

CASCO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022 @ 7:00PM

Approved 3/21/22

CALL TO ORDER: Overhiser called meeting to order at 7:00pm and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Overhiser, Macyauski, Brenner, Clevenger, Fleming, & Tom Jessup, Allegan County Board of Commissioner, Ron Ridley, SHAES, and 23 interested citizens.

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Kevin Whiteford** introduced himself, he is running for 38<sup>th</sup> District, House Seat, State Representative.

**John Barkley**, resident of Boardwalk Condo Association, is against the Miami Park association proposed pool rezoning location. He mentioned several reasons why the Casco Township Board should reject the subject conditional rezoning request.

**Steve Hillsman** spoke in support of the Leeward Pool Association, him and his wife own the lot at 7239 Lakeview and are in the process of building a home there that will be their primary residence. They feel this is an efficient and attractive use of land that sits along Blue Star Highway, which is not the most desirable location for a home.

**Kathleen Hillsman** spoke and said she had been at many of these meetings, and she said she didn't think it is appropriate for people who live outside of this neighborhood are stepping forward to try and prevent the project when they themselves enjoy the use of their own community pools.

**The Leeward Pool Association's** attorney introduced herself and explained how the process started quite along time ago with the forming of the association, developing by-laws, and listening to a lot of public comments and this took them several months to draw up a draft Contract Zoning Agreement.

Reports:

- Police: No report. Deputy Cesar unable to make the meeting.
- Clerk:

Clerk Brenner presented regular meeting minutes for the December 20, 2021, meeting and the January 18, 2022. The board didn't have time to read the January minutes, so these minutes were deferred until next month.

The clerk reminded everyone that there will be a May 3<sup>rd</sup> election, there is two renewals on the ballot, roads and senior services.

- Treasurer:

The Fund balances are as follows:

General Fund	Balance as of 1/31/2022	\$535,865.00
Road Fund	balance as of 1/31/2022	\$442,677.62
Fire Fund	Balance as of 1/31/2022	\$244,992.25
Police Fund	Balance as of 1/31/2022	\$145,208.93
Parks & Recreation	Balance as of 1/31/2022	\$95,758.52
Cemetery Fund	Balance as of 1/31/2022	\$109,329.35
Senior Services Fund	Balance as of 1/31/2022	\$122,158.15
Collected Tax Account	Balance as of 1/31/2022	\$1,667,999.39

Treasurer, Clevenger, made motion to pay bills in the amount of \$184,967.17:  
Orders 27365 thru 27419 and EFT102,105,108+ & STUB#36.

Dan supported. No discussion or changes. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

- County:

Tom Jessup, County Commissioner, talked about the new entrance to the Court house, the Mental Health Dept. has purchased the Chopco Building, they are doing some remodeling and will be moving out of the service building into their new facility. Tom reported on other various things at the county level.

- Parks & Recreation:

Paul reported that the grant was approved, the next couple of months the committee will be working on what they will be building at Maple Grove, bids will not be sent out until next fall or winter. They have also been discussing spring clean-up at the Preserve.

- Planning Commission:

Dan Fleming reported that at the Feb. 16 meeting, most of the meeting was about getting clamping to fit in with the pc.

- SHAES:

Ron Ridley, with SHAES, gave a very thorough report.

- SHAWSA:

Allan reported that they are going to have a rate study workshop on Monday with a consultant and will review all reasons on how rates are set.

Overhiser announced that Board of Review will be March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ARPA UPDATE:

Overhiser said that we are staying in touch with authorities that we comply with all the rules concerning our ARPA funds. Allan is also working with the auditor to handle when we do disperse funds from Casco's ARPA money.

- TOWNSHIP OF EXCELLENCE:

Possibly the end of March to set up a work -shop date.

- INTERNET UPDATE:

A letter from the Allegan County Broadband Action Workgroup requesting if local units are interested in partnering with this group. This is an advisory committee, by the Allegan County Board of Commissioners with the goal to increase the accessibility availability of reliable internet connectivity within Allegan County. If access to broadband is a priority, and your township is committed to earmarking ARPA funds towards this goal, we should contact them. The county has hired, Jill Dunham, as the Project Manager, which we will be hearing from her.

- SAFE HARBOR:

Received a letter from Safe Harbor to consider budgeting ARPA money giving between \$250 to \$1,000 per child served at Safe Harbor from your community. Lori told Cheri that within the last 3 years they serviced 20 children from Casco.

NEW BUSINESS:

- CONSIDERATION OF A CONTRACT RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

Overhiser explained that the Planning Commission has already had their hearing on this matter and are recommending to the Board of Trustees the Notice of Adoption of Ordinance and Summary and Ordinance No. 0221-22-2 Zoning Map Amendment Ordinance.

We have received about 13 letters from individuals, some pro and some against, these will be kept as part of our files. Each Board member gave their opinion of the rezoning, it was clear with all board members that this is for permitting one thing.

Allan mentioned that this is the first time that we have had this kind of rezoning request. The applicant has agreed to submit a Contract Zoning Agreement. We have a Zoning Map Amendment Ordinance to amend the Casco Township Zoning Ordinance by revising the Zoning Map; and to provide for the effective date of this ordinance.

Allan continued to read the amendment.

Dan made motion to approve the Zoning Map Change and the said Contract Zoning Agreement.

No further Discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Overhiser, Clevenger, Fleming, Macyauski, & Brenner all yes

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

- WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY:

Allan presented the Written Public Comment Policy and explained that it means that all written comments must be received by Casco Township by 5pm the day preceding a Public Hearing.

1. The policy will be posted on our website.
2. All advertised notices will contain the policy.
3. Written comments received later than the deadline will not be accepted or made part of the record.
4. Late written comments will be retained for 1 year then destroyed.

This should allow interested parties to submit written comments relatively close to the beginning of a Public Hearing while allowing adequate time for dissemination and review by Board Members.

This was recommended by our attorney to develop this written comment policy.

Kenny made motion to approve the policy. Dan supported. No other discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Clevenger, Macyauski, Brenner, Fleming, Overhiser – all yes.

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

- BUDGET DISCUSSION:

We will be starting budget discussions soon, we will have a work-shop in the near future.

- HOST COMPLIANCE:

They will be meeting Thursday afternoon to put together a new contract, we are also looking at an alternative.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

OTHER BUSINESS:

Paul made motion to adjourn. Dan supported. Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm

Minutes Respectively Submitted by  
Cheryl Brenner, Township Clerk