

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREEN CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP BOARD WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:30 P.M. APRIL 08, 2008.  
THE SUPERVISOR LEAD THE BOARD IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE  
FLAG.**

JOHN M. WELLNITZ,	SUPERVISOR
JANET CLARK,	CLERK
DENIS MACFARLANE	TREASURER
A. DONALD GRANT	TRUSTEE
GARY TODD	TRUSTEE
JAMES T. PEEK	TRUSTEE
BARBARA WALDRON	TRUSTEE - ABSENT

**MINUTES**

The clerk presented the minutes of the regular March 11, 2008 board meeting.

**MOTION** was made by James Peek and supported by G. Todd to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2008 meeting with the correction of 7 yes for the minutes. **MOTION CARRIED. 6 YES 1 ABSENT.**

The clerk presented the minutes of the Park & Recreation meeting of March 23, 2008.

**MOTION** was made by G. Todd and supported by J. Peek to accept the minutes of March 23, 2008. **MOTION CARRIED. 6 yes 1 absent**

**TREASURERS REPORT**

The treasurer presented the treasurers report:

4-03-08 General fund balance	\$675,081.05
3-06-08 Sewer fund balance	\$434,674.45

**MOTION** was made by G. Todd and supported by J. Peek to accept the treasurer's report as presented in both funds. **MOTION CARRIED. 6 yes 1 absent**

**SEWER REPORT**

**MISS DIGS** – Reports for flagging the sewer lines for Miss Digg was received from Brad Harrington of Big Rapids Township and placed on file.

Dennis Vandawater submitted the sewer report of Green Charter Township as follows:

2/29/08-4/1/08

Reading-----105141270

Total Flow-----972910

Average daily flow-----30403 All is working fine. Denny will be on vacation from April 13th–19th and Bill Stevens will be on call. The generator has been serviced and tested.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

The minutes of the Township Planning Commission were received of 1-16-08, 2-13-08, 3-5-08.

G. Todd from the Planning Commission reported the Planning Commission will be doing a phone survey of the township for public input on needs and wishes of the residents.

The board was asked for comments and suggestions to be submitted to the Planning Commission for the survey questioner. The suggestion was survey some of the residents on 19 Mile east and west of Northland Drive with regards to the sewer.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**PRECINCT DELIGATES**

Gordon Trute was present to distribute precinct delegate's forms.

## **SEWER USERCHARGE - REPORT**

Issues of discussion were

1. Request written document from attorney Jim White and Paul Stauder's rate study on the user charge by our next board meeting.
2. Discussion of sewer authority and number of representatives.
3. Need for township to receive report on the administrative costs and fringe benefits included in the Usercharge by the City of Big Rapids.
4. Big Rapids Township opted to continue with current sewer Usercharge system.
5. Contact Jim White and cancel April 9th phone conference call.
6. Need to get the Usercharge issue settled, suggesting the township have a meeting with the representatives at the City to see what we can do to get it resolved.
7. Suggested possible meeting with the billing person either from the Treasurer's office and/or the person from the engineering office who calculates the Usercharge invoices.
8. Treatment plant upgrade questions brought to the light by Jim White addressed to the City Mayor.

J. Clark, clerk read questions and concerns on the user charge/ authority.

What would be the cost savings?

What would the "Authority accomplish"?

Would the Authority be more efficient?

What is wrong with current agreement?

Why do the townships wish to create another layer of bureaucracy?

Why would the board want to negate our elected duties to represent our township?

How would the Authority accomplish goals differently then the way things and issues are accomplished currently with the "Usercharge/ Agreement" contract?

In what ways would the "Authority" be different than current boards and Usercharge/Agreement?

Why would Big Rapids City allow four representatives from the townships and three from the City on the Authority Board?

What would be the cost to hire Stauder/Barch to study the issue of "An Authority" and put together an authority?

Would Green Charter Township's cost share be 50 %?

Or should we be using our percent of billable flow as is current the method of billing in the Usercharge?

What is the dollar estimate amount for Green Charter Township that is the issue on the plant upgrade?

What is the calculated dollar amount on the current way of billing the townships in the current Usercharge?

If we spend dollars on creating, implementing and funding an authority with the same members/representatives what would cause the authority to better accomplish the goals?

What other like municipality is the example the authority would be designed as?

Is the population and flow usage comparable to our three entities?

Will the upgrade advance payments keep increasing?

How is it accounted for and tracked?

## **PARK AND RECREATION**

Clerk Clark reported the grant application for the flower path was denied. But we will try again. The Garden Club did commit to \$500.00 matching money.

The Park Committee will get current estimate for this flower path construction.

Also discussed acquisition grant applications for the river property, bridge and trails. The Committee will walk and assess the park north of the creek and west of the park on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **ROADS**

The supervisor reported he attended the Road Commission meeting today and 18 Mile Road including the intersection of Shamrock and 18 Mile at Northland Drive was on the agenda. There was a discussion and Jack presented the MDOT and Road Commission suggested plans for improvements to this intersection.

**MOTION** was made by J. Peek and supported by D. Grant to send a letter to the Mecosta County Road Commission, explaining the township is not happy with the proposed plan for the intersection of Northland Drive, 18 Mile Road and Shamrock Boulevard. And until a better proposal without closing off the south exit of the subdivision to Northland Drive is received, no township funding will be authorized. **MOTION CARRIED. 6 YES, 1 ABSENT**

### **2008 ROAD PROJECTS**

There was a discussion on possible road projects for 2008 season. It was uncertain if the county drive around has been completed. G. Todd reported at the road meeting in Remus, MDOT indicated it would be 5 years before Northland Drive would be looked at.

Road Commission would be blacktopping 1 mile from Newcosta to 230<sup>th</sup> Ave. on 22 Mile Road. Roads for county consideration are

1. Water Street in Paris
2. 18 Mile Road and Shamrock intersection
3. Lawrence Circle

Meceola Road first mile west of Northland Drive the clerk reported that information from Richmond Township was that it may get in the next 2-3 years by MDOT when traffic is re-routed for Northland Drive work from 3 Mile to Meceola Road.

No action taken.

### **HALL USE SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

**MOTION** was made by G. Todd and supported by J. Peek to allow the hall use at no charge for the Special Olympics physicals. **MOTION CARRIED. 6 YES 1 ABSENT**

### **CEMETERY LOT PURCHASE**

**MOTION** was made by G. Todd and supported by J. Peek to follow the normal rates for cemetery lot sales. **MOTION CARRIED. 6 YES 1 ABSENT**

### **CEMETERIES – WELL PUMPS**

There was a discussion on the need for maintenance check of the cemeteries well pumps and decks.

### **PORTA –JON FOR TOWNSHIP HALL PARK**

**MOTION** was made by G. Todd and supported by J. Peek to contract with Tri County Portable Toilets & Septic Cleaning for a Porte Jon at the township hall from April 15 – Oct 15 (6 months) at the rate of \$105.00 bi-weekly pumping, fully stocked. **MOTION CARRIED. 6 YES 1 ABSENT**  
Grant, Todd, MacFarlane, Wellnitz, Clark, Peek, Waldron-absent

### **MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> ELECTION**

**MOTION** was made by J. Peek and supported by G. Todd to appoint the following as election inspectors for the May 6<sup>th</sup> 2008 election. Janet Clark, Sandee Farlow, Paulette Reed, Bob Baldwin  
**MOTION CARRIED. 6 YES 1 ABSENT**

### **BIG RAPIDS CITY MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Lynne Schieble has requested to meet with the township board to get input for the Big Rapids City Master Plan updating. The board suggested she come to the May meeting.

### **SPRING DISTRICT MEETING**

**MOTION** was made by J. Peek and supported by G. Todd to authorize attendance to the MTA Spring District meeting. **MOTION CARRIED. 6 YES 1 ABSENT** Waldron-absent, Peek, Clark, Wellnitz, MacFarlane, Todd, Grant

### **AUDIT**

**MOTION** was made by D. Grant and supported by J. Peek to contract with Brickley-Delong for the township annual audit. **MOTION CARRIED. 6 YES 1 ABSENT**

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION** was made by J. Peek and supported by G. Todd to approve the following amendments in the Sewer fund. **MOTION CARRIED. 6 yes 1 ABSENT.** Grant, Todd, MacFarlane, Wellnitz, Clark, Peek, Waldron

	A	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	3/31/2008	4/8/2008					
2	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	BUDGET	AMENDED AMOUNT	NEW NEW	AMENDED BALANCE
3							
4	<b>SEWER FUND</b>						\$ -
5	590-000-818	CAPITOL EXPANSION	\$ 8,695.61	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 4.39
6	from						
7	590-000-9360	REPAIRS	\$ 929.00	\$ 4,531.00	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ 3,531.00	\$ 2,602.00
8							

**CLEANUP DAY MAY 17, 2008 7:30 A.M.**

**SEWER RATES/ USERCHARGE**

Treasurer D. MacFarlane prepared a spread sheet comparing the sewer costs and charges. After the Usercharge calculations are in agreement between the City and the Township, the sewer rates may need to be adjusted. She has also sent this information to the township auditor for review.

**AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**MOTION** was made by G. Todd and supported J. Peek by to approve payment of the following bills: **MOTION CARRIED. 6 YES 1 absent** Grant, Todd, MacFarlane Wellnitz, Clark, Peek, Waldron-absent

**GENERAL FUND** 3/31/08-3/31/08 CK # 8512 - 8525 \$ 1,301.75

**GENERAL FUND** 4/08/08-4/08/08 CK # 8526 - 8554 \$89,057.53 (*\$78,494.81 if for the fire protection contract with Big Rapids City*)

**GREEN SEWER FUND** 3/31/08 CK # 2362 \$ 714.00

**GREEN SEWER FUND** 4/8/08-4/8/08 CK # 2363- 2370 \$13,421.84

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION** was made by G. Todd and supported by J. Peek to adjourn. 9:15 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED. 6 yes 1 absent**

Janet Clark, Township Clerk