

Approved, 12/17/12

Casco Township Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting of October 15, 2012, 7:00 pm

At 7:00 pm, Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order and led in the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Cowie, Graff, and Ridley and approximately 20 interested people.

Candidates: Lee Abernathy, retired from IBM, introduced himself; he is running for Bloomingdale School Board. Professionally, he has spent a lot of time fixing "processes;" he is currently a board member for a Charter school in Toledo, where he has seen a school dealing with more challenges than what is present in Bloomingdale. He has two grandchildren in Bloomingdale Schools.

Cherie Brenner, Candidate for Casco Township Clerk, grew up in Casco and has a farm on 109th on Blue Star Highway. She spoke highly of the community of Casco Township. She has experience working with the public and in finance. She has worked as an office manager, also. She has also worked in medical billing. She outlined her lengthy work history. She has served on the Executive Board of South Haven Senior Services for 6 years.

Julie Cowie spoke about her campaign for Allegan County Clerk/Register of Deeds and what she hopes to accomplish if elected.

Guests: Joanne Urbanski, CEO of South Haven Health Systems, introduced herself and the people she brought with her, including Bill Wood, Director of People, Philanthropy & Marketing; Dr. Bleil; Mark Gross, finance officer; and Mona Hale (board chair). Casco is one of 9 subdivisions of the hospital authority. Urbanski has been at the hospital for 28 years. SHHS received a "hospital of choice" award; one of the top 10 in America for hospitals in customer service. The Wellness Center is celebrating 5 years of service. She reviewed new classes, all of which are on the website.

Mr. Gross spoke. SHHS had \$600,000 in operating profit, a 1.5% margin for the last year. The goal is 3-5% annual profit to allow reinvestment in facilities. Electronic health records are the next goal--a \$7 million investment over the next 5 years.

Bill Wood spoke: SHHS employs about 400 people; it is the largest employer in South Haven. He spent 30 years in manufacturing and has been at the hospital 5 years. SHHS has 45% market share in the central region. They brought in two new surgeons this year. Patient satisfaction scores are very high. 83% of patients are giving the hospital a 9 or 10 on satisfaction with care. The foundation is 3 years old. SHHS provided free services to 3,000 people. They are still gaining traction with the Foundation.

Questions from the public: Vikke Andersen, who is involved in insurance issues and with low-income people, asked about Priority Health Medicare Advantage. She asked if SHHS could participate with more of the Medicare advantage plans. She asked about clinics in South Haven, and Medicaid patients who, with hospital turnover, have to start all over with a new health care provider. Dr. Bleil said the electronic health record will help with turnover.

Bob Baker asked about shingles shots. David Diny told of an experience in which he had a surgical procedure and was not referred to by name. This left him without confidence that he was known to the surgical staff and he hoped people at the hospital would call people only by name, and not by a euphemism.

Cowie, Graff, and Winfrey offered comments about automated calls from the hospital and suggestions about how to make that process better.

Connie Schaeffer wished the Wellness center could have a join-by-the-month plan. There is an option for an account to be "frozen" while a user is away (i.e., for the Winter). Mr. Baker also had feedback about the billing from the Wellness Center.

Cherie Brenner defended the hospital; hospitals and doctors are the last to be paid so she understands the aggressiveness about pursuing payment from treated people. The hospital writes off \$400,000/month in non-payment. The hospital staff/board present were thanked for coming to the township.

Public Comment: David Diny asked, regarding the bid for transportation support, if there was a letter stating the conditions. He asked if anyone had looked into law; namely, that if the provider defaults, would it go to the second bidder? Overhiser responded that his view was, that wasn't the parameter of the contract.

David Diny asked about vacancies on the Allegan County Commission on Aging. Rachel Brenner replied that someone has applied for the position left open by Toni Carroll's death. Mr. Diny also noted that there are 4 openings on the ACRDC board, and he wondered if Casco had put forth any names for those positions.

Perhaps openings could be promoted in the Casco Township Winter newsletter.

David Campbell asked Tom Jessup how the corners of the County could get more attention. Jessup responded that the farther people get from Allegan, people go elsewhere to shop, etc (and don't think about central Allegan County). Mr. Campbell wondered about satellite offices.

Allegan County Commissioner: Regarding the budget, it was cut 2.6% so the 2013 budget will be \$30,362,947. About \$4 million is in the rainy day fund. \$500,000-\$700,000 will come from the casino in revenue sharing. Employees got a 1% raise.

The transportation contract restarts itself at the start of the year. Jessup cautioned that if January 1 comes, the program will be set (with ACRDC). Jessup feels the senior millage doesn't collect enough money to serve the needs.

Allegan County Transportation has offered to make a once a month run to Walmart for about an hour and a half, and take seniors home again. This must occur on a Friday. If seniors need to go elsewhere, they can be transported while others are at WalMart.

David Diny: ACRDC has had data, historically, and wondered why the transportation and meals on wheels are being cut back (because ACRDC should know the needs/costs) He reported that on the Area Agency on Aging of West Michigan website, if sequestration goes through, there will be an approximate 8% cutback on services.

Rachel Brenner asked if Casco has a chance to get back into the transportation program for 2013.

Mr. Jessup further reported that, regarding the Kalamazoo River Cleanup, it seems it could cost \$1 billion to clean the river. The EPA has been asked for their opinion.

Minutes: Graff moved and Winfrey seconded approval of the Regular September 17, 2012 minutes, with two amendments; to add the date of September 17 to the top of the minutes, and on page 4, about 100 POTENTIAL parcels that ~~are not~~ COULD BE hooked up. MSC.

Treasurer's report:

General Fund	\$411,002.98
Parks Fund	\$ 1,582.45
Senior Services	\$ 15,720.68
Fire Department	\$612,036.92
Road Fund	\$165,517.75
Cemetery Care	\$ 28,747.14
Collected Tax Account	\$152,144.68

Winfrey moved approval of the following: General Fund orders #21686-21730 in the amount of \$87,484.21; Collected Tax orders #2763-2768 in the amount of \$3,389,035.26; Parks Fund Orders #302-312 in the amount of \$2,737.71; Seniors Fund orders #330-334 in the amount of \$4,525.47; and Road Fund orders #1076-1078 in the amount of \$83,746.48; Ridley seconded; MSC.

**The Cemetery Care Fund** will be reimbursed the \$100,000 borrowed for acquiring the Maple Grove parcel.

**Al-Van Humane society** took in 5 animals from Casco Township in September. They have excess cats. There is an upcoming fundraiser for spaying & neutering, Nov 3, from 5 to 10 pm {spaghetti dinner}.

**Casco Senior Care Program:** Senior appreciation Luncheon this Wednesday at the Fire Station. There will be a dementia class on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:30 {15 already signed up}. October 23 & October 30 are Medicare D signup days, and a Medicare seminar will be held on November 8 at 11:30 at the Township Hall. Crafts will resume {knitting, sewing ornaments}, 10:30 to noon on Wednesdays.

**Parks & Recreation:** a topographical survey is needed to tie both sides of the Nature Preserve together and to meet requirements for further development. MCE provided a quote of \$3,220; Overhiser moved approval of that quote, supported by Cowie; MSC.

**Fennville District Library:** Robert Sherwood, on behalf of the Board, thanked voters for approving the FDL millage.

**Old Business:**

**Assessing information and County interaction:** Allegan County is asking for a download once per year into their system. A lot of other Counties require downloads much more frequently. Allegan County has a new version of BS&A (Dotnet), so there could be version problems between what we use and what the County has. Field cards are available here during business hours, and that can be sent to property owners by request. Equalization wants information once per year.

David Diny said images and maps aren't always available on each parcel on the website. Mr. Diny said he had requested a field card on his property last year, but was told it was not available.

**Final Statement, Maple Grove Acquisition:** We received what was expected in terms of reimbursement for the grant (MNRTF). The total project cost was \$2,938,413.86, and of that amount \$2,145,042.12 was grant funds.

**Nature Preserve:** Some General Fund monies and some Parks & Recreation millage funds have covered development costs of the Nature Preserve. More information is coming regarding exactly how much from each fund has been spent to date on the development of the Preserve.

**North Shore Drain:** A meeting 30 days out from the meeting in August has not occurred. As of today, the picture analysis of the drains has been completed. A report has been generated. Maps of the report are arriving tomorrow. Further public meetings are anticipated. The Drain commissioner is looking into what role the Drain Commission had when the schools were constructed. Mike Hill says he has all the permits; it would be good to have him talk with Becky Rininger. Casco passed a resolution in November 2007, that all new developments be reviewed by the Drain Commissioner. We have not required that all new developments enter into a 433 agreement (and become a drainage district).

#### **New Business:**

**Boundary Adjustment:** William R. Cole requested a boundary adjustment for lots 92, 94, and 96 in Sunset Shore subdivision. The proposed change would divide lot 94 into two and create two parcels, each conforming, with dimensions of 125' x 76.5'. Winfrey moved to approve, Graff supported; Cowie, Ridley, Graff, Winfrey and Overhiser all voted yes in a roll call vote.

**Permission to cut trees:** A letter from the estate of Bernard S. Kurgans has been received (from attorney David Kiel) requesting permission to cut brush on the public land located between Mr. Kurgans' home in Mt. Pleasant subdivision and the Lake.

Discussion ensued about concerns if the proposed trimming doesn't go the way we want it, about taking bids and having the Township control the project (versus letting someone from the Kurgan estate do it), and if this sets a precedent to keep it trimmed in a certain way. Discussion ensued about the best way to see this accomplished, so that no one misconstrues the fact that the bluff is a public park. Overhiser will ask the attorney about the pros and cons of bidding it out and having someone do it on our behalf, versus letting them do it with our permission at their expense. Cowie moved to authorize Overhiser to act in conjunction with the Township attorney and protect Casco's interests while accommodating Mr. Kiel's request, at no cost to the Township. Ridley seconded; MSC.

**Snow Plowing:** Bill Sill submitted a quote for snowplowing for the 2012-2013 season: \$7000, same as last year, adding the Nature Preserve parking lot. Overhiser moved & Winfrey supported; MSC. David Campbell asked about the logic behind plowing the parking lot but not the pathways. (This will allow for emergency vehicles to enter the Preserve).

**Maple Grove Nature Preserve:** Bill Martinus, an environmental consultant, can provide a required report about endangered species on the Maple Grove portion of the Nature Preserve, so that we can proceed with requirements for the Coastal Management Zone grant. Any endangered species would

have gps coordinates recorded. The fee is not to exceed \$660. Cowie moved approval of this proposal, supported by Graff; MSC.

**Other business:** Overhiser has received a few paving & resealing requests including Lakeview in Miami Park. **He** requested a bid from Allegan County to pave Lakeview. A special assessment or cost share with Township may be pursued. Glenn Shores was paved in 1989, and it may be time to reseal those roads. so" to 64<sup>th</sup> Street was treated that way this year.

**Public comment:** none

Winfrey moved to adjourn, supported by Cowie; adjourned 9:55 pm.

Respectfully,

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk