

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FLUSHING
6524 N. SEYMOUR ROAD
FLUSHING, MICHIGAN 48433
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE: JUNE 12, 2008 **TIME: 7:00 P.M.**
PHONE: 810-659-0800 **FAX 810-659-4212**
WEB PAGE: <http://www.flushingtowship.com>

ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS

SUPERVISOR: Andrew Trotogot
CLERK: Julia A. Morford
TREASURER: Carl G. Liepmann

TRUSTEES

Ann L. Fotenakes
Scott Minaudo
Barry Pratt
Ida M. Reed

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY:

STEVEN MOULTON
Cooley Moulton & Smith LLP
727 S. Grand Traverse Street
Flint, Michigan 48502

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m. by **SUPERVISOR ANDREW TROTOGOT** with Roll Call and the Pledge to the American Flag.

ROLL CALL: Trotogot, Morford, Liepmann, Fotenakes, Minaudo, Pratt, Reed, and Attorney Steve Moulton

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHER INDIVIDUALS PRESENT: 34 other interested residents

TROTOGOT requested to add to the Agenda, listed under “New Business” as number 2, *Four Day Work Week*.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: FOTENAKES MOVED, seconded by Reed to adopt the Agenda with the addition of Number 2, *Four Day Work Week*. **MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2008: REED MOVED, seconded by Pratt to approve the Minutes of May 8, 2008 as printed.

DISCUSSION:

TROTOGOT requested to make two (2) changes on **PAGE 3**, “Committee Reports”

- 1) paragraph 2, line 8, number 8, “ 8) the full time secretary. . . reduced to part time” **changed to** “8) the full time secretary will be reduced to part time”
- 2) paragraph 2, line 9, number 10, “ 10) the full time detective. . .would be the patrol sergeant” **changed to** “10) the full time detective would be the patrol officer.” (**CLERK’S NOTE:** The full time detective would perform patrol officer duties).

ACTION OF THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF BILLS: FOTENAKES MOVED, seconded by Minaudo to pay the bills as listed. Questions: 1) The gasoline for the township vehicles was now being

purchased from Flushing Schools; it would save the township money; 2) What price would the township be paying for gasoline?

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Fotenakes, Minaudo, Pratt, Reed, Morford, Liepmann, and Trogotog

NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Amendment to Change “Utilities, Section 18-148” to Lower Water and Sewer Tap-In Interest Rates

LIEPMANN stated currently Flushing Township has a sewer and water tap-in fee that, by Ordinance, has a set rate for interest per Section 18-148(a) which states:

- a) The foregoing connection charges may be paid in cash when the connection permit is issued by the county agent or the user has the option of paying the connection charges in installments as follows: Ten (10) percent of the total connection charge shall be paid when the connection permit is issued by the county and the balance shall be paid in ten (10) equal annual installments together with interest at eight (8) percent per annum on the declining balance from the date when the connection permit is issued.”

LIEPMANN recommended to the Board of Trustees (Board) the wording for Section 18-148(a) be changed to:

- a) The foregoing connection charges may be paid in cash when the connection permit is issued by the county agent or the user has the option of paying the connection charge in installments as follows: Ten (10) percent of the total connection charge shall be paid when the connection permit is issued by the county and the balance shall be paid in ten (10) equal annual installments together with interest at a rate to be established by the Township Treasurer subject to the Board approval. The rate may be any rate from zero (0) to twelve (12) percent per year as established in the discretion of the Township Treasurer subject to the Board approval. Once established the interest rate is applicable to outstanding installment payable obligations shall not change except as follows: no more than once every two (2) years the Township Treasurer subject to the approval of the Township Board, may adjust the interest rate downward only. Once the interest rate is adjusted downward, it may be adjusted upward in a subsequent year, but not to exceed the rate originally established.”

LIEPMANN MOVED, seconded by Fotenakes to approve the wording for the first reading of AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 18-148(a) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING THE PROCEDURE TO ESTABLISH THE RATE OF INTEREST CHARGED WITH RESPECT TO SEWER CONNECTION FEES PAID IN INSTALLMENTS.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Minaudo, Pratt, Reed, Morford, Liepmann, Fotenakes, and Trogotog

NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED.

LIEPMANN MOVED, seconded by Fotenakes that the interest rate for tap-in fees, as allowed by the new ordinance (Section 18-148(a)) for 2008, be set at four (4%) percent.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Pratt, Reed, Morford, Liepmann, Fotenakes, Minaudo, and Trogotog

NAYS: 0 MOTION CARRIED.

2. Four (4) Day Work Weeks

TROTOGOT recommended that the Flushing Township Main Office go to a four (4) ten (10) hour day work week and be closed on Friday. By going to a four (4) day work week, it would: 1) reduce gasoline cost for the employees; 2) the later hours would give residents more time to come to the township office for personal township services; and 3) the energy cost would be reduced by being closed on Fridays. Some of the schools in Genesee County are planning to go to the four (4) day work week program.

QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD:

- **REED** wanted to know if the four (4) day work week would be permanent or just for the summer.
- **LIEPMANN** thought it should be a pilot program to see if the time would be utilized by the public.
- **FOTENAKES** wanted to know how it would effect Wednesday night with the Building Inspector and Assessor.
- **PRATT** wanted to know how much it would save the township.
- **TROTOGOT** stated there would also be a savings by turning the computers off at night.
- **FOTENAKES** wanted to know if the thermostat would be programmed so the heat/air would be reduced when no one was in the office.
- **LIEPMANN** stated Oakland County would be going to a four (4) day work week program.
- **FOTENAKES** would like notices sent out to title companies and other entities who use Flushing Township services.
- **PRATT** felt it would be a good idea to have a pilot program; if it didn't work out, the hours would be reverted back to the regular hours.
- **FOTENAKES** wanted to know if it would interfere with the overtime and would the Policies and Procedures Manual have to be changed.

REED MOVED, seconded by Fotenakes to put the issue on a pilot basis to be reviewed in three (3) months (June through September). **MOTION CARRIED.**

The motion would go into effect Monday, June 16, 2008 with the hours being: Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.; the office would be closed on Friday.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **LIEPMANN** handed out material for two (2) future Board Agendas:

- a. **MERS – Retirement Health Funding Vehicle**

Due to a requirement under GASB 43 and 45, MERS is offering a program to start funding employee health and retirement funding. The Health Funding is offering a vehicle which the township can use when the township starts putting money into the system. MERS will administer the program and do all the ground work to make the program actuarially sound. The township is looking for a system to where the township puts money into the funding vehicle, MERS invests the money, and at the point in time when an employee retires and is qualified for health funding (union participates) they will have the money available to pay for the health funding and the township will not have to be responsible for the funds.

It was recommended that someone from MERS, who would be responsible for the funding vehicle, come and give a presentation at a Board Meeting. If the township should decide to participate, the township would not be required to put money into the system immediately, but would sit down with an actuarial report and determine how much money had to be put in over a given period of time. The only charge from MERS would be based on a percentage of what MERS earned from the townships money.

b. HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE

The township is looking for a program to save money on hospitalization insurance. The proposed plan (by Total Benefit Systems) is designed to:
 1) have a larger deductible; 2) the employee’s coverage will not change;
 3) there is allowance for a higher deductible that will be paid by the township.
 The savings will be from \$15,000 to \$24,000 per year. **LIEPMANN** recommended having Jeff Feurt, Representative of Total Benefit Systems, attend a Board Meeting and explain the whole system.

2. Inherited Property through the Genesee County Land Bank

LIEPMANN stated Flushing Township had inherited a land locked parcel of property located on Willowbrook Drive (off Seymour Road) from the Genesee County Land Bank. A letter has been sent to all five (5) property owners that border the particular parcel stating the property was “For Sale” and if any of the property owners were interested, please stop in the township office. The property consisted of six (6) acres (150’ x 950’). The money received from the sale of the property would go into the General Fund.

3. New Telephone System

Flushing Township has had telephone service through McLeod USA for sixteen (16) years. A new company, Paetic Company (McLeod USA) has spoke with Flushing Township Police Chief Doug Kennedy and stated Paetic could save the township approximately \$200 per month. The extended long distance coverage area would cover almost all the lower peninsula. The services would be the only thing that would be changed.

I.T.I. Representative Tom Rench and Paetic Representative Greg Smith will be in the office on Monday, June 23, 2008 to give a presentation to all the Board Members that would like to attend. **REED** would like to have caller ID on the new phone system.

4. Parks and Recreation Committee

LIEPMANN stated there was a possibility that Home Depot would be giving a grant to the Flushing Township Nature Park. The issue had been referred to **ATTORNEY STEVE MOULTON** for his opinion as to whether the Nature Park had to be a (501C3) Corporation for the grant to be deductible. **ATTORNEY MOULTON** explained there wasn’t any need to go through the time and expense of qualifying the park committee as a separate entity under the 501C3 because any contribution made to the State of Michigan or any political subdivision in the State of Michigan, including a township, was fully tax deductible.

The purpose for being a 501C3 organization would be to satisfy the IRS and the organization that was acting for the public benefit. The 501C3 would be attempting to look like what the township should be in the first place. **ATTORNEY MOULTON** stated Home Depot had a web page and if your name wasn’t listed as a 501C3 organization, there might be a problem; **ATTORNEY MOULTON** will get with Flushing Township Nature Park Manager **TOM ENRIGHT**. **FOTENAKES** mentioned that the *Flushing Concerts in the Park* had been trying to get the 501C3 status but it was taking a lot of time and money.

REPORTS:

1. Building Inspector’s Report: FOTENAKES MOVED, seconded by Pratt to accept the Building Inspector’s Report. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW HOMES	0
ACCESSORY BUILDINGS	6
DECKS	7
REMODELING	0
ADDITIONS	0

GARAGES	0
FENCE PERMITS	1
ROOF REPAIR	0
POOL	0
COMMERCIAL	0
SIGN	0
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	14
PERMIT VALUATION FOR MAY 2007	\$ 505,340
PERMIT VALUATION FOR MAY 2008	95,100
PERMIT FEES COLLECTED FOR MAY 2008	\$ 716
TRAILER INSPECTIONS (3)	150
TRASH AND RECYCLING CHARGES	0
SPECIAL USE PERMIT	0
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	0
EARTH REMOVAL PERMIT	0
VARIANCE REQUEST	0
REZONING REQUEST	0
CODE BOOKS	0
FOR A TOTAL OF	\$ 866
CONSTRUCTION TO DATE MAY 2007	1,357,350
CONSTRUCTION TO DATE MAY 2008	588,100
FOR A DECREASE OF	\$ 769,250

2. Treasurer's Report: FOTENAKES MOVED, seconded by Minaudo to accept the Treasurer's Report. MOTION CARRIED.

7:40 P.M. OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- William Westenbarger, 7345 Gillette Road, Flushing** – “would like for the Board to seriously consider the possibility of saving money and ask the Board to lower the Trustees pay to \$100 per meeting with no benefits and start November 2008 with the new Trustees; if anyone had any problems go to the township and find out the answer.”
- Robert DeWolley, 5324 Conestoga Trail, Flushing** – “recommended that everyone take a fifteen (15%) percent pay cut.”
- John Cuddeback, 5184 Blossom Drive, Flushing** – “wanted to know when the Police Contract would be finalized; thinks people are overtaxed; because of economic conditions need to re-evaluate the services that are important to everyone; everyone needed to work together.”
- Bill Noecker, 4325 Duffield Road, Flushing** – “when is the Police Contract up for negotiations.”
- Mike Cookingham, 3016 Dillon Road, Flushing** – “has been hearing all kinds of rumors so wanted to know if the Police Chief smashed a township vehicle.”
- Kevin Sprygada, 9308 Potter Road, Flushing** – “spent eighteen (18) years on the Bay City Fire Department; felt wages should be cut; people have voted for a lot of things they (residents) don't need; the only way to change the Headlee Amendment would be by vote of the people; expensive radio for the ambulance services.”

7:55 P.M. CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

BOARD COMMENTS:

1. **REED** stated she recently attended an Open House at the Venice Land Fill sponsored by Waste Management. The Open House was very informational and consisted of a very nice dinner catered by Famous Dave’s BBQ Ribs. A tour of the land fill was given and a presentation that showed how the garbage was delivered to the land fill. **REED** stated one thing that really impressed her was that every night household waste was covered up with sand, but with yard waste, after a year or two, Waste Management was able to use the composted yard waste to cover the garbage, which saves having sand brought in to cover the garbage. The system on how to harvest methane gas was showed to everyone present. Waste Management has been able to harvest enough gas from the land fill to furnish energy to 4,000 homes.
2. **LIEPMANN** stated the Genesee County Drain Commissioner (Drain Commissioner) was looking to go with the methane gas system for the Waste Treatment Plant in Montrose, Michigan. The Drain Commissioner thinks they will be able to harvest enough methane gas to support the treatment plant.
3. **FOTENAKES** wanted to clear up some issues that were brought up at the May Board of Trustees Meeting, which she (Fotenakes) felt were very important for the township to do to bring in dollars: 1) the passports: glad that **TROTOGOT** looked into the passport situation; in 2007, Plainfield Township made \$71,500 from passports; 2) HUD houses: The City of Flushing sold the HUD house for \$45,000; currently, there are no HUD Homes in the community; the township could get a non-profit organization to purchase the homes after the township purchased the homes for \$1.00. The particular house in the City of Flushing was going to be torn down and used as a parking lot. **FOTENAKES** felt it was time for the townships to look at other means to make money instead of going to the public. The Board should look at the ideas/methods that people come up with as the ideas might save the township money.
4. **REED** stated that if the Township did the different projects to earn money for the Police Department Budget, it would have to be done by the Police Department. If the Township did the projects, the money would go into the General Fund instead of the Police Department.

THE NEXT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: Due to lack of further business, **TROTOGOT** adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

JULIA A. MORFORD, Clerk

ANDY TROTOGOT, Supervisor

APPROVED DATE: _____