

**Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 19, 2010**

A Public Hearing of the Grant City Commission to receive comments on Fire Protection Special Assessment District was held on Monday, April 19, 2010 at the City of Grant Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Terry Fett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Roll Call:**

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Fett, Commissioner Cheryl Weeks, Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Terri Yeomans, and Commissioner Kevin Smith  
Others Present: Doug La Fave–City Manager, Sherry Powell–Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Officer Jose Ontiveros, Dan Graham, Greg Booth, Larry Wyn, Jane Drake, Marjorie Suluta, Holly Moon, Mike Cook, and Angie Bennett.  
ABSENT: None  
EXCUSED: Commissioner Julie Hallman
4. **Public Comment on Ordinance 27-2:**

Greg Booth: Asked how the District was formed, and if it was based on overall population or number of parcels. Doug explained every parcel within the City limits that is not exempt is included in this District, not overall population.

Larry Wyn: Asked why the District does not extend into the township. Doug responded this is for the City jurisdiction, and that we cannot afford to cover the additional costs to run the Fire Department.

Mike Cook: Commented that the City has to live within its budget, but asked why the Fire Department does not have to do this too. He thinks this process would take away the taxpayers ability to vote for it. He would prefer to let the voters decide what to do.

Mayor Fett: Explained our numerous attempts to work with both Ashland Township and Grant Township as well as representatives of the Fire Board. The Townships are simply unwilling to change the contract, and the Fire Board does not think there is a problem.

Greg Booth: Asked how much we are attempting to raise in this special assessment. Doug responded about \$3,500 in total. Doug also explained that our two main revenue sources have had significant cuts, which makes our budget extremely tight.

Mike Cook: Asked about mutual aid agreements with the police and fire departments. He commented he would like the City Commission to say No to the Fire Board and both Townships.

Officer Ontiveros: Explained to everyone how the mutual aid agreement works.

Doug La Fave: Explained that First Responders adds additional costs on top of the additional bills for the fire runs.

Mayor Fett: Commented that the special assessment can come off the books if the situation changes. First Responders is great to have when they are actually needed, but not five minutes after LifeEMS shows up. This would be a short-term fix, and we would like to end it soon.

Mike Cook: Commented he would prefer to have the City Commission say No, and let the Fire District force us out. This he feels would be better than the voters forcing the issue through petitions. Doug responded that he is concerned about not being able to purchase a fire truck and respond if we were to disband the Fire District entirely.

Angie Bennett: Asked if the City Commission has made any other cuts in the budget. Doug listed a number of cuts, including switching health insurance annually and reducing part-time police officers wages.

Mayor Fett: Commented that he appreciates all of the points made, and that he knows what needs to be done right now.

Mike Cook: Explained that he used to be a fireman in Newaygo, and also served on the Fire Board. He said Grant's Fire Board runs things differently than Newaygo. He commented on Show Up Pay versus Separate Run Pay. He wants the City Commission to fight for the residents on their behalf, since they elected the City Commission to do this. He said Casnovia and Newaygo are only five and six miles away, and either could easily respond to our calls.

Doug La Fave: Explained how the Special Assessment District was created, and how the City Commission would proceed after this year if the resolution were passed to move forward.

Commissioner Pickard: Commented that some Fire Board members already have their minds made up on this issue.
5. **Adjournment** without objection at 7:42 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, April 19, 2010, at the City of Grant Offices.

6. **Call to Order:** Mayor Terry Fett called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.
7. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
8. **Roll Call:**  
 PRESENT: Mayor Terry Fett, Commissioner Cheryl Weeks, Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Terri Yeomans, and Commissioner Kevin Smith  
 Others Present: Doug La Fave–City Manager, Sherry Powell–Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Officer Jose Ontiveros, Dan Graham, Greg Booth, Larry Wyn, Jane Drake, Marjorie Suluta, Holly Moon, Mike Cook, and Angie Bennett.  
 ABSENT: None  
 EXCUSED: Commissioner Julie Hallman
9. **Approval of the Agenda:**  
**Motion:** Motion made by Weeks, second by Smith to approve the agenda.  
 Motion carried unanimously.
10. **Public Comment:**  
Jane Drake: She is a candidate running for State Representative. She shares with the concerns over services impacted by reduced state revenue sharing, reduced populations, and jobs. She said she served on Fremont City Council for eight years, and would bring a unique set of qualifications to the position if elected.
11. **Consent Agenda**  
*a-e. Approval of the Consent Agenda*  
**Motion:** Motion made by Weeks, second by Pickard to approve the consent agenda.  
 Motion carried unanimously.
12. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a. Planning Commission vacancies (2): Please contact Mayor Fett if you know anyone interested in serving.
  - b. City Commission vacancy: Please contact Mayor Fett if you are interested in serving.
13. **New Business**
  - a. Resolution 10-08, Resolution for fire protection special assessment district: confirmation of special assessment roll; lien; payment and collection of special assessment.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Smith, second by Weeks to approve Resolution 10-08 and move forward with it.  
Discussion ensued among the entire Commission about the pros and cons of moving forward with a special assessment district.  
 Roll Call Vote: Mayor Fett-YES, Weeks-NO, Pickard-YES, Yeomans-NO, and Smith-NO.  
 Motion failed two YES to three NO.
  - b. Resolution 10-09: Resolution authorizing updating employee section 125 plan for uncovered healthcare related expenses.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Weeks, second by Smith to approve Resolution 10-09.  
Doug La Fave explained this is the same exact plan we currently offer, but the plan year will now coincide with the health insurance plan year.  
 Motion carried unanimously.
  - c. Motion Item: Invoices for USDA Sewer Project.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Weeks, second by Pickard to approve the invoices for the USDA Sewer project.  
 Motion carried unanimously.
14. **Other Business**
  - a. Newaygo County Treasurer, Holly Moon: An update was provided on the Treasurer's office. They are working on reconciling decades of old checks. Explained the County Jail expansion, and that 5.5 million was used in American Recovery Act bonds that her office was involved with. Foreclosures for 2007 are done, with about 150 in total. A Land Bank survey was distributed to the City Commission and some guests, and she is looking for peoples' input.
  - b. FY 2010-2011 Budget: We will be posting it on-line this week. A notice will be published in the paper for public input very soon.

15. **Information Items / Updates**

- a. Streetscape: We just started on the punch list, and will begin hashing things out with MDOT.
- b. Sewer Project update: The project is progressing ahead of schedule. The DPW staff has been very happy with the project also.
- c. Community Building update: The project is finally wrapping up. One large window will be replaced this Wednesday due to a defect. We are waiting on an aluminum door frame for the handicap accessible door on the northwest side of the building.
- d. Streetlight decorations: We have been working with the Chamber of Commerce to get some patriotic decorations. Meanwhile, Kevin at Wilbur-Ellis has agreed to pay for some decorations to display for this year.

16. **Public Comments:**

None

17. **Adjournment** without objection at 8:20 p.m.

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Mayor Terry Fett

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Sherry Powell, City Clerk