

CASCO TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 19, 2017 @ 6:00PM

Approved 7/17/17

CALL TO ORDER: Allan called meeting to order at 6:00pm and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Paul Macyauski, Cheri Brenner, Allan Overhiser, Judy Graff, Lu Winfrey & approximately 40 other interested people.

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Reports:

Airport-

Ren Wright, Chairman of the Airport Board, reported that this past year they trimmed some trees on neighboring properties that were encroaching on their approach lane, this included land based and aerial surveys.

Taxiway crack sealing and associated pavement marking.

Purchased displacement plow for loader used in snow removal.

Currently-

Installed a new "double wall" fuel tank.

Partially replenished reserve fund.

Hanger wait list of 10.

Future:

Crack sealing and associated pavement marking.

Commission design of Taxiway "B" rehabilitation.

Annual fly-in August 13th, helicopter and hot air balloon rides, antique car show.

Ren also mentioned that the township will owe the Airport Authority this year, \$34,000.00.

Casco Township Website-Kathy Stanton

Allan thanked Kathy for her excellent work on the website.

The website has expanded some over the past year with new content supporting the rental issue, keeping up to date with meeting minutes, notices, and community information.

The site has also had to be rebuilt on a new platform due to changes/advancements in technology and conversion will happen between now and July 4th week. The site design and content is essentially the same.

We are working on adding an area where website visitors can go to be kept up to date on the rental issue and the progress the Planning Commission is making. This will include a new form you can use to report any issues with short-term rentals in your neighborhood, meeting minutes, and other relevant information.

Judy asked how residents will know if a complaint is a rental issue or not and there wasn't a clear answer to that question. There was also a question about how people will know that the complaint form is there? It was determined the best way to make people aware of the form is to include an article in the newsletter that goes out with summer taxes.

Chris Barczyk noted that he likes the website, but that there could be better maintenance of the meeting dates and times on the site.

Senior Services Susan Katt and Rachel Brenner were both present.

Susan stated that the Casco Senior Care Program is designed to provide services so that Seniors can have the opportunity to remain in their home as they age. Our program places a strong emphasis on knowing Seniors personally. Regular home visits and phone calls are our priority. The Senior Care Program operates out of the township hall and utilizes the meeting room for luncheons, educational programs and card socials, the Senior Care office, and the garage area for exercise when weather permits. The Casco Senior Program uses the Senior millage from Casco Township. Susan Katt and Rachel Brenner are the staff members that serve as Casco Senior Care Director and Outreach coordinator.

Weekly programs offered at the township hall include our exercise class, which is held on Mondays and Thursdays followed by a social time with snacks and coffee, and our cards social, which is on Tuesdays. Other educational programs and luncheons are held throughout the year.

One change from last year is that Vikke Andersen, who was our consultant for Medicare and Veterans Affairs, has retired. Susan Katt has taken the MMAP course and plans on seeing clients this fall for Medicare part D sign up and other Medicare and social security needs.

Our Outreach Program is run by Rachel Brenner. Susan and Rachel are available to meet with Seniors or family members to offer information and assistance. Along with her hundreds of home visits and thousands of telephone calls each year, Rachel has done an outstanding job of connecting clients with appropriate agencies for help. These would include nursing home options, hospice, and programs from the Allegan County Commission on Aging. The ACCA services are home delivered meals, adult day care, senior transportation, personal emergency response units, and in-home supports.

Rachel and Susan will be setting up a time to meet with Sherry Owens, the ACCA director, after Labor Day, to assess how we can better utilize Allegan's services for our Casco members.

Susan also mentioned that we do have durable goods here at the hall, wheelchair, canes, crutches, shower chair, walkers, etc.

Allan mentioned that our focus is care watch.

Parks & Recreation- Bruce Brandon did a talk.

Bruce Brandon, said he would like to thank the members of the Casco Township Park Committee for their hard work and dedicated service to Casco Township. Collectively, the committee reflects the diverse views within our community and had done an outstanding job in reaching consensus on important issues brought before the committee.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

1. Continue to manage and monitor the Casco Nature Preserve and assessment of First Street access.
2. Update comprehensive checklist instrument for park properties.
3. Continue to work on up-dating park ordinances to keep pace with community needs.
4. Continue to monitor the progress of the Blue Star Trail as it relates to Casco Township.
5. Ensured the recreational activities were included in the town hall parking lot project. Basketball hoop and pickle ball equipment will be in the fiscal year budget for purchase.
6. Prepared a new five-year Parks and Recreation plan to be approved by the township board.
7. Constructed additional parking at the Preserve.
8. Re-installed lifesaving rings at beach.
9. Trimmed trees and vegetation at lake viewing areas within the preserve.
10. The Casco beach was selected by USCG Aux. and NOAA as first Debris Analysis site in the Great Lakes.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

1. Continue to research invasive species and vegetative management policy.
2. Oversight of park operations and maintenance.
3. Coordinate with Allegan county health dept. to develop beach water testing schedule.
4. Continue to liaison with Allegan County Parks Commission in regard to county projects in our area.
5. Seek input from community members concerning park and recreation opportunities in Casco Township.
6. Continue to grow the membership of the "Friends Group" to help with projects at the Preserve to include Facebook and other social media.

Bruce stated that the committee would also like to thank parks consultant Pam Blough for her expert and professional guidance.

Fennville District Library –

Marilyn Jessup, library board member, mentioned that the Fennville Library has been in existence for 90 yrs. the library serves 14,000 people in the area. Marilyn reported that a couple of years ago they renovated the lower level in for teen activity, children programs, etc. You can download magazines and adult coloring books. We have done extensive upgrades, which includes the heating and cooling system, which Marilyn mentioned that they are good for 15 years now, they have recently installed a security camera system, upgraded to fiber optic, and the library were recently approved to upgrade the five bathrooms next year. The library serves Casco Township, Ganges Township, Clyde Township, South part of Manlius Township, City of Fennville, and Lee Township. Allan thanked the Fennville Library board for all that they do. They provide a great service for the area.

Roads-

Allan mentioned that for several years the township board present and past have wondered what to do about roads' and how to fund them, we have a road millage that will raise a little over \$300,000.00 and we will spend a little over \$300,000.00 this year and we will not pave one road. This is an off year for paving roads we will do a lot of resealing and graveling. At the last couple of meetings', we have concluded that we are not maintaining what we would like to maintain and we are in-fact going

backwards. We will have a Resolution at the next meeting where we will be placing a 1 mill Road Millage Question on the ballot to help fund some more work we would like to do. The board feels the 1 mill will raise approximately \$213,000.00 dollars that would give us enough to pave and make some headway on some of our other projects.

SHAES-

Allan reported that they hired an Inspector, that he will not only be inspecting the short-term rentals, Which is not his full - time job, he will also be doing some pre-planning, which will be a good investment for the department. Allen handed out a history of our funding of SHAES comparing several years which is based on our taxable value.

Clerk-

Cheri mentioned that we have a new County Clerk, Bob Genetsky, whom just walked in the door. Cheri also mentioned that Janet DeWitte retired the end of December, and she was a wonderful Deputy Clerk. As of January 2017, Kathy Stanton became Deputy Clerk, she is also the townships website person and our technical support. Cheri mentioned that we will only have one election and that will be in November this year.

Cheri stated that we are extending the township hours to 9:00am to 4:00pm on Thursdays instead of 9:00am to 12:00noon.

Treasurer-

Lu announced that she has hired Sue Tecklenburg, as Deputy Treasurer and that Lu is also working on the summer taxes that will go out soon.

Planning Commission

Dian Liepe, chairperson, was ill and not able to be at the meeting. Allan read her report that she emailed to him. The Planning Commission has been very busy since January holding special workshops on Rentals in Casco. This issue has proven difficult at times but the commission is moving forward. Two Planning Commission members have recused themselves from these workshops and the decision has left 5 commissioners to work on it. With a quorum being 4 commissioners, we have had to cancel one workshop due to no quorum. In addition, Chairperson Fleming resigned as chair and stated he would stay on commission but not in officer capacity. So, in April Vice Chair, Dian Liepe, became Chairperson and Dave Campbell was elected Vice Chairperson. Two special workshop meetings were held in May and 2 will be held in June, as the Planning Commission continues work on rentals in Casco. The Planning Commission has appreciated the work of the Citizens Committee. Because of all the work done and vacations there will be no meetings in July 2017. We invite folks to attend our regular meetings as noticed. More information can be found on the township website.

ZBA Committee

Paul mentioned that it has really been slow, he mentioned that set-backs or variances in non-conforming areas. He also mentioned that the biggest issue to work on was the expansion of Jensen's Campground.

SHAWSA

Allan reported that the board is Allan Overhiser, whom is chairperson for SHAWSA and Lewis Adamson, represent Casco Township, Al Dubuisson and Ross Stein, represent South Haven Charter Township, Bob Strickland, Bill Hunter, and Bill Roberts represent the City of South Haven and it will take a good 5 years to combined these areas into one.

Judy asked how long will the South Haven Township/Casco water/sewer Authority exist?

Allan stated that they will exist as long as there is debt.

He also stated that as of May this year there are 21 ½ hookups and have a month to go yet. Because of these the cash is as good as it ever has been.

Bob Genetski-County Clerk

Bob mentioned that there was a May 2nd election that only affected Fennville School District and he thanked Clerk, Cheri for helping consolidate Casco and Ganges. By consolidating townships it saves the School districts several thousand dollars. Bob also mentioned what all the things that the County Clerks' office offers the people of Allegan County.

BUDGET- 2017/2018

OPERATING MILLAGE	\$ 97,821.00	.4588 MILLS
ROADS –	1.4483	\$308,793.00
Fire fund-	1.87	\$398,704.00 could collect up to 4 mills
Parks	.25	\$ 53,302.00
Ambulance	.52	\$ 53,000.00
Seniors-	.2427	\$ 51,746.00
Police	.45	\$ 95,944.00
		5.2398 mills

Chris Barcyk inquired about the amount of money spent on legal fees. Allan explained the different legal expenses and what accounts are actually expensed.

Authorization for the Board to Buy & Sell Real Property-

Allan stated that we need from the public to authorize the Township Board to buy and sell real property. Over the years we have acquired some property and then sold them back to individuals that combine these lots and then build homes.

Bob Sherwood moved for the board to purchase and sell real property. John Barkly supported. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

Judy made motion to adjourn. Paul supported.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Minutes Respectively Submitted by,
Cheri Brenner, Clerk