

APPROVED 10-8-14

Regular Meeting of the Casco Township Planning Commission  
September 10, 2014 - 7:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bruce Barker, Lewis Adamson, Daniel Fleming, Paul Macyauski and Judy Graff

**ABSENT:** David Campbell and Dian Liepe were excused

**STAFF PRESENT:** Susan West, Recording Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT:** None

1. **Call to Order and review of agenda** - Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. There were no changes to the Agenda.
2. **Approval of minutes of 8/04/14 regular meeting** - Motion by Fleming, supported by Adamson, to approve the Minutes of the August 4, 2014 Regular Meeting as written. All in favor, MSC.
3. **Report from the Township Board Representative** – Judy Graff reported on the August 8, 2014 Township Board Meeting as follows:
  - a. Update on the North Shore Drain: they are still in the process of obtaining easements (approximately 2/3<sup>rd</sup> have been obtained). Adamson asked if the residents have received assessments yet and Graff answered that they have not. Graff stated that she has not heard of any complaints being made. Adamson stated that people do not want to give 50' easements. Graff agreed.
  - b. Regarding the Blue Star Hwy. paving – Graff stated that the paving will be done a little at a time each year (approximately 1 ½ miles were done this year).
  - c. Regarding Miami Park – There has been a boundary line change; making 7 lots into 2
  - d. Regarding Water & Sewer Hook-ups – There are 9 outstanding in Casco Township. 3 hook-ups were made in July, 2014.
  - e. Regarding the South Haven Hospital –
    - i. They will be promoting breast cancer awareness in October and will be offering mammograms for \$75.00 again.
    - ii. The signs are slowly being changed (dropping the word Shoreline) to prevent confusion.
  - f. Regarding the South Haven Foundation: they had a successful fair.
  - g. Regarding the passing of the Police Mileage – At the September meeting, The Board will be discussing what hours, days, etc. they will want the new police officer to work.
  - h. Regarding the Blue Star Trail – Tom Jessup stated that FRIENDS would still like the County to take ownership of the trail and that the County has not made a decision as of yet. Allan Overhiser explained to FRIENDS why Casco is not interested in taking ownership.

**4. Report from the ZBA Representative** – Macyauski reported that a variance was granted to a couple for property located on First Street to allow them to rebuild most of their home. They will be within the 25% lot coverage maximum and they have more than the required 200’ setback from the lake. There is a second building on the property and the easement was granted with the condition that the second building will always be used and/or marketed as an accessory building.

**5. Report from Water/Sewer Representative** - Adamson reported as follows:

- a. There have been 3 water and 4 sewer hook-ups so far this fiscal year.
- b. Regarding the mandatory hook-ups, the Prosecutor will start legal action to try to collect payment at the end of September or early October, 2014. Macyauski asked if there is any legal standing why the Township would not win a lawsuit. Adamson stated that they are sure they will win the lawsuits, but that attorney fees will be incurred.
- c. The checking account has approximately \$200,000.00 more than this time last year and that it should only get better. Graff asked whether or not Aldi’s was a big help. Adamson answered that they will only have 1 or 2 hook-ups.
- d. Chairman Barker asked if the bond payments will be lower next year. Adamson stated that they will. Adamson further stated that they are still not funding depreciation.

**6. Resolutions requiring Planning Commission action:** None

**7. New Business-**

- a. Chairman Barker stated that Ellingsen believes the Planning Commission should take a look at “special events” such as a wedding at a winery. Adamson stated that we should not discourage tourists from coming to the Township. Chairman Barker stated that the rights of the residents need to be considered also. Adamson stated that he believes we just need to enforce the Ordinances we already have, i.e. the noise ordinance. Chairman Barker stated that they will wait to discuss this matter further until Ellingsen is available.
- b. Graff passed out an article from the September 2, 2014 USA Today paper regarding tiny houses (copy of which is attached hereto as Attachment 1). Graff requested that all Commissioners read this article and discuss same at the next meeting.

**8. Old Business:** None

**9. Public Comment** – none

Motion to adjourn by Graff, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Adamson. All in favor, MSC. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm

Minutes prepared by Susan West, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting on October 8, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Attachment 1: Article from the September 2, 2014 USA Today paper

