

CASCO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024 @ 7:00PM

Approved 09/16/2024

Call Meeting to Order: Overhiser called meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Overhiser, Brenner, Clevenger, Macyauski, Fleming, Elizabeth Pederson, 48th District Judge candidate, and 24 other interested residents.

Absent: None

Allan invited any candidates that were present to speak.

Elizabeth Pederson, running for 48th District Court Judge, she has been an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the past 14 years, lifetime resident of Allegan and wants to continue raising her children here. She handles hard cases in the prosecuting office, homicides, sexual abuse for adults & children, torture and many other issues. She is endorsed by Sheriff Baker, law enforcement, and several other. Her job would be to keep our jurisdiction safe and the next generation.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Amy Tipman, for the last 2 years she has a neighbor that trespasses, she looks in her windows, she yells at her, whenever she is outside this neighbor harasses her, she yells at her the whole time, Amy calls the Allegan County Sheriff Dept. but can't get any help from them. Cesar tries to get her some help; she would like to get her arrested to get relief from her constant harassment. Amy does not feel safe anymore at her own home. Kyle Griffin, retired police officer, spoke for Amy about her situation. He has seen what she is going thru. Allan said he talked with Deputy Cano today who had been there, and he will talk to his superior tomorrow to see what can be done.

Kevin Whiteford announced that he won the republican ticket for State Representative, he said he is a successful businessman, and he doesn't need the money, he has a ton of experience and spoke about many other things about himself and the amount of support he has gotten.

Reports:

- Police

Deputy Cano reported there were 91 calls in the month of July.

- SHAES

Jim Quinn, SHAES Representative, Casco had 21 fire calls & 29 EMS calls in July and gave an excellent report on other issues at SHAES.

- County

Allan mentioned that we lost Dean Kapenga, our County Commissioner, there will be a process for his replacement.

- Library

No report

- Clerk

Cheri presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 15, 2024. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes. Supported by Dan. No further discussion. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

Cheri made a motion to amend the following Budget Items:

General Fund

101-262-709.000 Elections- fica/medicare	\$258.80
101-269-955.000 Misc. Expense	\$149.00
101-371-801.024 Inspections-contractural bldg.	\$891.33

Parks & Recreation

208-751-802.003 Park Development	\$15,356.50
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Supported by Dan. No questions or discussion. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

- Treasurer

Balances of all the funds as of 7/31/24 are as follow:

101	General Fund	\$1,454,856.72
204	Roads Fund	\$1,256,320.12
206	Fire Fund	\$613,957.55
207	Police Fund	\$196,106.03
208	Parks & Recreation	\$62,719.30
209	Cemetery	\$96,355.67
290	Senior Services	\$225,479.09
703	Current Tax Collection Fund	\$39,828.72
863	Lakeview Sewer	(\$2,577.22)
864	Lakeview Water	(\$5,704.29)
865	Pacific Sewer	\$10,268.91
866	Pacific Water	\$35,314.84
867	Orchard Sewer	\$18,637.48
868	Casco Twp 102 nd	\$63,976.60
869	Beach Dr	\$53,738.34
870	Lakeview Paving	\$50,380.71

Kenny made a motion to approve the payments as of 7/31/24 in the amount of \$485,913.47.

Checks 29239 – 29324	\$473,527.96
EFT 203	\$7,116.06
EFT 204	\$5,269.45
	\$485,913.47

Supported by Dan. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

- Parks & Recreation

Paul made a motion to purchase some flower bulbs in the amount of \$500.00 for the Preserve. Dan Supported. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried. The committee toured the Preserve and discussed having some evasive species removed, discussed the placing of the split rail fence along the bluff, the placement of the new bathroom and the amount of work still to be done around the bathroom. Brian Ridley is doing a great job at the Preserve and at the 1st Street Beach keeping it looking nice.

- Planning Commission

Dan Fleming gave a report on the committee.

- ZBA

Paul reported that a variance was granted for redoing a deck on the front of a house that the original deck had been removed.

- Senior Services

Mary gave a report on the July 24 activity.

- Senior Service Committee update

Allan explained that Linda Teeter, Mary Tobin, & Dian Liepe are on this committee, Mary Tobin and Linda Teeter were present, Dian Liepe was not able to be there. Linda Teeter introduced herself and explained this Advisory Committee was supported by the Casco Township Board of Trustees at the April 15, 2024, meeting. This three-person committee was created to oversee current senior services and the transition of the senior services from Casco Township to Van Buren County Senior Services.

Mission: Establish guidelines for the current program from July 15, 2024 – December 31, 2024, and a plan for the transition of services provided by Van Buren County Senior Services. Linda presented the committees guidelines to the Board Members and asked them to look it over.

Linda continued to say that Diane Rigozzi has asked them to stay together after December 2024. Linda reviewed some of the guidelines that the committee has been working on. The committee plans on having data entry done for the next meeting to report on.

- Senior Services of Van Buren County Agreement:

Allan presented the work in progress Senior Services of Van Buren County Appropriation Agreement between Senior Services of Van Buren County, inc. and Casco Township. There is a few changes on the last page and one of those is Casco Township recommends someone from their township to be on their board. Also, the information that they would

want reported to Casco monthly would be part of that person's responsibility. Allan asked that the board read this Agreement and be able to talk about it next month.

- SHAWSA

Allan reported that there was a sewage overflow, but they were able to stop it before it hit the river. He explained how they go through a study every year on how they create the rates every year.

- Short Term Rental Report – Report follows:

Paul reported that this year has seen an increase in the number of rentals. We have 145 registered rentals currently. There have been and still are changes occurring throughout the season – homes being sold and registrations transferring to new owners and new registrations coming on-line mid-season.

Paul is going to try to do a few inspections later in the season (now) due to reported issues at a couple of the newer rentals. In a couple cases we are asking that the building Inspector and/ or zoning Administrator go with him.

- We are in contact with Glenn Shores, Glenn Haven Shores, and Cedar Bluff about rental situations in those sub-divisions. This is new information that we will follow-up on.
- Paul has been contacting owners of unregistered properties where we have proof of renting, but since they have been registered in the past we are investigating them.
- The Granicus 24/7 Hotline is working – both the online compliant form and the phone number.
- We have started working on the Mobile Registration module which allow owners to register online with debit/credit cards. It will be ready in plenty of time for next season. We must work out the details of the accounting process.
- We are going to add a letter to the Compliance Monitoring module that will allow Kathy to notify owners when they are due for a septic inspection.

Most owners want to comply with the rules and try to register on time, so most owners do a good job of responding when they receive a call from Granicus, Paul, or our office.

- Julie Cowie

Julie Cowie was present to remind us of the meetings to discuss the Hall Renovation. The first meeting is Monday 8/26/2024 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Bremer & Bowman:

Allan recommended going with a 3 yr. contract with Bremer & Bowman to monitor our furnace & AC making sure everything is running efficient. Allan made a motion to contract with Bremer & Bowman a three-yr. contract in the amount of \$551.00. Paul supported.

Roll Call Vote:

Yahs: Overhiser, Brenner, Paul, Kenny, Dan.

Nays: None

- Revetment Update:

The Miami Park Weaver/Schneiderman Special Assessment is almost done, they still need to put a pathway from the top of the revetment down to the beach.

Allan mentioned that they are working on the Johnston revetment, EGLE does not allow concrete being used in revetments.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Local Millage – Winter Taxes

Casco Township Millage Rate Resolution No. 081924-4

These are the millage rates for the 2024 Winter Taxes.

Operating	1.0374
Roads	1.4195
Roads	.9909
Fire	1.8800
Ambulance	0.6000
Parks & Recreation	0.2423
Senior Services	0.05
Senior Services of VB DTY	0.05
Police	0.05

Dan moved to adopt Resolution No. 081924-24

Supported by Paul

Roll Call Vote:

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

- Property Purchase Request:

An individual has requested to purchase a parcel at Black River Park for \$1,000.00.

Allan has asked him for a formal request. Usually, we put the property up for bids.

There was more discussion on the property.

- Credit Card Usage Resolution:

Allan explained that a debit card isn't the best option for the township, and it has been suggested because of a lot of fraud going on the township should have a credit card instead. We have to have a credit card usage policy resolution in order to get a Business Credit Card from Huntington Bank.

Credit Card Usage Policy Resolution No. 081924-5. Kenny made a motion to approve the Credit Card Usage Policy Resolution No. 081924-5. Supported by Dan.

Roll Call Vote:

Yays: 5

Nays: 0

- Huntington ACH Agreement:

Allan and Cheri met with Marc Rees with Huntington Bank. Cheri was hacked a few months ago and we went to reverse positive pay. Cheri explained that someone from Huntington sends me an email listing checks that I have written, I must approve each check, if I don't, the check will be sent back not paid.

A better solution to this is Check Positive Pay or ACH Positive Pay, I would electronically send a check register to Huntington. The board felt that this was the best way to go and why wouldn't we do this.

- Deputy Clerk Compensation:

Cheri recommended to give Kathy a \$2.00 per hour increase the reasons follow:

1. Responsibility regarding the elections has expanded.
2. Early Voting is a lot more work.
3. Record keeping of the permanent EV voters is new.
4. Record keeping of AV voters of their applications to be sent.
5. With the early voting the need for more certified workers, managing election workers, scheduling etc.
6. More training for election workers to attend, such as, receiving board training, early voting training, AVCB training, chairperson training, in addition to basic inspector training to organize.
7. Tracking post-election retention periods, keeping the documents organized for the right retention periods.
8. Technical experience required has grown and needed since proposal 18-3 and proposal 22-2 have been implemented.
9. Working side by side with the clerk in making decisions.

This experience is things that you learn by training, working elections, technology experience is a must. Someone right off the street could not fulfill this position.

Kenny made a motion to approve the increase of \$2.00 per hr. for the Deputy Clerk.

Supported by Dan. No further discussion. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

Allan thanked Kathy for all the work she does.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Judy Pollock said that on 9/23/24 at Listiak Auditorium from 7 to 9 there will be a debate for state and federal candidates. On 9/30/24 at LMC there will be another debate for the School Board @ 7:00 to 9:00pm. Sponsored by the South Haven AAUW.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Minutes Submitted Respectively by
Cheryl Brenner, Clerk