

**CASCO TOWNSHIPS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024 @ 7:00PM**

Approved 11/18/2024

**Call to Order:** Overhiser called meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Overhiser, Brenner, Macyauski, Fleming & 7 other interested citizens.

**Absent:** Clevenger, medical emergency, family member.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**Reports**

- SHAES

Johanna Quinn was present reported that Casco Township YTD is 340 calls, Sept. had 47 calls. So far this year SHAES has had 2194 calls, this includes Casco. She reported that they have been doing some training and have had some successful fund raisers. The South Haven Hospital Auxiliary donated \$10,000.00 to SHAES; they plan on getting a new LED sign with this donation.

- Clerk

Cheri presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 16, 2024. Dan made a motion to approve these minutes. Supported by Paul. No further discussion or corrections. All votes in favor. Motion Carried

Cheri made a motion to amend the following Budget items:

General Ledger:

101-215-900-000	Clerk-Printing	\$98.26
101-262-704-002	Election Wages	\$1,034.60
101-262-709-000	Election-fica/medicare	\$79.14

Police Fund

207-301-932-000	Repairs/Maintenance	\$3,047.91
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Cheri asked if the Allegan County charge for using their car should go under the contract account. They agreed that it should.

Paul supported. No further discussion or corrections. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

- Treasurer:

Cheri made a motion to approve the following bills in the amount of \$322,810.22.

Checks 29394-29454	\$322,206.80
EFT 208	\$603.42
	<b>\$322,810.22</b>

Supported by Paul. No further discussion or corrections. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

Balance of all funds as of 9/30/2023 are as follow:

101	General Fund	\$1,364,668.06
204	Road Fund	\$1,091,922.44
206	Fire Fund	\$614,654.62
207	Police Fund	\$172,486.38
208	Parks & Recreation	\$72,175.58
209	Cemetery	\$96,618.33
290	Senior Services	\$219,888.94

- Planning Commission

Dan reported that they continued discussion of the Master Plan. The Planner was in, and they received copies of the first two chapters. Also discussed was having an accessory building dwelling on the same parcel. Minimum dwelling size was also discussed. The survey is open again until after the election.

- Parks & Recreation:

Paul reported that the committee talked about the project at the Nature Preserve they were happy with the progress, the sanitary restrooms, the extension of the new parking lot in the maple grove area, and the paved walkways to the Lake.

He said they are getting a lot of comments “When are you going to get access to the beach?” They had to wait until the lake level was low before they could do anything, the committee talked about the different ways to access the beach, possibly a path. Paul made a motion to spend up to \$1,000.00 to hire LR Engineering to do a study of the bluff to have information to work with EGLE. Supported by Dan. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

- ZBA

The committee denied a side set-back variance request for 5’ of relief, to install an inground pool @ 870 Blue Star Highway.

- Senior Services

Mary Campbell gave a report of the activities that Senior Services provided for the month of 9/30/2024.

- Casco Township Senior Service Advisory Committee

Linda Teeter, Chairman, & Mary Tobin, committee member, gave a report of the dates they have met and what was discussed at these dates.

- SHAWSA

Allan gave an updated report of the projects, and they broke ground for the new water tower.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Township Hall Renovation Update-Brian Peterson-Architect

Brian Peterson presented a plan for renovating the garage, he handed out a builder's breakdown of the costs which totaled \$350,000.00 easy. This is for renovating the garage only currently. With further explanation and questions about the design and Julie Cowie brought information of possible funds available for funding the project. The board decided to have a workshop meeting on Nov. 7, 2024 @ 6:00 pm.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Lakeshore Drive & Beach – Approve work.

Jim Glas lives at the end of Atlantic, has offered to correct the water flow to the catch basin on Lakeshore Drive and Beach Drive. He needs permission from the Township to cut the brush on Township property to correct the situation.

Paul made a motion to approve Jim Glas to do work on Lakeshore Drive & Beach which is Township Property. Supported by Dan. No further discussion. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

Debbie Weaver is asking the board for permission to wait until Spring to finish her project making a path across the revetment to the beach. The board agreed for her to wait until spring to complete her project.

- Ashes Policy

A request to spread a family members ash at the park. After a short discussion the Board Members didn't have a problem with it.

- Payroll Service – 2025

Allan explained that we just got done with our annual audit and our auditor recommended going with a Payroll Service, which would mean going paperless and everyone's check would be direct deposit. With Rachel coming on board it would be a good move for the township not having to report the payroll taxes to the federal government. A Payroll Service would be responsible for the federal reporting.

- Compensation – Outgoing Officials – Transition Process

Allan explained that it has been the custom to offer the new official to have the outgoing official for a resource which he recommended at \$30.00 per hour for basically being on call when needed. Dan supported. No further discussion. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

- Al-Van Society - \$5,000.00 Annual Financial Commitment.

Al-Van Society for years we have contract with them to accept Casco Township animals for an annual fee of \$3,000.00 per year, they are now asking for \$5,000.00 per year. Al-Van is more assessable than Allegan County for Casco Residents. Paul made a motion to raise our annual fee to \$5,000.00 for the period of 2025 to 2026. Supported by Cheri. No further discussion. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

- Assessing

Allan met with the Equalization Director of Van Buren County who has a company called Assessing Solutions. It is the responsibility of Casco Township to make sure that all the

assessing functions are being handled and complied with. It has been very difficult for us on a day-to-day basis to evaluate that performance. There is a way to do that on a day to day to see exactly what the assessor is doing, it would involve putting a computer here and the assessor would remote into the computer here and do his work. The benefit of that you could see what is being done on a day-to-day basis, the data base would be here. There is another program called Pivot Point that does reports. Allan said he doesn't have a dollar amount yet, the cost might be under \$2,000.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Campbell asked Dan about the proposal of the minimal house size. Dan started to answer and Dave Campbell spoke at the same time, I couldn't hear Dan's reply to that question.

Dave Campbell mentioned the 40 acres surrounding the township hall to possibly be an option to raise \$200,000.00 towards the renovation project.

Campbell also recommended getting a loan for the renovation project.

Paul made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Dan. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Minutes Respectively submitted by  
Cheryl Brenner, Clerk

