

CASCO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 @ 7:00PM

Approved

Call to Order: Overhiser called meeting to order @ 7:00pm and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Overhiser, Brenner, Fleming, Macyauski, and 12 interested citizens.

Absent: Clevenger

Dean Brandt, candidate for Allegan County Sheriff, introduced himself and gave a brief talk on why he is running for Sheriff.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Debbie Wilson, presented the following:

*She received 4 summer tax bills in August of 2023 totaling \$5,883.03. She issued a check through her online banking account for a total of \$5,883.03 to Casco Township Treasurer.

*The check was received by Kenny Clevenger, and I received a call, requested by Clevenger from Kathy Stanton asking what the check was for. Kathy made the call to me with Kenny standing in her office. I replied, the check was for the total of my four tax bills.

* On May 3, 2024, I received 2 Delinquent Tax Notices, for properties 02-018-018-30 and 02-018-018-31 with penalties assessed.

* \$1,1137.95 of the original check was credited to properties 03-02-018-026-00 and 03-02-018-30 leaving a total of \$4,745.08 of the original check unaccounted for.

*It is now a public record that I'm delinquent on two separate parcels of property. Not good for my credit score or my reputation.

*My final question to the board is, "Where is the remaining \$4,745.08??" It must be in some township account that is now showing an incorrect balance of an additional \$4,745.08.

*How do I proceed to correct this situation and show a zero balance on my tax record? And will this remove any history of late payment in the public record?

WHERE IS THE SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCE IN OUR TOWNSHIP TREASURY?

Allan said he would talk to Kenny regarding this situation.

Julie Cowie reported that at 880 Blue Star Highway, has two black shipping containers on the property with windows in them, she is concerned that they possibly are renting them. She asked the board to please have them removed so that there are not copycats.

David Campbell asked what the status of the STR reporting issues is? David Campbell also said that he has asked in the past to see STR registration applications for Glenn Shores and he was told that there may be some confidential information on the applications. He

doesn't think there should be anything confidential and that there should be some clarification on what is confidential.

Christopher Fleming read an email that he had sent to the township board concerning the May 7th election results of the Senior Service millage.

This email is part of these minutes.

5/16/24, 3:01 PM

Gmail - Public Comment Regarding Senior Services



Cheryl Brenner <cascoclerk@gmail.com>

Public Comment Regarding Senior Services

1 message

Christopher Fleming <christopherfleming316@gmail.com>

Wed, May 15, 2024 at 11:26 PM

To: Allan Overhiser <supervisor@cascotownship.org>, Cheryl Brenner <cascoclerk@gmail.com>, Dan Fleming <securingtheblessings@gmail.com>, treasurer@cascotownship.com, Paul Macyauski <paulmacyauski@yahoo.com>
Cc: Christopher and Hannah Fleming <christopherandhannahfleming@gmail.com>

Dear Township Board,

On May 7, 2024, Casco voters approved a ballot proposal authorizing the township to levy an additional 0.25 mil (\$75,000) in property taxes to fund a contract with Senior Services of Van Buren County. As the township board considers next steps, I would like to share some thoughts that I believe warrant serious consideration.

First, I was informed on May 3, 2024 that the balance of unspent senior funds from the existing senior millage was over \$237,000. Therefore, the township has already collected enough senior dollars to fund a contract with Senior Services of Van Buren County at the proposed dollar amount for the two-year period referenced in the ballot proposal. Consequently, I believe the board should use these funds prior to levying any additional assessment. Furthermore, because these funds were raised for the express purpose of providing senior services, I believe they should either be used for that purpose, or returned to taxpayers. Using these funds for projects that provide only an indirect benefit to seniors is inconsistent with the purpose for which taxpayers approved the original senior millage.

Second, if tax dollars are to be used to pay for senior services provided by a third party, I believe payments should be linked to services provided, not based on a direct assignment of all collections from a specific township millage. In the case of services provided directly by the township, any excess tax collected for those services accrues to the benefit of the township. However, if tax dollars are assigned directly to a third party without being linked to services provided, any excess tax collected will accrue to the benefit of the third party, not the township. This is of particular concern due to the uncertain demand for the proposed senior services and the township's prior experience in providing senior services which has resulted in over \$237,000 of unspent senior funds. Ensuring that any contract clearly links funding with services provided will help prevent a similar accumulation of excess tax dollars accruing to the benefit of Senior Services of Van Buren County at the expense of Casco taxpayers. At a minimum, any contract should require quantitative service data so the township has a basis for making any future funding decisions. While the structure of contracts between Senior Services of Van Buren County and other local governments may be of interest to the board in writing its contract, the terms of that contract must give first priority to the interests of Casco residents, even if those terms differ from contracts in other jurisdictions.

The township board has a fiduciary duty to taxpayers to administer tax dollars in accordance with the purpose for which they were assessed and in a manner that benefits township residents. I know the board understands this responsibility, and I believe that implementing the proposals above will assist the board in fulfilling its fiduciary duty.

Sincerely,

Christopher Fleming
269-252-1879

Reports:

- SHAES

Tim Forker, EMT, Firefighter, reported that Casco had 20 EMT calls and 4 fire calls. YTD SHAES has had 905 calls.

J.D. Quinn was promoted to Captain. May 26, 2024, their annual Memorial Day breakfast is from 7:30 am to 11:30am.

At the annual banquet Ron Ridley was honored for his 45 years of service and he received the Leadership Award.

- CLERK:

Cheri presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2024. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes. Supported by Dan. No further discussion or corrections. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

New Special Assessment-Erosion-Weaver/Schneiderman-Miami Park

Cheri made a motion to approve the following new Fund, Dept, & account. Fund #871 erosion-Weaver/Schneiderman Miami Park,

871-000-001-000	Cash
871-000-045-000	Special Assessment Receivable
871-000 056-000	Interest Receivable
871-000-084-000	Due from Taxes
871-000-084.101	Due from General Fund
871-000-202-000	Accounts Payable
871-000-360-000	Deferred Revenue
871-000-390.000	Fund Balance
871.000.450.000	Special Assessment Principal
871-000-665.000	Interest Earned
871.000.670.000	Special Assessment Interest
871-000-690.000	Loan Proceeds
871.000.688.000	Appropriations of Prior Fund Balance
871.565.801.020	Water/sewer Authority
871.568991.000	Debt Service Principal
871.570.801.000	Contracted Services

Supported by Paul. No further discussion or corrections. Motion Carried.

Cheri made a motion to approve changing the following accounts in the collected tax fund.

703.000.040.000	Petty Cash to be
703.000.004.000	Petty Cash
703.000.040.000	Accounts Receivable- Due from Taxpayers.

Supported by Dan. No further discussion or corrections. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

Cheri made a to amend the following Budget Items:

General Fund

101.215.709.000	Clerk-FICA/MEDICARE	\$301.11
101-247-703.002	Board of Review-Wages	\$66.00
101-247-709.000	Board of Review-FICA/MEDICARE	\$5.05
101-253-752.000	Treasurer-Misc. Supplies	\$105.99
101-262-704.002	Election-Wages	\$420.00
101-262-709.000	Elections-FICA/MEDICARE	\$32.13
101.262.752.000	Elections-Misc. Supplies	\$40.40
101.265.704.003	Bldg. Dept-Clerical	\$72.00
101.265.709.000	Bldg Dept-Fica/Medicare	\$23.00
101.265.850.000	Bldg Dept.-Phone/Internet	\$438.00
101.595.801.011	Other Activities-Airport	\$68.25
101.702.802.000	Zoning-Legal Fees	\$2,052.00

CEMETERY

209-567.861.000	Mileage	\$403.68
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SENIOR SERVICES

290.673.752.002	Supplies & equipment	\$433.71
290.673.861.000	Mileage	\$74.90
290.673.900.00	Printing	\$93.56

Supported by Dan. No further discussion or corrections. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

Cheri made a motion to approve the following new accounts:

Misc. Expenses to the Following

101.526.955.000	Transfer Station
101262.955.000	Elections
101.265.955.000	Building Dept.
208.751.955.000	Parks & Recreation
209.567.955.000	Cemetery
290.673.955.000	Senior Services

Supported by Dan. No Further Discussion or corrections. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

Patricia Pabis is working part time, at \$12.00 an hour, to help with the filing in the Parcel File Room. With everything else that Kathy must do she was getting behind in the filing.

Patricia right now is working two days a week from 10:00am to 4 or 5:00pm. She is doing a great job.

The results of the May 7th election are:

Ambulance Proposal	498 yes	157 no
Police Proposal	486 yes	168 no
Senior Service Proposal	444 yes	211 no

The 14th day of May the Board of Canvassers affixed the seal of the County of Allegan.

Kathy and Cheri are going to attend Mandatory Training (Board of Elections) in Plainwell, 6/3/24, 2024 Election Cycle Training, from 1:30 to 4:30pm.

- **TREASURER:**

Clerk made the motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$354,129.25 as of April 30, 2024.

Checks 29026 to 29088	\$348,055.86
EFT 197	\$603.42
EFT 196	\$844.04
EFT 195	<u>\$4,625.93</u>
Total	\$354,129.25

Supported by Paul. No further discussion or corrections. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

- **PARKS & RECREATION:**

Paul reported on the new home being constructed next to the 1st Street Park, they have parked their heavy equipment on the park grass, Paul has asked him not to park on the lawn, he agreed to that, the No Parking sign has been removed, that has been settled.

At the Nature Preserve the picnic tables & benches have been power washed & the walkway has been power swept and looks good.

They are waiting for the bathroom to be delivered at the Maple Grove Project, then they can complete the sidewalks and parking.

Paul made a motion to approve a quote to replace the split rail fence in the amount of \$8,200.00. Supported by Dan. No further discussion. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

- **PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Dan reported that the committee talked about the survey that is going to go out to everyone in their tax bill and discussed the Sign Ordinance.

- **ZBA COMMITTEE:**

Paul reported that an applicant was looking for a variance & the committee agreed they should table this application to get guidance from the Township Attorney.

There was going to be another meeting for this applicant Wednesday May 22, 2024.

- **SENIOR SERVICES:**

Mary Campbell, reported on the Senior Luncheon on May 8, 2024, there were approximately 144 people attending, she reported on other issues for the month of May.

- SHAWSA

Allan handed out copies to each board member of SHAWSA's budget for next year to look over before their next meeting. He explained the details of the breakdown of that budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Legal Assistance Contract

Allan presented the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center Contract in the amount of \$3,000.00 with service date of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. It is the same as last year. Paul made a motion to approve the contract in the amount of \$3,000.00 effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Supported by Cheri. No further discussion. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

- Budget Discussion

Since the Senior Mileage passed, Allan explained that we will need to make some changes to the Senior Service part of the budget. Allan has asked Mary to develop a budget for the months remaining this year to operate the senior service here at Casco.

The Senior Advisory Committee is meeting this Wednesday, the 22nd, at 5:00pm, if your interested, to talk about how the existing program will continue here in Casco and how we will keep the Allegan County activities to access for our people in Casco. That budget will be half of what it says today and a new line item for Senior Services for Van Buren County and the Capital Outlay of \$125,000.00 will need to be discussed. We will have these changes made and the budget be available for presentation at the June meeting.

Allan talked about the fund balance and surplus and the fact that all of the fund balance is not surplus and explained the difference.

- Revetment Update

Allan presented a change order for the Special Assessment, weaver/Schneiderman Miami Park, from LRE Engineers & surveyors, in the amount of \$2,200.00, \$1,100.00 from Weaver and \$1,100.00 from Schneiderman for Revetment Staking. This would come out of their contingency money.

Dan Made a motion to approve the change order from LRE Engineering & Surveyors in the amount of \$2,200 to be paid by Weaver & Schneiderman out of their contingency funds. Supported by Paul. No further discussion. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Liquor License-Inisfree

Inisfree Farm LLC has applied for a Transfer Liquor License from First Choice Golf & Conference Center, LLC. Allan reviewed the application with Tasha and informed LARA what conditions Inisfree Farm was granted a special use permit that alcohol service is permitted with events.

- Resolution Requesting Allegan County Road Commission To Open All Roads in Casco Township for ORV Use

Paul made a motion to approve Resolution No. 052024-7 requesting Allegan County Road Commission to Open All Roads in Casco Township for ORV Use except for Blue Star Highway. Supported by Cheryl Brenner.

This Resolution is a part of these minutes.

Casco Township Board

A Resolution Requesting Allegan County Road Commission To Open All Roads In Casco Township For Orv Use

Resolution # *1052024-7*

Whereas, On June 10, 2021, at the request of interested citizens and the support of 19 townships, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners passed ORV ordinance #1015.0 allowing use of ORVs on all county roads.

Whereas, On June 23, 2021 Allegan County Road Commission exercised it's right to close up to 30 percent of county roads to ORV use and published a list of roads closed to ORV use.

Whereas, This list of closed roads is listed on the Allegan County Road Commission website and is under their control.

Whereas, This limits some residents ability to even legally leave their homes while operating an ORV.

Whereas, The closure of such roads limits legal access to tourist attractions, food service establishments, fuel, motels, or other services.

Whereas, the Casco Township Board supports it's residents and tourists legal access to all roads and the goods and services listed above while operating an ORV.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Casco Township Board expresses it support to open more roads in Casco Township to ORV use.

Therefore be it further resolved, that the Casco Township Board is requesting the Allegan County Road Commission to open all roads in Casco Township for ORV use *except Blue Star Hwy.*

Motion by *Paul Maryauski*, supported by *Cheryl Brenner*

Roll Call:

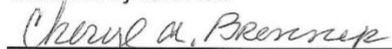
Ayes *4*

Nays *0* *with one Absent*

Casco Township Clerk Certification *Attached*

CERTIFICATION

I the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Township Clerk of the Township of Casco, Allegan County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board at a regular meeting of the Township Board held on the 20th day of May 2024. I do further hereby certify that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Michigan Act 267 of 1976, as amended, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available by said Act.



Cheryl A. Brenner, Casco Township Clerk

Dan made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Paul. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Minutes Respectively Submitted by
Cheryl Brenner, Casco Township Clerk