MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF OCTOBER 9, 2017

Mayor Strazdas called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Mayor Peter Strazdas and Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari were present. Councilmembers Jim Pearson, Claudette Reid and Patricia M. Randall were present via the conference phone line. Councilmembers Richard Ford and Terry Urban were absent with notice and excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Larry Shaffer, Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis and City Clerk James Hudson.

Mayor Strazdas reminded Council of the Special Meeting at 5:15 p.m. to interview Board and Commission Applicants. He indicated Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis would be sending out a reminder of this to Council, and that a meal is planned.

Councilmember Reid indicated she would not be attending the Tuesday meetings as she would be out of town.

Mayor Strazdas asked for questions from Council through the first page of the Agenda. Regarding Item E.1, Curb and Gutter on Hill 'an' Brook Drive, Councilmember Reid observed that there is not a majority of either the parcel or the front footage, and asked why the recommendation is to go forward with an Assessment District. Deputy City Manager Boulis indicated that according to the *City Charter*, 50 % of the property owners need to sign, not a majority, just 50% of the parcels. She asked what if one of the property owners changes his or her mind, what happens since there would no longer be the 50% threshold. Mr. Boulis indicated that the decision would be up to the City Council of whether to approve the special assessment of the project. City Clerk James Hudson interjected that he is required to hold the petition for any extra signatures, so arguably you could remove a signature.

Mayor Strazdas summed up by saying if you meet the threshold to put it on the agenda and people back out, it would be up to the City Council to make the determination. Mr. Hudson reminded her that Council is referring it back to the Administration for review, and the Special Assessment Process is a multiple five Resolution process, and anytime all along the way, or even at the end, Council could reject it. In response to the question of the 80 foot cap, Mr. Hudson said he misspoke himself two weeks ago, and there is no cap for curb and gutter. Mr. Boulis informed her that he would get back to her on the current linear footage charge for curb and gutter.

In response to Councilmember Randall, Mr. Boulis indicated that the Administration is not aware of whether the other 16 parcel owners are opposed to the Special Assessment or have not seen the petition; or, if some of the houses are rental properties or vacant properties. With regard to the question of whether all of the property owners had been contacted, Mr. Boulis advised Council that the notice and all of the details of the project will be provided throughout the five-step Special Assessment process, and Mr. Hudson indicated that the circulators of the petition had already been notified. Mayor Strazdas reviewed the Special Assessment Process.

Mayor Strazdas asked for an explanation of how Item F.3, AT&T Centrex, and Analog Radio Circuits Contract Agreements, impacts the pending Central Dispatch; do we need this to bridge it over; are we buying stuff for the future, etc. Mr. Boulis indicated that what is proposed is to continue to provide the current infrastructure used for the telephones connected to Public Safety. He indicated that about three years ago, both of these products were on a MiDeal Contract; that they are old technology; that they are the old copper wire which AT&T would like to discard; that the Centrex

continues to be on MiDeal; and, that the City will continue to use the Centrex after the 911 Consolidation. However, he pointed out that there will be no need to continue analog service, which is a big expense, after 911 Consolidation because that service will be provided by Consolidated Dispatch. He referred to the discussion with Jeff Troyer, Executive Director of Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch, about switching to a less expensive microwave system. He concurred with Mayor Strazdas, who confirmed that this is a bridge from now until then, and Portage needs this equipment to keep the system going. Mr. Boulis stated that if we denied 911 Consolidation, then the City would be looking very hard at switching to a more up-to-date, modern system, probably digital, but this would not be cost feasible for a one-year timeframe. He pointed out that new equipment requires a lot of installation costs and there are the pluses and minuses of whether it works right, so this is important to connecting citizens to the current Dispatch Center. He said the Administration decided to stay the course using the analog system and that it would be transferred to Consolidated Dispatch. Mayor Strazdas thanked him for his excellent explanation.

Mr. Hudson pointed out that there are a lot of candidates for the 5:15 p.m. Special Meeting to interview Applicants for the City Council Boards and Commissions, so Mayor Strazdas asked Council to pace themselves throughout the meeting, start the meeting on time, and asked that the Council move it along considering all of the people in order to eat and start the Regular Meeting on time.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

_____

James Hudson, City Clerk