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## Letter to the Editor Pierce family thanks community

The family of Dr. Robert H. Pierce would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the community for all the food, flowers, cards and visits to our dear husband, father and grandfather throughout his illness.

He was very moved by all the friends, neighbors, and patients who visited or called and sent cards and well wishes.

We have lost him, but will always be grateful for the kindnesses shown to him and our family.

We have been blessed to live in this wonderful community.

Virginia Pierce

## VILLAGE OF FRUITPORT SPECIAL SESSION

August 29, 2013 – Meeting called to order by President Roger Vanderstelt at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was given.

ROLL CALL: Jerry Alger, Frank Durante, Mel Raleigh, Carl Rothenberger III, Roger Vanderstelt, Carolyn Lemler. Absent: Donna Pope, Jacob Wier.

Pontaluna Road: Special meeting called to discuss the proposed Pontaluna Road improvements to be done at the time Fruitport Charter Township installs a sewer line in the west bound lane of Pontaluna Road. The sewer line would service the needs of Fruitport Community Schools and the business district north of Pontaluna Road along Airline Road in the Township. The sewer line being installed would be large enough for future needs and hook ups in the area.

Matt Farrar, Fruitport Charter Township, and Mark Lee, Prein & Newhof Engineers, were present to answer any questions of the Council.

The sewer project involves the removal of the north lane (westbound lane) of Pontaluna Road. Pontaluna Road is a boundary street between the Village and the Township. The township will be responsible to reconstruct and repave the half of the road removed during the installation of the sewer line. At the time of installation of the sewer pipe, 'taps' would be installed to all property owners along both sides of Pontaluna Road from Village limits east to Airline Road/3RD Avenue. Cut outs would be made in the south lane (eastbound) Pontaluna road to allow for these crossovers. There would be seventeen cuts made across Pontaluna Road. Property owners will not be required to hook to the sewer system. The Township would also be responsible to patch and repave these cuts across Pontaluna Road.

Motion made by R. Vanderstelt to allow Fruitport Charter Township to install a sewer line in the north lane of Pontaluna Road from Village limits east to Airline Road/3RD Avenue contingent upon documents of agreement and permits drawn up by attorneys and signed by both Village and Township. Motion seconded by C. Rothenberger. Roll call: J. Alger- No; F. Durante- Yes, M. Raleigh- Yes, C. Rothenberger- Yes, R. Vanderstelt - Yes. Motion passed.

The Village received a proposal from the Township to have the entire surface of Pontaluna Road from Village limits to Airline Road/3RD Avenue repaved instead of patched if the Village would consider paying for the repaving costs on a prorated basis. The Village would not be responsible for the engineering costs for the project of rebuilding Pontaluna Road just the actual costs involved for supplies and labor. The pre-bid estimates for the Village share to repave the south lane of Pontaluna Road from Village limit east to Airline Road/3RD Avenue was \$157,142.50 payable over eight to twenty year terms with interest rates ranging from 4.02% to 5.12%, rates dependent upon market rates when bonds issued. Bids received by Fruitport Charter Township reduced the price for the Village to \$132,392.50 with same terms and interest rates contingent upon market rates at bond issue. Council asked M. Lee what the cost of the project to rebuild/

## Letter to the Editor: Elder abuse in Muskegon County

Elder abuse is a crime. It exists today as I have seen in Muskegon County. We have a state agency called the Department of Human Services, which, presumably, protects elders. In fact, I have seen that department as a pitiful waste of taxpayer dollars.

A state Supreme Court justice once stated that physical abuse is not the worst injury that a person can inflict upon another. That credo appears non-existent in Muskegon County today. Perhaps if broken bones and blood were met with, our state Department of Human Services might notify police. Statistics tell us that power of attorney is reported as most widespread abuse. Statistics tell us that senior abuse can cause early death.

In California, abusers go to jail. When ever in history has this happened in Muskegon County? Most abused elders statistically are women. In my observation, there is no agency in Muskegon County to protect aged women effectively. I saw one agency try to polish their image in a public forum. That seemed to me the extent of their effort.

Interfering with a resident's mail in a facility is illegal. Yet, from my own experience, this does occur, even to the extent of blocking bank statements.

In California, the law requires telephone numbers of appeal agencies be prominently displayed. In Muskegon County, facility residents' telephone numbers have been confiscated without good reason and held residents much as if it were a prison.

Senior abuse is an evil crime. To ignore evil is to be an accomplice.

Arnie A. Kelm

resurface Pontaluna Road would be if the Village was to do the total road project at a later time. M. Lee responded the project could cost, including the engineering fees, approximately \$400,000.00.

Motion made by R. Vanderstelt to offer Fruitport Charter Township \$120,000.00 to cover the Village share of the cost to completely rebuild Pontaluna Road from Village limits east to Airline Road/3RD Avenue. Money would be paid in installments of \$80,000.00 down on April 1, 2014, and balance to be paid, each April 1st, in equal installments over five (5) years at zero percent (0%) interest. The money would come from the annual amounts allotted by Village of Fruitport Budget and Act 51 Money received from the State of Michigan. Motion seconded by C. Rothenberger. Roll call: J. Alger- No; F. Durante - Yes, M. Raleigh- Yes, C. Rothenberger- Yes, R. Vanderstelt Yes. Motion passed. M. Farrar, Fruitport Charter Township, will present the Village of Fruitport offer to Township Committee and respond to Council.

Village Bank Accounts: Motion made by F. Durante to appoint as signers on Village of Fruitport bank accounts in addition to Clerk/ Treasurer Carolyn Lemler the following: Jerald Alger, Donna Pope, Roger Vanderstelt and Mel Raleigh (Boat Launch savings account). Motion seconded by C. Rothenberger. Roll call: All ayes. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by C. Rothenberger. Motion seconded by J. Alger. Roll call: All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn A Lemler, Village Clerk 865-3234

**NOTE FROM EDITOR:** This special meeting was called by sending emails to the board members with the stated purpose of discussing the road in relation to the sewer line. After the meeting was opened it became obvious that Village President Roger Vanderstelt and Trustee Carl Rothenberger III were going to try to talk the other board members into donating \$120,000 to \$140,000 to the township sewer project. It was pointed out to Vanderstelt and Rothenberger that the meeting was called to discuss the issue, not vote on spending over \$100,000. In fact, spending money was not on the agenda. At that point Vanderstelt said the meeting was for discussion and they would not vote on spending the money at that meeting.

Trustee Jerry Alger brought up that the Village attorney advised against donating to the township sewer line and more information was needed if the board was asked to vote on it. Village Clerk Carolyn Lemler stated that once a meeting is called, you can do whatever you want. Vanderstelt and Rothenberger proceeded to double talk the board into voting on giving the township \$120,000 to improve the Village side of the road after the township tears it up while putting in the sewer line. When I asked the board how I was going to write up for the paper the fact that they stated at the start of the meeting that they were not going to vote on spending money at that meeting, and then at the end, they did it anyway. There was no answer.