

CASCO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES, ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 15, 2020 @ 6:00PM

Approved 7/20/2020

Call to Order: Overhiser called the meeting to order at 6:06pm and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Overhiser, Brenner, Winfrey, Macyauski, Graff

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comment.

Reports:

- Rental Update:

Kathy read the following- With the rental season delayed the registration deadline until two weeks after rentals opened up and the executive order rescinded. That puts the deadline at June 16, tomorrow.

The Host Compliance map of advertised rentals shows 114 active rentals. Of those 27 are exempt from registration, either because they are resort rentals, B&B ads, or they are in the AG district. We have received registrations for 66 properties.

114 STR Units in or near Jurisdiction

4 STR Rental Units added last month

87.7% STR Rental units with Street Address identified

Exempt Properties, June 15

3 Sun and Sand

14 Sleepy Hollow

10 AG District

That leaves 21 properties for me to follow up on. Of that 21, one of the homes that was moved is showing up as advertising but the entire summer through October is blocked so they aren't really renting. One home in Mt. Peasant has 2 dots, same address so it is being counted twice. We have to sort them out after the deadline.

Several owners have notified us they just aren't renting this year. Inspections have been delayed, so Paul isn't planning any until the fall. We will keep working diligently to make sure everyone is held accountable.

- Paul reported that he responded to 13 different calls from Host Compliance in the past two months, they all related to the Governors' executive order. We sent a letter out to everybody letting them know that the Allegan County Sheriff's Dept would respond to these calls, to investigate if any of these calls are in violation of the Executive Order.

Some owners have already sent in their 2020 Registrations and we appreciate that. We understand why others of you have not registered yet. If you are already advertising and accepting rentals for later in the summer, you need to register now and not wait until the restrictions are lifted.

When the governor's restrictions are lifted, the deadline for registering a short-term rental will be two weeks after that. At that time, I will schedule a number of inspections. I will let you know if you are on the list for an inspection this year.

- Parks & Recreation Committee Annual Report:
 1. Review of the township Parks and Recreation Plan and prepare for a revision document as it expires in 2021.
 2. Continue to monitor Blue Star Trail as it relates to Casco Township.
 3. Continue to liaison with Allegan County Parks in regards to recreational opportunities for Casco residents.
 4. Oversight of park operations and maintenance.
 5. Continue to research and make policy concerning invasive species.
 6. Contracted for comprehensive maintenance of Preserve property and equipment.
 7. Contracted for major improvements to first street access including stairs repair, vegetation plantings and access improvement.
 8. Monitor the erosion lakeshore bluff park property in Miami Park.
 9. Continue to devote committee resources to plan for improvements and resident use of Maple Grove Property.
 10. The committee continues to plan for budgetary processes to have monies available for grant opportunities.
 11. The committee recognizes the loss of the beach access stairs as a major impact to our community. Beach access has been consistently the number one desire of our Casco residents. It is the observation of the parks committee that water levels and their forecasted increase over the next several years will preclude any new beach access construction. The committee continues to explore innovative engineering concepts to provide access to the lake when water levels allow moving forward.
 12. I would like to thank the current members of the Park Committee for their dedicated service to the Casco community: Andy Litts, Don Kuick, Paul Macyauski, Matt Super, Debbie Weaver, and recording secretary Kathy Brandon.
- Fennville District Library:
Annual Report Addendum:
Due to the time difference between the Library's fiscal year and Casco's, I felt it appropriate to provide additional, updated information.

Fennville District Library as with other Michigan public libraries, had to close to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic. Director Teresa Kline, after consultation with the Board, ceased over-the-counter services effective March 24. The curb-side drop-off and the book return here at township hall were closed with signs asking the public to hold their materials until the library reopened. Patrons have had access to FDL's online resources such as e-books through home internet.

During this time, library staff worked from home with specific assignments and continued to be paid. Teresa has kept the Board updated weekly by email on what staff have been working on. Since March, the Board has been holding its monthly meetings via Zoom. Last week, staff reported for Covid-19 training. The library received its requested PPE and supplies from Lakeland Cooperative hdq.

The Good News: FDL reopened for curbside service last Thursday. Patrons may return library material, pick up holds and requested material and apply for a library card. The library will also provide copies and fax services. Curbside service will be available Monday-Friday from 10:00am –5:00pm. Casco’s drop box is also open for returns. Returned material will be housed in a separate room to allow virus to die before re-shelving. For more information on curbside service and to read the library’s phased reopening plan please visit fennvilledl.michlibrary.org.

The highlights of 2019 were as follows:

- Parking Lot Study was completed
- All patron and staff computers were upgraded.
- Library received a three-year \$110,000.00 grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services to provide summer
- Main level of the library was painted.

The virus/library closure also put on hold the Library’s parking area expansion development plans. Current space only provides for 23 vehicles; expansion will increase to 66 with potential future increase of an additional 29.

Since she was hired in 2013, the Library Board has been extremely pleased with our Director’s work and her annual evaluations reflect this. When the Library was closed, Teresa was always thinking ahead and keeping us apprised of the situation. We have supported her involvement with Lakeland Library Cooperative, Allegan Library Association, and the Michigan Library Association, serving as officers, which makes the library “look good”.

Marilyn Jessup and I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Township representatives; Marilyn continues as Secretary and I as Vice President.

Respectfully,
Bob Sherwood

- Planning Commission:
Dave Campbell submitted an Annual Report and this report will be part of the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- BUDGET 2020/2021:
Everyone received a revised copy of the Budget from our previous meeting. Allan recommended to go fund by fund to approve this budget.-The last page of the general fund, page 5, has a balance of \$455.00.
One of the highlights is there are no increases to employees and elected officials this year. We do have the money coming back in the amount of \$37,000.00 from the water/sewer fund, the township floated a loan to help establish the water/sewer.
We did vote to increase the budget amount for the Allegan County Legal Assistance Program , we discussed with Linda Teeter to increase the service , we raised that up to \$3,000.00.

Road Fund:

Allan pointed out that at the last line this fund shows a positive \$1,286.00 balance.

Fire Fund:

Allan explained that for the fire fund and the ambulance fund we could collect a lot more than what we are projecting to collect. For the fire fund we could collect in excess of 4.593 mills but we are only collecting 1.75mills. In the Ambulance Fund we could collect in excess of .94 but we are only collecting .55.

Police Fund:

The amount is high but we don't know what the county's is going to be and we are funding the depreciation on the police car. We are authorized to collect .64 mills and this budget has us collecting .48 mills.

Park & Recreation Fund

Our high priority is to be able to access Lake Michigan whenever that will be in the future. The big ticket item will be the stairs, whenever that issue will come up, there might be some other capital improvements.

All the Funds were discussed including the special assessment funds with all having a balanced budget. The special assessment funds do not have the revenue showing, when we get those amounts posted into those funds they will be in the black like all the other funds.

Authorize Board to Buy & Sell Real Property:

Dave Campbell made motion to authorize the board to buy and sell real property.

All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Lu made motion to adjourn. Judy supported.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

Minutes Respectively submitted by,
Cheryl Brenner, Casco Township Clerk