: **did**. Add the words: **met with Mr. Freund along with the attorneys**.

Assessor Ottley referenced page 2, Assessor's Report, bullet point 5, as follows: permits for **new homes** not assessable. Delete the word: **new**. Add the following: permits for **home assessment improvements not assessable**.

Motion made: Trustee Zirk

Second to motion: Trustee Brothers

Roll vote: All ayes

Motion carried.

V. Review and Approval of Accounts

Supervisor Rossi stated that there were no funds transfers.

Trustee Brothers inquired about Line #5015 in the amount of \$41,222.00 under General Assistance and Intergovernmental Agreement. Supervisor Rossi explained that amount was transferred in to cover transportation, plus salary.

Supervisor Rossi informed the Board and Staff in reference to bills paid, the Highway Commissioner provided the Supervisor's Office with gas logs that were previously requested. He stated that the Highway Commissioner did comply.

Trustee Zirk inquired about how much fuel was being used and what the price per gallon was. It was suggested that the fuel charge is \$2.16 a gallon.

VI. Officials Reports

Supervisor's Report

General Assistance/Food Pantry Report

Supervisor Rossi stated that everything has leveled off a little bit this month. Also, that there is more help required this month with reference to the Food Pantry.

- **123 individuals**
- **43 households**

Supervisor Rossi expressed that he is very pleased. He informed all that an outside agency; Baird & Warner Realty in conjunction with the Huntley Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a "Giving Tree" to all of the participants who visit the Township Food Pantry and G.A. offices. He stated that all is running smoothly and all of the recipients are very grateful. He thanked with much gratitude the Huntley Legion for donating the turkeys for Thanksgiving and the Huntley Lions, that Highway Commissioner Freund is the Chairman of, for donating turkeys for the Christmas season. He expressed how grateful he is to the community.

Trustee Brothers informed all that Shepherd of the Prairie was very generous as well. Supervisor Rossi said that many families are going to be helped this season.

Trustee Brothers inquired about certain items that the Food Pantry is in need of. Rose Anne DiRenzo stated that the Food Pantry is pretty stocked up on items, but is low on canned goods.

Senior Services

Supervisor Rossi informed the Board and Staff that all is moving along with the McHenry County grant. Mr. Labaj, Deputy County Administrator for the McHenry County Senior Services, informed Supervisor Rossi that the grant money would be obtained in December after it is official, for the purchase of a \$60,000 bus. Supervisor Rossi invited the Board and Staff to travel to Kankakee on November 26, 2006, to visit the transportation facility. **See Exhibit #1 on file.**

Supervisor Rossi informed all of the upcoming levy and provided a projected 2006 extension (for 2007 collection) and a template Township levy ordinance. **See Exhibit #2 & 3 on file.**

Supervisor Rossi informed all that the Township would be levying for 12.9% this year and that the Highway Commissioner would discuss his increase during his report.

Highway Commissioner Freund stated that the Road District would be levying for 18% this year.

BY TRUSTEE ZIRK:

That's steep.

BY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER FREUND:

Last year we were going to ask for 18%. Nobody said anything because we have got to try to get the motor fuel tax (MFT) money back. So, maybe in two years, we will get that back again. We will have more without that.

Supervisor Rossi explained each line item on the Township levy and stated that the levy would be ready for approval at the December meeting.

Supervisor Rossi called for a roll vote at this time in regards to the Township and Road District levies.

Roll vote:

Ayes: 4

Nayes: 1; Trustee Zirk

Assessor Ottley explained the following:

BY ASSESSOR OTTLEY:

There is a 5% cap on money. There is a provision that if you levy for more than the amount, then you can cap the money off of the new growth. In other words, by levying more, the new people moving in are being taxed at the same rate. For new construction, new growth not counted in when the County calculates the "tax rate." They are coming in to a lesser rate than they should be. This subsidizes new growth. You must make sure you are levying sufficiently. The levy has nothing to do with the tax rate amount because

the amount received is capped. We are close to 1-hundred-million. We fell short, 99-million.

BY SUPERVISOR ROSSI:

We did not levy for insurance. We have sufficient funds.

Transportation Committee Report

Trustee Zirk informed the Board and Staff of the following:

- **142 rides**
- **\$198.50**

See Exhibit #4 on file.

Supervisor Rossi informed the Board and Staff the he has entered into discussions with Lake in the Hills and Algonquin to discuss a pilot program and possible implementation of an Intergovernmental Agreement in support of a transportation program. He added that he would inform the Board and Staff as meetings and discussions develop. He also stated that he has been in contact with the Village of Huntley as well. He expressed that the Village of Huntley would play a major role in the implementation of a transportation system.

Trustee Brothers stated that the City of Woodstock gave up its transportation program and turned it over to Laidlaw. Trustee Brothers also referenced an article she brought to Supervisor Rossi's attention in regards to Kane County and how they secured funds.

See Exhibit #5 on file.

BY SUPERVISOR ROSSI:

The Township is in business to provide the public with service.

BY TRUSTEE LAPORTA:

Thank you to Supervisor Rossi, Trustee Zirk and Clerk Frigo for all of their hard work in obtaining the grant money through McHenry County Senior Services.

BY SUPERVISOR ROSSI:

Thank you to everyone. This is a reflection on the whole Board.

Assessor's Report

Assessor Ottley stated the following:

- **246 permits**
- **57 new homes**

Assessor Ottley stated that the remainder of permits were home improvements, some assessable some not assessable. He added that the tax roll was published today in the Huntley Farmside.

He informed the Board and Staff of an assessor's program called Dev-Net. He stated that is very economical. He informed all that Chad Schmidt is checking on the hardware needed to run the program and that his offices could be at least one-year and two-months away from running the program.

Highway Commissioner's Report

Highway Commissioner stated the following:

- **3 special moving permits**
- **\$157.00**

He informed the Board and Staff that his offices had already more this month. He stated that he is still mowing and trimming trees, mowing to be finished. He added that final patching of roads, excluding potholes. He is starting to put snow equipment on trucks. He offered the Board and Staff to give him a call or visit the office with any questions. **See Exhibit #6 on file.**

BY SUPERVISOR ROSSI:

Q: What is going on with the sewers and the Village of Huntley?

BY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER FREUND:

A: The last couple of days they put some manholes in were the water drops off. They may be doing more land spading. The County Engineer talked to the Village Engineer.

Supervisor Rossi stated that he contacted the County Engineer to call Bill Blecke, the Village of Huntley Engineer.

The record shall reflect that there was a discussion about the aforementioned.

Trustee LaPorta suggested putting a letter together to the Village of Huntley affixed with the County Engineer's documentation.

Clerk's Report

Clerk Frigo informed the Board and Staff that she had a meeting with the Highway Commissioner on November 3, 2006, and reiterated her request for all original documents of the Road District. She stated that they had a pleasant discussion. Highway Commissioner Freund wished to confer with his attorney and henceforth, his attorney would be in contact with Township Attorney Kelly. **See Exhibits 7, 8 & 9.**

BY TRUSTEE LAPORTA:

Q: Why are we wasting more money? What more is there to prove?

BY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER FREUND:

A: Let them handle it. You're not the lawyer, that's their job.

Q: Why don't you want to hand over these documents, Jack? By law, she's the record keeper.

A: Let's go over it with our attorneys.

The record shall reflect that Trustee LaPorta expressed his frustration with regards to the records being turned over to the clerk and the money that has been wasted.

BY TRUSTEE LAPORTA:

I don't know what to say anymore. What is he hiding? I am sick of this nonsense. I would recommend getting our auditors for a mid-year audit and have all of the records audited completely and put this to rest.

Supervisor Rossi called for a motion to hire an outside auditor.

Motion made: Trustee LaPorta

Second to motion: Trustee Zirk

Roll vote: All ayes.

Motion carried.

Supervisor Rossi stated that Clerk Frigo has an outstanding and orderly system of filing. She also has a fire proof cabinet. He stated that she is the record keeper.

Clerk Frigo informed all of the NISRA fashion show on November 18, 2006. She informed all that her family would be participating in the program.

She also informed the Board and Staff of the Foundations implementation of a "Parents Night Out" program for parents/caregivers of special needs children in District 158. She also added that she is on a mentorship program through District 158 preschool special needs/at-risk children. This program provides mentors for families coping with children with disabilities.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

Trustee LaPorta stated that as the ethics officer, he was informed that some of Grafton Townships salt is kept at Coral Township.

BY TRUSTEE LAPORTA:

Q: Why do we keep our salt at another township?

BY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER FREUND:

A: Because we don't have room over here. We keep seven loads there.

Q: Has that been done before?

BY TRUSTEE ZIRK:

A: Yes.

BY SUPERVISOR ROSSI:

Q: Do you have a log for all that salt? We should have something in writing that we have seven loads over there.

BY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER FREUND:

A: No.

BY TRUSTEE LAPORTA:

I would recommend that you do that.

BY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER FREUND:

A: I don't have to do that, Sir.

BY TRUSTEE LAPORTA:

That isn't part of your job to decide. The clerk should have a log.

The record shall reflect that there was a discussion in regards to the salt and the salt logs.

BY TRUSTEE LAPORTA:

Another reason to have an auditor in, basic accounting for things.

The record shall reflect that Trustee LaPorta expressed his dissatisfaction with the way the Road District handles its records system, etc.

BY TRUSTEE BROTHERS:

Q: Is there anything written down what comes in and what goes out?

BY TRUSTEE LAPORTA:

A: No. Not in or out.

BY TRUSTEE BROTHERS:

I have always said this; you need to treat this job as if you were going to die tonight because whomever steps in should be able to pickup where the other left off.

BY SUPERVISOR ROSSI:

Q: Why do we keep gas logs? Is salt any less than gas? Look at how much salt is and it is not even at our township.

BY TRUSTEE LAPORTA:

A: 100,000 tons of salt not accountable for. I am requesting an Executive Session.

Mack Titus commented on the projected increase in electricity. Also, on the Dev-Net assessor program that Assessor Ottley discussed. Assessor Ottley referred to the Deb-Net website.

IX. Executive Session

There was a motion to adjourn into Executive Session.

Motion made: Trustee LaPorta

Second to motion: Trustee Zirk

Roll vote: All ayes.

Motion carried.

The Grafton Township Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

Supervisor Rossi called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made: Trustee Brothers

Second to motion: Trustee Murphy

Roll vote: All ayes.

Motion carried.

The Grafton Township Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dina M. Frigo

Exhibits

- 1. Article-Daily Herald-Grants for senior programs**
- 2. Grafton Twnshp. Projected extension**
- 3. Township levy template**
- 4. Transportation figures**
- 5. Trustee Brothers article transportation**
- 6. Road Dist. Bills**
- 7. Clerk Frigo 10/31/06 letter to Road Dist.**
- 8. Clerk Frigo 11/03/06 letter to Road Dist.**
- 9. Twnshp. Atty Kelly letter 10/30/06-Overweight Permits**
- 10. Glenn Schmeltzer resignation letter-10/25/06**

(clerkmins11090601)