

**Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 18, 2010**

A Public Hearing of the Grant City Commission to receive comments on the creation of an **Ashland-Grant Fire District Special Assessment** was held on Monday, January 18, 2010 at the City of Grant Offices.

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

PRESENT: Mayor Terry Fett, Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Julie Hallman, Commissioner Harry Robinson, Commissioner Terri Yeomans, and Commissioner Kevin Smith  
Others Present: Doug La Fave – City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Officer Joe Pulaski, Officer Brandon DeKuiper, Jon Bumstead, Pat Gardner, Lori Gardner, Matt Bouwkamp, Sam Scholtens, Don Eenigenburg, and Glenna Eenigenburg.  
ABSENT: None  
EXCUSED: Commissioner Cheryl Lake
4. **Public Comment on Ashland-Grant Fire District Special Assessment:**

Pat Gardner commented that he had attended many township board meetings, and thinks it is frustrating and a large mess to deal with. He is frustrated with all of the funding cuts and the comments he hears about how people have “always done it this way.” He owns lots of parcels in the City, so it’s more than just \$9.00 for him.  
Don Eenigenburg stated he has three parcels in the City limits, and he shares these same concerns. He and his wife are concerned with the language that they feel is essentially a blank check.  
Doug La Fave commented that the City is really at a standstill with budget issues of the Fire Department. He provided copies of the general fund expenditures over the last seven years which were to offset the Fire Department’s over expenditures. He stated the City is only 1/3 owner of the Fire District, and we do not have the voting power to change their budget or force them to live within their existing revenues. He would prefer just to be straight with the people.  
Terry Fett further elaborated that the City struggles with State Revenue Sharing cuts that most townships do not (struggle with) due to all of the infrastructure we have must support financially. He stated everyone is in agreement that the City is taking the right steps at addressing these issues.  
Doug La Fave commented the City’s contract stipulates the millage we each collect, and all three entities would have to agree to it to change the millage rate requested. The \$9.21 per parcel is the route we would need to take in order to offset the Fire Department’s over expenditures.  
Terry Fett stated the City still has not been able to look at the books to see where additional Fire Department expenditure cuts might be able to come from.  
Doug La Fave informed everyone that the City is the minority stakeholder, and as such we do not have the votes to change these things. He stated the other townships have threatened more than once to kick the City out, which has created more of a political problem. The only way this will change will need to come from the Fire Board.  
Pat Gardner thanked City Commissioner Pickard for her service on the Fire Board. He also commented about an Ashland Township meeting he recently attended where one month of bills paid to the Fire Department were about \$800, and were only for one month.  
Jon Bumstead commented that he serves on the Newaygo Fire Board, and that they have an annual audit that everyone receives a copy of.  
Anne Pickard stated the Fire Board members do receive an audit, but no regular bills paid or financial reporting whatsoever.  
Don Eenigenburg asked about why the pay per use option was not used.  
Doug La Fave responded that after looking into the existing 30% rate of return, this method would not bring in enough revenues.
5. **Adjournment** without objection at 7:30 p.m.

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 Others Present: Doug La Fave – City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Officer Joe Pulaski, Officer Brandon DeKuiper, Jon Bumstead, Pat Gardner, Lori Gardner, Matt Bouwkamp, and Sam Scholtens.  
 ABSENT: None  
 EXCUSED: Commissioner Cheryl Lake
4. ***Approval of the Agenda:***  
**Motion:** Motion made by Yeomans, second by Robinson to approve the agenda.  
 Motion carried unanimously.
5. ***Public Comment:***  
Jon Bumstead stated he is running for the 100<sup>th</sup> District House seat this year. He distributed campaign material and invited anyone to contact him with any questions they might have.  
Sam Scholtens commented that he had only heard a small amount about the Fire Department issue before this meeting.
6. ***Consent Agenda***  
*a-f. Approval of the Consent Agenda*  
**Motion:** Motion made by Yeomans, second by Pickard to approve the consent agenda.  
 Motion carried unanimously.
7. ***Unfinished Business:***  
 a. Planning Commission vacancy: We still have a vacancy on the Planning Commission which needs to be filled.
8. ***New Business***  
 a. Resolution 10-01: Resolution providing for fire protection special assessment district.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Yeomans, second by Hallman to approve Resolution 10-01.  
Fett commented that we have until July to change directions if needed. He also stated he thought the Fire Board meeting times should be moved to evening hours so the public has an opportunity to attend.  
 Motion carried unanimously.  
 a. Invoices for USDA Sewer Project.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Robinson, second by Smith to approve the invoices presented.  
La Fave informed the Commission that we ended a little over \$20,000 under budget in one of the 3 contracts and about \$12,500 under budget in another contract. He stated some additional sewer liners could be installed near the end of the project, after we see where contingency ends up. He reminded everyone that these funds are the free money that we will lose if we do not use it. It is a good opportunity to use these funds to further protect our infrastructure when nearly all of the City sewer lines have been lined.  
 Motion carried unanimously.  
 b. Ordinance #27-2, Amended Zoning Ordinance, first reading.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Robinson, second by Smith to approve the first reading of Amended Ordinance #27-2.  
La Fave informed the Commission that several copies would be made available for the public to look at.  
 Motion carried unanimously.
9. ***Other Business***  
 None
10. ***Information Items / Updates***  
 a. Streetscape: We may have a faulty breaker in the lighting electrical panel. We also have surveillance cameras on the service panel, and Windemuller is looking into it.  
 b. Sewer Project update: Most of the work right now is over at the plant. We will take possession of the new building very soon.  
 c. Community Building update: All of the old ceiling tiles are currently removed in the main hall. The contractor is finishing the painting in the bathrooms today. The new stoves, microwave, and cabinets are also in now. Nearly a semi trailer load of insulation will go in the main hall ceiling. Mayor Fett removed several bats from the building and safely relocated them to some farm property.

- d. School Flasher Signs: Two of the six poles have been installed, and we are just testing the battery and programming right now. These units can each be programmed for every event for an entire year, and should be perfect for the schools needs. The other sets of poles will be going up over the next month.

11. **Public Comments:**

Pickard asked if we were able to do anything to help save the School Liaison Officer's position with the schools.

La Fave replied that the School Board voted to eliminate the position. He stated that only Ashland Township was interested in helping to fund their portion of the position, but only if the other townships would participate.

12. **Adjournment** without objection at 7:44p.m.

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Mayor Terry Fett

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Sherry Powell, Grant City Clerk