

**UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES**  
**Grass Lake Charter Township Board**  
May 8, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Grass Lake Charter Township Board was called to order on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall by Clerk Zenz.

**Board Members Present by Roll Call:** Bray, Lester, Loveland, Zenz, Stormont, Butterfield. Absent: Brennan

**Also Present:** Fire Chief Jones, Assessor DeBoe and 19 public.

**Pledge to Flag** recited.

**Agenda Additions/Approval:** Loveland moved to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Lester. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** **Richard Murphy** –Bohne Road Gravel, fence liability issue check Township Insurance. Question about Tax classification. Bob Hamel – trees planted about 90% survival rate, new trees to plant on north side of soccer drive. Phil Scheel – wondering if any answers to his questions from last month. Nancy Prindle – comments see attached – Broadband issue. Bobbie Harper – Heavy trucks thru town. Carl Wells – comments about Broadband issue. (left literature)

**Minutes:** Bray made a motion to approve the April 10, 2018 Regular Board Meeting, April 23, 2018 Work Session Minutes and April 16 & April 23, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes. Supported by Loveland. Motion carried.

**Presentation of Bills:** Butterfield made motion to pay General Fund Bills in the amount of \$ 62,033.70 and Fire Fund Bills in the amount of \$ 22,721.12. Supported by Bray. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Butterfield, Bray, Lester, Loveland, Zenz and Stormont. Absent: Brennan. Motion Carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Loveland stated 2<sup>nd</sup> Revenue Sharing check received from the State and in line with the budget. Bray made motion to accept and file Treasurer's Report as presented by Loveland. Supported by Butterfield. Motion carried.

**County Sheriff Report:** no report for April. The board gives condolences to Officer DeLand on the passing of his father.

**Assessor Report:** Report was filed as prepared by Assessor DeBoe.

**Zoning Administrator Report:** Report was filed as prepared by Administrator Lammers.

**Planning Commission Report:** none. Next meeting May 17, 2018.

**Chief Building Official Report:** Accepted and filed as printed.

**Whistlestop Park Report:** none.

**Recreation Board Report:** Meet last week about issues at park and presented new field usage agreements for primary and secondary usage. Stormont expects to have agreements back within the next week for GLSYL and AYSO Soccer, he has signed agreement from Trackside Baseball/Softball.

**Correspondence:** Stormont read written public apology from Jim Warbritton – attached.

**Old Business:** a) – **Cedar Knoll property sale - update** – Motion by Bray to accept Real Estate purchase agreement on May 8, 2018 for the sale of Cedar Knoll Property for \$150,000.00 between Dakota Real Estate, LLC. Supported by Butterfield. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Bray, Butterfield, Lester, Loveland, Zenz and Stormont. Absent: Brennan. Motion Carried. Good faith deposit check was received at this time. b) – **Broadband RFP – Comcast update** –

Stormont stated he had reached out to Wow, Comcast and Frontier, he has heard from Comcast. He also stated the Board basically does not want to be in the fiber optic business. Little would like to hold up on a RFP – waiting for a proposal for free feasibility study from Aspen Wireless.

**New Business: a) – Sports-n-Trails Park field usage agreements** – agreements were revised. 2 years left on old Soccer agreement-would like all to be the same. Secondary usage would be for a single day or weekend. Recreation Board will review them and present them to the Township Board. **b) – Mt Hope Road Township property sale - update** – Stormont has been in contact with Mr Lekander owner of Mugg & Bopps, he is still interested in purchasing the property north of the business, he will hopefully be in contact with Stormont in the next few weeks. **c) – FOIA labor rate update** – Zenz made motion to update the labor rate charged for FOIA requests from \$13.00 to \$14.10 per hour and contracted labor charged from \$48.90 to \$55.50 per hour. Supported by Loveland. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Zenz, Loveland, Bray, Lester, Stormont and Butterfield. Absent: Brennan. Motion Carried. **d) – Ag Business/Ag Tourism ordinance test amendment - introduction** – Motion by Bray to accept the text amendment language as presented by Grass Lake Charter Township Planning Commission and Jackson County Planning Commission. Supported by Butterfield. Motion Carried. Motion by Bray to move to introduce the Ag Business/Ag Tourism language for first reading, posting, and publication prior to subsequent final adoption at the June regular board meeting of the board. Supported by Butterfield. Motion Carried.

**Fire Department Report:** April report accepted as prepared by Chief Jones.

**Old Business: none.**

**New Business: none.**

**Public Comment:** Phil Scheel – reiterated strongly the question: is the Township working on his requests from last month's meeting. Carl Wells – what is the Cagney Fund. Bob Kraft – FOIA requests via electronic files/ certified check for real estate transactions. Chris Little – street lightening inventory/grants for update to LED. Richard Murphy – Fountain donated to Whistlestop Park – need volunteers to help move. Joe DeBoe – every Wednesday May thru September Farmers Market, every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Music in Park. July 13 & 14 – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Traffic Jamin, also 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chad Tough Baseball Tournament.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Bray to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm, supported by Lester. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Catherine Zenz, Township Clerk

Attachments – 1 Citizen Statement from Public Comment, 1 written public apology

## Jim Stormont

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**From:** Jim Warbritton <jwarbritton@raveassociates.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 2:39 PM  
**To:** Jim Stormont  
**Cc:** Jere Hinkle  
**Subject:** apology

I would like to apologize to Mr. and Mrs. Kraft concerning my tone of voice in response to her question at the Grass Lake Planning Commission on January 18, 2018. I didn't intend to embarrass or upset either of them.

Sincerely,  
Jim  
Jim Warbritton  
Member  
GLPC



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

Grass Lake Township Board  
Grass Lake, MI 49240

To The Board:

I am providing this memo to be included in the May 8, 2018 meeting minutes to formally object to the township spending approximately \$20,000 of taxpayers money to fund a survey regarding installing broadband throughout the township. Reasons for the objection are provided below:

- Only a small percentage of township residence are outwardly supporting this initiative (refer to survey results on number of residents that have responded to the survey). Note: it is not surprising that the majority of those who completed the survey are in favor of the broadband initiative. Surveys such as this, included as an insert in another publication, are typically completed by those aware of/alerted to the survey.
- I believe the consumer group pushing the broadband initiative in the township should be held accountable for use of taxpayer's money and be asked to provide some (if not all) of the funding for the survey, i.e. will the group supporting this initiative support it sufficiently to provide funding either from their private funds, fundraising, etc.
- In my conversations with township residence I have found that most people are still unaware of the project and are not in support of a potential 20 years tax burden to install fiber optic cable throughout the township.
- It seems that passing a millage for internet service would be very difficult currently in the township.
- I think it would be wise for the township to wait a few years for the surrounding townships who have passed the millage to gain and share their experience.
- The township board should be responsible with taxpayer's money and before using approximately \$20,000 for a survey, should spend more time gaining a full understanding of what is involved in the township taking on ownership and responsibility of a fiber optic cable system throughout the township. Do we really want to do this? For example, the sewer system hasn't worked out as originally presented.
- Those who haven't sat on a township board and be challenged with solving problems created by what seemed like a great project will not fully understand what they are asking the township and its residents to take on. I sat on the sewer board in Sylvan township and am fully aware of the burden created by the township not fully understanding what was required before installing the sewer system.
- Throughout the next 20 years what will internet technology look like? We could find ourselves having to support a system that has become obsolete as wireless technology increases.
- I think we, the township, needs to be careful. We are talking about taking on millions of dollars of debt for an internet system and not fully understanding the consequences of doing this. More experience, time and understanding should be gained before even deciding if the township should take on ownership and responsibility of such a system.

Sincerely,  
Nancy J. Prindle

*Nancy J. Prindle*  
*5/8/2018*