

Approved 3/19/2012

Casco Township Board of Trustees

Regular meeting of February 20, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Cowie, Ridley; Judy Graff was absent due to health concerns in her family.

Good wishes were expressed for a positive outcome and good recovery for Ken Graff.

Supervisor Overhiser called to order the **Public Hearing on the Community Recreation Plan Update** at 7:08 p.m. In addition to four Board of Trustees members present, Sandy Warren of the Parks & Recreation committee; Pam Blough, Parks & Recreation consultant, and approximately 9 interested persons were present.

Supervisor Overhiser called on Consultant Pam Blough to review the process engaged by the Parks & Recreation committee up to this point. Ms. Blough provided a summary of steps taken, including the proper noticing of this public hearing, which is a requirement of the approval process to update the five-year Community Recreation Plan, and subsequently file it with the State and then be eligible for grant funding. The draft plan has been available for 30 days at the Township Hall and on the Township website.

The Supervisor opened public comment:

Jeanne Van Zoeren, 7205 Point Betsie Dr. noted that page 11 of the draft states that none of the groups use Township-owned facilities, but in fact the Friends of the Blue Star Trail (FOTBST) uses the Township address as their own, and also uses the Township Hall for meetings. Q/Will a stairway be provided regardless of the ability to acquire Maple Grove? A/if Maple Grove is not successful, there would be beach stairs located on Stefan.

Ms. Van Zoeren pointed out that the Maple Grove parcel has 400' of Lake Michigan frontage, the Stefan parcel (now, the Casco Township Nature Preserve) has 300' of Lake Michigan frontage, Stefan is 300', and the parcels in Miami Park add additional frontage.

Ms. Van Zoeren had attended the public meetings and participated in the sticker process for marking priorities. She interpreted the voting process as being weighted with points, as a way of setting priorities.

It was explained that the process was not a voting process, it was one of many ways of looking at parks. The committee developed goals & objectives out of the public input of that meeting.

Per Jeanne, according to survey mailed to residents about 6 years ago, Lake access was the highest priority to residents, and a bike trail was the second priority. She asked the committee to review the priority process. She preferred to see the trail much higher than #6 on the priority list. She felt the bike trail development is a regional effort, with the city of South Haven and

Douglas also being involved and interested in Casco's involvement. There could be a link from the existing path in South Haven to the Nature Preserve for Casco's southern residents.

Ms. Blough responded that the Nature Preserve and renovation of the Township Hall for recreation/community programming are higher priorities by the committee.

Van Zoeren desired the trail to be listed higher, not as a last priority, to be in a better position to receive funding.

Dan Way asked if money was set aside for this trail at Allegan County. He had been told that State money was coming to the bike trail from the State. Ms. Van Zoeren explained that CMAQ funding had been pursued through the Allegan County Road Commission. She feels that the trail is still in line for CMAQ dollars. She shared a report that bike trails have economic, development, and health value, and can bring billions of dollars of value (tourism, economic development) to communities who have them.

David Campbell asked about the funding necessary to develop the trail, and it was noted that the Township on its own doesn't have anything close to what it would take to put up matching dollars for major grant opportunities with other unfinished projects (Nature Preserve development, Nature Preserve Expansion, and Township Hall renovation) currently underway.

Dan Way, 649 Lakeshore Dr. was present and read his letter dated 2/19/2012 (attached).

Several other letters were read aloud (all attached), namely those from Marv Haveman, 5271 Beach Avenue; Julie Werkema, Lakeview Avenue, Miami Park Subdivision; Michael Werkema, 7250 Lakeview Avenue; Tamsie Haskell, 7256 Beach Drive; Jim & Karen Hart, 619 Lake Shore; and Denny & Eileen Mead, 900 Adams Road.

Sandra Warren was present and read a statement dated 2/19/2012.

Dave Campbell, resident of Glenn Shores, asked if any resident of Miami Park subdivision was supportive of the rankings as they were, especially where the Miami Park Beach Access lots were located in the list of priorities.

Pam Blough responded that the Miami Park beach was purchased with millage funds and that is, in part, why it is on the priority list.

Toni Carroll, a resident of North Shore Drive, asked if the priorities needed to be linear.

Pam Blough stated that the committee was focused on what to spend millage money on.

Bruce Barker, a resident of Miami Park subdivision, spoke against developing the Miami Beach access; given the very high bluff and great erosion, any park site there would never be handicapped accessible.

Brief discussion ensued about two different sets of Township-owned parcels in Miami Park subdivision, some located on Lakeview Avenue and used for water/sewer connections, and some located on the bluff face and beach (the latter parcels being purchased from the State of Michigan).

Sandra Warren spoke to the focus of the Parks & Recreation committee in establishing the priorities. She felt the committee was most interested in developing the Nature Preserve, securing the Nature Preserve Expansion, and developing the Township Hall property. Other projects listed were of interest to the committee—which is why they were on the list—but would be developed (only) as funds become available. The committee doesn't want to put the Township in a position to have to come up with thousands of dollars.

Julie Cowie, resident of 876 ½ Blue Star Highway (and Board member), read her comments. The new idea of a water trail makes the Miami Park subdivision beach lots a possible resting spot for water trail users (kayakers and boaters). Dan Way acknowledged that kiteboarders coming from North Beach might also see it as a resting spot.

Township Treasurer Lu Winfrey asked about the exact wording of park and recreation millage (and the feasibility and legality of using millage funds for the bike trail). She also felt the Township Hall renovation was more squarely the task of the Board of Trustees. She was enthusiastic about the exercise one can get from climbing beach stairs.

Pam Blough stated that the renovation of the Township Hall was discussed at length by the Parks & Recreation committee and addressed in this plan because a renovation of the Township Hall could lead to increased recreation oriented programming, and funded by grants for such purpose.

Lu Winfrey expressed concern over millages being renewed given the economic hardship felt by many in the Township.

Supervisor Overhiser stated that the renovation of the Township Hall would be shaped by available sources of funding. The parks millage is not enough to do what we want to do with the former Stefan parcel, Maple Grove, and/or the Township Hall parcel.

Cowie spoke to moving the Bike Trail higher on the list, even though she acknowledged that this doesn't mean that Township funding will follow.

John Geisler, a resident of Glenn Shores association, commented that the numbering of the first priority was odd; he proposed simplifying it and moving the bike trail higher on the list.

There being no further public comment, the Supervisor entertained a motion to end the public hearing. Cowie moved to close the public hearing pertaining to the Community Recreation Plan update, supported by Winfrey, at 8:39 p.m. MSC.

Overhiser opened the next Public Hearing at 8:40 p.m., which was a **properly noticed Special Assessment Hearing to hear and consider any objections to the acquisition and construction of sanitary sewer improvements along Lakeview Avenue in Miami Park Subdivision.**

Overhiser invited public comment on the proposed special assessment district.

Dan Way, a resident of Miami Park Subdivision, asked a question about Sandy Rozeboom, also a resident of Miami Park subdivision; she is not in the district.

This is a hearing of necessity. Cowie affirmed that the special assessment district is needed and wanted by the residents.

There being no further public comment, Winfrey moved to adjourn the public hearing, supported by Cowie at 8:44 p.m. MSC.

Supervisor Overhiser invited Toni Carroll to speak. Toni, a Casco resident and ACCOA board member, had been asked by Judy Graff to speak about the new transportation vendor decided upon by the **Allegan County Commission on Aging**. She shared a written memo. Casco will have a meeting with Vicky Lull of ACRDC soon. Toni stated she favored more decentralized services.

Cowie stated her profound disappointment that Casco's Transportation program was not funded, and has deep concern that the ACRDC will adequately serve the needs of seniors in Casco Township and the adjacent Townships formerly served through the Casco Township transportation program.

In its bid for the funding, Casco had provided documentation that the Township allocates additional funding to the transportation program. The Board expressed frustration and disgust over this decision by the County to centralize services. Consensus was to closely monitor the quality of transportation service our seniors receive as they request rides with the new vendor.

**Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission voted on 2/8/2012 to distribute the Master Plan. Overhiser thanked Bruce Barker, Chair, for his efforts in leading a reworking of the plan to better address the needs of the Township. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the revised Master Plan on the night of their regular meeting in April (April 11, with the hearing to begin at 6 pm).

[Please see Resolution 120220A, Receiving the Master Plan Update & Authorizing its Distribution, in the attachments.]

Ridley moved approval of this resolution, supported by Winfrey; Ridley, Winfrey, Overhiser, and Cowie voted yes in a roll call vote. Absent: Graff. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

**Maple Grove update:** Valuation of the parcel came in as needed, at \$2.9 million. The next step is to utilize the escrow plan to our liking; if not, we have a fallback option.

Resolution #120220B, Resolution to Acquire Maple Grove Parcel to expand the Casco Township Nature Preserve was read aloud, with the addition of a sentence reading, *WHEREAS, The Supervisor and Clerk shall abide by the parameters established in the grant agreement.* [See full text in the attachments].

Winfrey moved approval of this Resolution, supported by Ridley. Winfey, Overhiser, Cowie, and Ridley voted yes in a roll call vote; Graff was absent. There were no abstentions. Resolution adopted.

**Law Enforcement update:** Overhiser reported on a recent meeting with the Allegan County Sheriff's Department; they have decreased road patrols and are considering a district system (sharing deputies across Townships). Overhiser offered to host a meeting here; Lee Township is not interested.

Overhiser has met with the city of South Haven to establish a Special Assessment District for police protection. It is not clear what the Allegan County Sheriff is going to do. Nor is it clear what the ramifications would be for the more rural area of Casco Township if the City Police Service District is pursued. Another option is a law enforcement authority modeled after SHAES. The next step is to involve the sheriff. A public meeting probably scheduled this summer is in order.

Resolution #120220C, Adopting the Casco Township Parks & Recreation Plan (2012-2016) was read aloud. [See full text in the attachments].

Changes proposed to the document include adding the 28 acres owned by the Township to the page 12 inventory of Township-owned properties. Julie Cowie will work with Pam to correct a few typos. It was also decided to change the priorities to read as follows:

Priority 1A, 1B, 1C: Nature Preserve Expansion/Development (add the small letters back in)

Township Hall Renovation for community use (indoor & outdoor)

2. Blue Star Bike Trail.

It was acknowledged that Township funds will probably be focused on #1 for most of the next 5 years.

3. Black River access property acquisition.

4. Miami Beach Access Property survey (to delineate these parcels and "claim" them as public property, Township-owed).

Cowie moved to have these changes made in the Parks & Recreation plan, supported by Winfrey; MSC.

Cowie moved approval of the Resolution #120220C, Adopting the Parks & Recreation Plan, supported by Winfrey. In a roll call vote, Cowie, Ridley, Winfrey, and Overhiser voted yes, with Graff absent. Resolution adopted.

**Osman Drain** Word has come from the Drain Commissioner that the Osman Drain needs to be cleaned. There is water on the road along 64<sup>th</sup> Street. Action will be taken at the next meeting.

**Roads 2012:** Supervisor Overhiser presented the proposed Roads budget for 2012 [see attachments]. Following discussion, Cowie moved approval of these expenditures, excluding the resealing & fogcoating items listed (Baseline, 60<sup>th</sup> to 64<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup> to 66<sup>th</sup>), supported by Winfrey; MSC.

**Board of Review:** Resolution #120220D, March Board of Review Dates and Procedures, 2012, was presented [see attachments]. Winfrey moved approval, with Cowie supporting; Ridley, Winfrey, Overhiser, and Cowie voted yes in a roll call vote. Graff was absent.

Overhiser moved to appoint Richard Barden & Blanche Wilkinson as members of the Board of Review for 2012, and retain Ken DeWitte & Joe Tubilewicz as alternates; supported by Winfrey, MSC.

**Resolution for Lake Michigan College:** Resolution #120220E, Lake Michigan College Collection of Summer Property Taxes, was presented [see attachments], providing collection of taxes on the same terms as last year. Winfrey moved approval of this resolution, with Ridley supporting. Winfrey, Overhiser, Cowie, and Ridley voted yes in a roll call vote. Graff was absent. Resolution declared adopted.

**Resolutions of Lakeview Special Assessment District:**

Lakeview SAD resolution #3, (Numbered #120220F) was presented [see attachments], with Cowie moving approval, supported by Winfrey; Overhiser, Cowie, Ridley, and Winfrey voted yes in a roll call vote (Graff, absent).

Lakeview SAD resolution #4, (Numbered #120220G) was presented [see attachments], with Cowie moving approval, supported by Ridley; Cowie, Ridley, Winfrey, and Overhiser voted yes in a roll call vote (Graff, absent).

**Other Business:**

**Computer:** The Clerk's office needs a computer with more memory to run Peachtree. Winfrey moved approval for the Clerk to purchase a computer, up to \$1000, supported by Cowie; MSC.

**Technisand Letter:** Overhiser moved to accept the Technisand letter dated January 17, 2012 as the annual report, supported by Winfrey; MSC.

**ACCF Grant Fiduciary:** Cowie explained the ACCF grant parameters, and the idea to pursue \$1000 to fund a bike event to be held in Casco Township. The grant would help promote fundraising for the Blue Star Bike Trail and draw awareness to this project. Casco would be the fiduciary if the grant is awarded. The grant would not cost the Township anything. Winfrey moved approval to allow the Clerk to pursue this opportunity, supported by Cowie; MSC.

**Minutes:** January 10, 2012 special meeting minutes were presented with Winfrey moving approval, supported by Ridley; MSC. The January 16, 2012 regular meeting minutes were presented with Winfrey moving approval, supported by Ridley; MSC.

Treasurer's report:

General Fund balance	\$352,174.38
Parks Fund	\$ 10,076.14
Senior Services Fund	\$ 9,809.36
Fire Department Fund	\$313,133.90
Road Fund	\$ 12,264.05
Cemetery Care Fund	\$129,236.94
Collected Tax Account	\$792,259.40

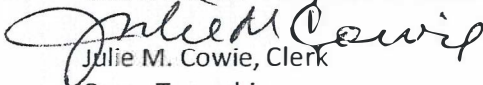
Winfrey moved payment of the following: General Fund orders #21273-21323 in the amount of \$39,898.39; Collected Tax orders #2690-2708 in the amount of \$508,596.74; Fire fund order #3900-3901 in the amount of \$133,470.03; Parks fund orders #226-234 in the amount of \$5,100.02; Senior Fund orders #266-280 in the amount of \$5,931.90; Ridley supported, MSC.

Overhiser reported that revenue sharing is in good shape, probably at \$200,000 after we budgeted this at approximately \$160,000.

Lu Winfrey announced that Ruth Hewitt is the Deputy Treasurer for the next several months. Cowie moved acceptance of Ruth Hewitt as Deputy Treasurer and check signer, supported by Ridley; MSC.

There was no further public comment.

Cowie moved to adjourn at 10:16 pm; Winfrey supported. Adjourned.

  
Julie M. Cowie, Clerk  
Casco Township

Attachments:

Toni Carroll memo about ACCOA decision not to fund Casco Senior Care Transportation Program  
Resolution:

- #120220A, Receiving the Master Plan Update & Authorizing its Distribution
- #120220B, To Acquire Maple Grove Parcel to Expand the Casco Township Nature Preserve
- #120220C, Adopting the Casco Township Parks & Recreation Plan (2012-2016)

Roads Budget for 2012

- #120220D, March Board of Review Dates & Procedures, 2012
- #120220E, To collect Lake Michigan College Summer Property Taxes
- #120220F, Lakeview Special Assessment District (Res. #3)
- #120220G, Lakeview Special Assessment District (Res. #4)

Correspondence read at the Parks/Recreation Public Hearing (Dan Way, Marv Haveman, Julie Werkema, Mike Werkema, Tamsie Haskell, Jim & Karen Hart, Eileen Mead)