

**Grant City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 17, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Grant City Commission was held on Monday, December 17, 2012, 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 Julie Hallman, Commissioner Anne Pickard, Commissioner Cheryl Weeks, Commissioner Kevin Smith, Commissioner Matt Bouwkamp, and Commissioner Harold Portell

Others Present: Doug La Fave – City Manager, Sherry Powell – Assistant City Manager/Clerk, Dan VanBelzen – Police Chief, and Shawn Botsford – DPW Supervisor.

ABSENT: None

EXCUSED: None
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Added Item *D. Sheriff's Department request to deputize our officers for calls* under New Business
 

**Motion:** Motion made by Portell, second by Bouwkamp to approve the agenda.  
Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

None
6. **Consent Agenda**

*a-e. Approval of the Consent Agenda*

**Motion:** Motion made by Weeks, second by Smith to approve the consent agenda.  
Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a. Board vacancy remaining-Planning Commission (1)  
Fett stated that we still have one vacancy.
  - b. Board vacancy-Board of Review (1)  
Pickard stated that she would ask Leslie Ostyn if she is interested in filling a vacancy.
8. **New Business**
  - a. Resolution 12-34: Consideration: For authorizing a new grinder pump for the 311 W State Rd sewer lift station in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Weeks, second by Pickard to approve the motion.  
Motion carried unanimously
  - b. Resolution 12-35: Consideration: For confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of A.J. McKinley to the GADL Board for an additional 4-year term.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Hallman, second by Pickard to approve Resolution 12-35.  
Motion carried unanimously.
  - c. Resolution 12-36: Consideration: To sell City property.  
**Motion:** Motion made by Smith, second by Portell to approve Resolution 12-36.  
Motion carried unanimously.
  - d. Sheriff's Department request (added to agenda): Chief VanBelzen explained that an announcement was made at the last Chiefs meeting that the County Sheriff was short on officers, and that he would be deputizing officers near the end of December. When asked how long it has been since Grant Police officers had been deputized by the Sheriff's Department, Chief stated for at least five years they have not been deputized. Concerns were discussed that this might delay the needed resolution of the problems with lack of police presence at the Middle School property in Grant Township.  
Hallman asked if anyone has spoken with the new School Superintendent about this need.  
La Fave stated that he and Chief VanBelzen have discussed the concerns with him. Our primary concern with having city officers deputized by the County Sheriff is that essentially city taxpayers would be subsidizing

Sheriff's Department calls in the townships when the County has no officers on duty in southern Newaygo County. Grant Public Schools always have the option of annexing into the City for free police services and a savings of between \$7,000 and \$9,000 on their utility bills.

Weeks asked if our officers would just be covering the Middle School if they were deputized.

VanBelzen explained how mutual aid works in emergency situations only. Having city officers deputized would extend this to cover Newaygo County Sheriff Department calls in the townships by city police officers. Fett stated that this was kind of a backwards proposal, and would prefer the City Commission be presented with a formal proposal.

La Fave stated another concern is over the precedence of city calls versus calls outside of the city limits.

VanBelzen stated that he thinks they are looking for more assistance with the Middle School.

La Fave stated that with our previous intergovernmental agreement, we used to have a school liaison officer.

Powell commented that complaints and problems dropped a great deal while they had the liaison officer presence.

Motion made by Hallman not to have our officers deputized without providing us with a detailed plan. No second was made to support the motion.

Motion withdrawn by Hallman after discussion about the fact that no formal proposal has been submitted for a decision to be made.

**By Unanimous Consent**, the City Commission agreed that a proposal would need to be submitted for consideration.

9. ***Other Business***

- a. N/A

10. ***Information Items / Updates***

- a. Blanche Lake grant-\$23,800: We received the grant for more docks, with a similar set-up as they have in White Cloud. Two docks would go to the east for swimmers and boaters would use the other elongated side. Pickard thanked Mayor Fett for his match.
- b. Blanche Lake Park - Lights: We passed the electrical inspection today for the new dusk to dawn lighting at the lake.

11. ***Public Comments:***

None

12. ***Adjournment*** without objection at 7:28 p.m.

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Mayor Terry Fett

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Sherry Powell, Assistant City Manager/Clerk