

Approved, 5/21/12

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting of April 16, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and led in the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Cowie, Graff, Ridley, and approximately 4 interested persons. Supervisor Overhiser expressed a special welcome back to Judy Graff, and stated that it was good to have Ken Graff on the mend following heart surgery.

Vicky Lull, Executive Director of ACRDC, Allegan County Resource Development Committee (Allegan County's community Action Agency), was invited to speak. ACRDC exists to deal with poverty issues that affect Allegan County residents. She gave an overview of programs and services offered:

- Food Pantry (organized by central Allegan churches), providing pre-packaged boxes of food, to provide 5 days of meals; recipient can receive 5x per year if 200% of poverty level;
- Commodities program (Federal program, 4x/year. Dec, March, June, & Sept (1st Friday; 200% of poverty). Main location in Allegan. Also deliver food in Pullman. Also in Otsego & Wayland, with food available from Allegan that first full week of the month; provides about 40# of shelf stable food to a household;
- Utility service—metered gas or electric. Assistance, 1x per calendar year, as long as it means the residents will have service for 30 days. (up to \$300).
- Michigan Enrolls—helps residents choose a primary provider for health care, or change plans during open enrollment period; two Field enrollment counselors on staff.

Several older American programs (not necessarily based on income) for age 60+, trying to meet the greatest needs first.

- Congregant meals, 5 sites around County (2 in senior housing, 3 in Methodist churches);
- Project Fresh: eligible participants get coupons to use at Farmer's markets. Must be 185% of poverty level, and receive \$20 worth of coupons in \$2 increments.
- Home delivered meals. Hot meals on a daily basis or frozen meals or supper sacks. Also shelf stable food can be provided if daily delivery isn't possible. Ensure is provided to clients who need it. Delivered meals also provide opportunity for residents to be checked on (through human contact) every day.
- Transportation: volunteer drivers to take seniors to medical, legal, nutritional, and social appointments (such as visiting a spouse in a nursing home). Rides are provided Monday through Saturday, with priority given to medical appointments. Transportation is provided throughout all of Allegan County plus Battle Creek, Ann Arbor, GR.
- Medicare/Medicaid assistance.
- CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) for home rehabilitation or emergency repair to homes where standards are met. This program puts a lien on the home. The maximum loan amount is \$35,000 for rehab or to make the house safe for living.

- Weatherization program to help people save on energy costs.

Other programs:

Head start and early Headstart: Free preschool for all eligible 3 and 4 year olds. ACRDC provides transportation on buses but children can be on the bus only 1 hour. There are 2 classrooms in Fennville. It serves 280 preschool children, 4 days/wk, with two snacks and a meal. Early head start serves pregnant women and infants through 3 years old, with 78 slots available for 0-3 year olds. Participants have to be 100% of poverty or below, to qualify.

Discussion ensued about the transportation program. Ms. Lull stated that drivers go above and beyond what is required. She said that ACRDC doesn't have resources to get people to the far corners. They are trying to use technology to eliminate the drive in to Allegan. If a person gets home delivered meals, their commodities are delivered as well.

Lu Winfrey questioned whether rides would be available anywhere our Casco residents need. Ms. Lull said yes.

David Campbell asked if the Fennville congregant meal site could be a satellite office for services.

Rachel Brenner asked how children in Casco would be served by the Headstart program, given the transportation limits. Vicky Lull explained that a 3 year old in Casco would be served by a teacher who comes out to the home 1x week for 90 minutes. And, 2x a month, the child would have socialization opportunities by going on the bus to the school.

Master Plan: Bruce Barker, Chair of the Planning Commission, stated that at the recent meeting, the revised Master Plan was voted on and is recommended to the board to be adopted as the vision for the next 5 years. Supervisor Overhiser commended the Planning Commission for their work, as well as Patrick Hudson's consulting work. The following resolution was presented:

Resolution 120416A: Approval of the Casco Township Master Plan (amended 2012)

WHEREAS, Casco Township has authorized the Planning Commission to revise and update the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has hosted a series of meetings to receive public input; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan update has been in process for several months; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has been assisted by consultants, the Zoning Administrator, and the Township Attorney; and

WHEREAS, adjacent communities have been invited to comment on the Casco Township Master Plan revisions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Casco Township Board of Trustees approves the revised Master Plan as amended by the Casco Township Planning Commission in 2012, and authorizes this Master Plan as the land use guide for Casco Township, Allegan County.

Moved by: Cowie

Supported by: Winfrey

Ayes: Ridley, Graff, Winfrey, Overhiser, Cowie

Nays: none

Absent: none

Abstention: none

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Public comment: none

Approval of Minutes: Cowie moved approval of the March 19 regular meeting minutes with an amendment to the Coastal Zone Management resolution #120319 (p. 5), to read *in the amount UP TO of \$50,000*, supported by Ridley; MSC.

Treasurer's Report: Winfrey presented the following balances:

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| General Fund | \$489,470.37 |
| Parks Fund | \$ 43,258.48 |
| Senior Services Fund | \$ 42,631.71 |
| Fire Department Fund | \$724,719.49 |
| Road Fund | \$256,721.19 |
| Cemetery Care Fund | \$129,268.72 |
| Collected Tax Account | \$ 621.55 |

Winfrey moved payment of the following bills, supported by Ridley: General Fund orders #21381-21427 in the amount of \$26,015.13; Collected Tax orders #2735-2744 in the amount of \$190,424.14; parks Fund #241-247 in the amount of \$3,642.34; and Seniors Fund orders #293-305 in the amount of \$6,616.64; MSC.

Al-Van meeting: The Paws on the Pier fundraiser is cancelled this year due to a scheduling conflict. There is a new dog park opening near the Al-Van society location.

Seniors: A recent field trip to Oak Haven was awesome (with delicious natural foods being presented). Grand Rapids Home Health Care presented a seminar, which 20 people attended. The Senior Luncheon is this Wednesday, and all Board members are invited. The ACRDC is coming out to sign up Casco-based volunteer drivers. Overhiser thanked Rachel Brenner and Susan Katt for putting in a lot of time on the transaction(s) related to the Senior Transportation program.

Brief discussion ensued about the need to order more chairs for exercise. General fund money is tied up through 2012, so a renovation of the Township Hall into a community center is not expected until 2013 at the earliest. Space for storing the (new) chairs is a problem at the United Methodist Church.

The Allegan County Commission on Aging will hold its June meeting at the Casco Township Hall on Tuesday, June 19 at 1:30 p.m.

Parks & Recreation: The Coastal Management Zone application has been submitted. Pam Blough and Julie Cowie completed it and are requested approximately \$46,000 for beach stairs, a viewing deck, and a connecting pathway.

Chair Brandon reported that some on the Parks committee hold a view that asphalt proposed for Nature Preserve pathways is not desirable as far as aesthetics goes. The plan always had asphalt, and it was discussed widely. Mr. Brandon asked if the Board is interested in giving the committee time to look at other material choices. Overhiser felt asphalt is the best surface to hold up; an aggregate could move every spring. We are in a position to pave at the end of May. If the paving material is changed, DNR approval would be needed, and a delay is undesirable. The current contract with the general contractor has paving bundled into it. It was not known how much of a base exists on the pathways in Fillmore Township. Asphalt provides needed/required stability. Decision is not based just on aesthetics.

Cowie expressed reluctance to endorse a change with the MNRTF staff at this point. If the Disability Network, which consulted on the universally accessible plan, prefers the other surface, then a discussion might be warranted. Committee went through all the other procedures—lots of discussion, but never a motion presented not to have asphalt. There will always be complaints about various aspects of the site plan. Our role is to deliver a park this year and a path that all people can use.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Met March 22, with all members present to address 2 requests. 1) Tom Johnson, acting for Norman Siegal, 62 North Shore Drive, seeking a 7' high fence contrary to 6' height limit. No action taken because no one showed up to represent the project. 2) Brian Bosgraaf, Cottage Home, for The Moran Group, seeking variances for Haven Shores, located on the west side of 74th between 101st & 102nd Avenue (10 acres). Needed a 25' variance, setback for inland lots; granted for 25' rear yard setbacks. Bosgraaf sought a variance regarding setbacks from ordinary high water mark, lots 1-5, 225' from high water mark. This was tabled. He also sought a variance regarding a buffer requirement along a public road; he wanted the buffer to be 25' deep, granted. The ZBA will have a meeting on April 26 to address what was tabled, and to address Tom Johnson's request.

Overhiser commented that when the Zoning Ordinance was revised some years ago, a lake setback based on an average of five homes in each direction sounded harmless, but in practice it doesn't compute. Graff concurred, that someone might electively choose to set their home a ways back from the bluff, and that would negatively impact the neighbors. The Planning Commission will look at this setback issue soon.

Water/Sewer: The Authority recently had a tour of the new \$20 million treatment plant, which was impressive; the sewer treatment plant update is in preliminary stages. There were no new connections

last month. Meijer will provide Water/Sewer Authority will good funding. Also, a proposed apartment complex on Baseline would provide 3 times the revenue that the Meijer will provide, plus revenue for debt retirement. The mandatory hookup period is going on right now.

Fire/Emergency Services: There will be a Guns and Hoses basketball game, a benefit to be held at the High School, on Saturday June 9 at 7:30 p.m. (South Haven High School).

Maple Grove: Ed Hanenburg has been a joy to work with on issues over the past year. He's going to pre-buy our property and provide us with the \$500,000 to close the Maple Grove acquisition, and gift \$283,000 of value in the Maple Grove property. A resolution to extend the project agreement is needed.

Resolution #120416: In support of Request for Extension of TF10-067

WHEREAS, Casco Township wishes to acquire by purchase and KAM Properties II (represented by Mr. Edward Hanenburg) wishes to sell the parcel at 776 Blue Star Highway, Casco Township, known as Maple Grove; and

WHEREAS, this real estate transaction is made possible by a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (Award TF10-067) and

WHEREAS, the real estate transaction is currently in process, and

WHEREAS, an extension of the grant project period is permissible,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Casco Township requests an extension of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund TF10-067 project period to July 1, 2012 to allow for the closing of the real estate acquisition known as the Casco Township Nature Preserve Expansion.

Moved by: Cowie, supported by: Ridley

Ayes: Graff, Winfrey, Overhiser, Cowie, and Ridley

Nays: none Abstentions: none Absent: none

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Law enforcement update: arranging for a meeting on Monday April 23 at 7:30, for Lee, Ganges, Clyde, & Casco boards/supervisors. Jim Hull, the undersheriff, will come and talk about road patrols and what's possible with other revenue. The Sheriff's department is willing to do more of a menu-type service.

Red Pine Harvest: 400-500 cords taken off Transfer Station site, \$12 per cord, perhaps \$6000-7000 so far. We could get around \$10,000 of red pine off that site.

Requested authorization for Clerk and Supervisor to enter into a contract to pursue the 28 acres owned by the Township. Lu Winfrey moved to authorize the Clerk and/or Supervisor to act on the Township's

behalf regarding harvesting red pine off of the 28 acres owned by the Township, supported by Graff; MSC.

Election Inspectors: The Election Commission will meet as a part of this regular board meeting (as noticed). Cowie moved approval of the following slate of election inspectors, supported by Winfrey:

Election Day, May 8, 2012

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk (all day)

Chair: Anita Walker (all day)

6:00 a.m. Patrick McKearnan (until 2 pm)
Elaine Norton (until 2 pm)
Esther Reed (until 2 pm)

2:00 p.m. Kathy Brandon (until closing)
Blanche Wilkinson (until 6 pm)
Anastasia Cowie (until closing)

6:00 p.m. Janet DeWitte

Motion to nominate the above as Election Inspectors was carried by voice vote. The only items on the ballot for May 8 are Fennville School funding issues.

Public comment: none

Graff moved to adjourn, supported by Winfrey; adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully,



Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

Casco Township