

DRAFT

Approved

Casco Township Annual Meeting
Monday, June 25, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Allan Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance. Present: Allan Overhiser, Supervisor; Julie Cowie, Clerk; Lu Winfrey, Treasurer; Eldon Ridley; Trustee. Judy Graff was absent; she is on the SH Health Systems board and needed to attend that meeting tonight.

Supervisor Overhiser thanked the crowd who represented various boards and committees for their service. He reiterated the purpose of the annual meeting, which was to hear reports, authorize the board to buy and sell real property, and approve the budget.

Resolution of Appreciation, #120625, Expressed to Edward and Nancy Hanenburg: Supervisor Overhiser read the resolution (attached) pertaining to the Hanenburgs, sellers of the Maple Grove parcel, the acquisition of which was completed earlier this month. This project has been in process for nearly 4 years. Cowie moved approval of the resolution, supported by Ridley;
Ayes: Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey Nays: none Absent: Graff.
The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Overhiser invited those present to make reports on behalf of boards and committees:

Parks & Recreation: Bruce Brandon, Chair, named the officers and members of the Parks & Recreation committee, thanked them for their serious engagement, and also thanked Pam Blough for her work as a consultant. He reviewed several items (attached).

Commissioner Jessup asked Bruce Brandon about the County parks. Mr. Brandon is a member of the County Parks Commission. The County is currently focused on updating West Shore County Park. A late summer grand opening is slated for the Nature Preserve.

Planning Commission: Bruce Barker reported on the activities and accomplishments of the Planning commission (attached).

South Haven Area Regional Airport Authority: Ren Wright, recently retired, reported on the activities of the SH Regional Airport Authority. Rides on the B-17, which is coming during the annual Fly-in of the Blueberry Festival on Sunday August 12, are available for \$450/per person. (Full report attached).

Casco Senior Care Program: Vikke, Susan, and Rachel were present. Susan introduced the staff. A significant change this year was the loss of the transportation program. Susan gave a fabulous report (attached). Julie Cowie urged Susan to send the report to the ACCOA. Tom Jessup urged Susan to send the report to Joyce Watts for dispersal to the entire Board of Commissioners.

Fennville District Library: Robert Sherwood, Library Board President, made a presentation about the FDL. (The annual report is attached to these minutes). Vikke Andersen asked about written information for people who aren't familiar with the library and its services.

Casco Community Band: Richard Barden gave a report on the band, whose members range in age from 82 to high school. They were thanked for their Veterans Day/Memorial day concert.

ZBA: Eldon Ridley reported that building is picking up. It was noted that it was his last Annual meeting as a Board member.

Al-Van Humane society: Rescued Treasures is open now; they don't take clothes or large items, but donations are appreciated. 100% of what they sell goes to the Society.

Allegan County Commissioner: Tom Jessup distributed his June 2012 Commissioner's comments and talked about the budget. He said that, elsewhere, Townships participate in funding the County Sheriff, and likely that needs to happen in Allegan County.

Robert Sherwood pointed out that libraries in a more urban setting will be affected by the potential elimination of the personal property tax to a greater degree than more rural libraries like FDL. Tom was thanked for his service to the County.

Police Protection update: Allan Overhiser reported that he met with the Allegan County undersheriff, who has a precinct-based program that will likely launch in the Fall. We are also having conversations with the City of South Haven about contracting with their officers for police protection. The SW portion of the Township is not getting served well by anybody.

Bruce Barker suggested that the high functioning of the SHAES arrangement lends itself to being copied, so South Haven and Casco Township could establish an authority for police coverage. Allan Overhiser responded that tax rates are a balancing act for people living in our rural setting. Probably no decisions will be made until late Fall.

SHAES: Overhiser reported that SHAES is putting in a training tower, which will be utilized by other municipalities and younger fire fighters.

Water/Sewer Authority: Last year the bonds were refinanced, which eliminated the need to continue to loan money to the WSA. To date we are on track with the number of hookups needed to cover bond payments. A potential high density development along Baseline Road, together with Meijer, would go toward ultimately lowering the debt retirement rates. (The proposed area is in the commercial zone, in the Baseline Rd/Blue Star Highway area.) The idea is to use the existing water/sewer infrastructure and have relative density in this area.

Annual Meeting minutes: Winfrey moved to approve the Annual Meeting minutes from 2011, supported by Ridley; MSC.

The Fiscal Year budget was presented and Julie Cowie talked through the various line items.

Less than \$200,000 was paid for the Stefan acquisition (there were Trust fees that had to be paid); and less than \$20,000 or so was spent out of Township coffers for the Maple Grove acquisition (in response to David Campbell's question), along with the sale of the Lakeview Parcel to Mr. Hanenburg (for \$500,000). Bruce Barker thanked the Board for the long term vision in acquiring the Maple Grove parcel.

The millages for Fire and Ambulance will be cut in half and the surplus will be used, leaving some surplus in the ambulance fund. This year we will collect less than 1 mil on Fire.

Going forward, the Parks millage will likely be used for maintenance of the parks, and perhaps police protection.

Buy and sell real property: the Supervisor invited motions from the floor. In the past, the Board has bought and sold parcels such as the Maple Grove parcel and Lakeview Avenue parcel; at times we have been able to buy foreclosed properties. The only parcel we sold was the Lakeview parcel, and that enabled us to buy the Maple Grove parcel.

Tom Jessup moved and John Geisler supported a motion to enable the Township Board to buy and sell real property. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Public Comment: John Geisler, a resident of Glenn Shores, wished to commend Clerk Julie Cowie for her service to the Township and read a letter to that effect.

Eldon Ridley moved to adjourn, supported by Winfrey; adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully,

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk
Casco Township Board of Trustees

attachments:

Resolution of Appreciation, Hanenburgs
Reports from Parks & Recreation; Planning Commission; Airport Authority; Senior Care Program;
Fennville District Library; and a letter from John Geisler.