

Casco Township Board of Trustees  
Minutes of 7/15/2013 Regular Meeting @ 7:00 pm  
at Casco Township Hall 7104 107th Ave.  
Approved 8/19/13

Call to Order: Allan Overhiser called meeting to order at 7:05pm and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Allan Overhiser, Judy Graff, Lu Winfrey, Cheryl Brenner, Josiah Jessup and 7 other people. Also present was Ronald Bultje, our attorney from Scholten Fant to explain administrative fee for water/sewer utility bills.

Absent: None

Allan explained that in March the state of affairs of the water/sewer authority and the low growth is causing expenses. With Meyers coming in we should be close for the next two years and then the debt will be less. ~~The need for revenue, the authority came up with an administrative fee of \$2.50 monthly each for water and sewer.~~

The operations and administrative costs have never been assessed therefore the authority developed the option of the maintenance fee to be billed at \$2.50 each for water and sewer. Judy Graff stated that today on the table is a \$2.50 fee for only those connected to the system. The people that are not connected have paid the initial fees and eventually when they do connect they will pay the maintenance fee.

Ron Bultje explained some answers to some questions that have come up at previous meetings. His letter is part of the minutes.

Ron stated that Scholtan Fants opinion is that the Townships may legitimately impose an operations and maintenance charge against the current users served by the water and wastewater systems. It is further our opinion that the Townships are well advised to raise additional revenue by imposing an operations and maintenance charge, to only partially cover the operations and maintenance expenses incurred by the Townships in operating the water and wastewater systems, rather than attempting to reassess the property in the special assessment districts initially established in the Townships for the extension of utility services. The latter approach would risk the Townships being challenged by multiple property owners that the assessments against their parcels in the special assessment districts exceed the value of connecting to the water and wastewater systems.

Judy Graff explained that when people go to the tax tribunal it costs the township money. Allan said that the Glenn Shores Golf Course is commercial now and the owners are now going to the tax tribunal to be changed to residential and this will cost the township.

Bob Barker said that he goes back to 1996 and he feels the whole engineering wasn't done correctly and that the original assessment was incorrect.

Marcie asked Allan how many times has the authority refinanced? Allan explained that the authority refinanced 5 yrs. ago and when they refinance they have always taken the lowest rate.

Allan read Resolution that has already been approved by South Haven Charter Township

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE WATER AND WASTEWATER  
RATE RESOLUTIONS  
SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY  
and  
CASCO TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY

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RATE RESOLUTIONS  
SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY  
and  
CASCO TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY

and  
SOUTH HAVEN TOWNSHIP AND CASCO TOWNSHIP WATER AND  
SEWAGE TREATMENT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Township Boards and the Authority have previously adopted Resolutions establishing rates for public water service and for public wastewater service; and

WHEREAS, the Franchise and Water and Wastewater Service Agreement among the City of South Haven, South Haven Charter Township and Casco Township authorizes the Townships in Section 16(f) to add charges to billings to customers of their local systems; and

WHEREAS, to date, all of the rates charged by the Townships for public water service and for public wastewater goes toward the payment of system debt, other than hydrant rent, which is the only revenue the Townships can use to operate their public water and wastewater systems; and

WHEREAS, the Township Boards and the Authority Board determine that it is the public interest to amend their rate resolutions to incorporate charges for operation and maintenance of their public water and public wastewater systems, as recommended by the Authority and by the Authority's auditor;

THEREFORE, it is resolved by the Township Board of South Haven Charter Township and the Township Board of Casco Township and the Board of Authority as follows.

1. Rates for service:

Water: In addition to the previously established rates, an operations and maintenance charge of \$2.50 per residential equivalent unit per month shall be added.

Wastewater: In addition to the previously established rates, an operations and maintenance charge of \$2.50 per residential equivalent unit per month shall be added.

2. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are rescinded. All resolutions or parts of resolutions not in conflict with this Resolution remain in effect.

Lu Winfrey made motion to accept resolution for a \$2.50 per unit per month for each water and wastewater be added to monthly utility bills. Josiah Jessup seconded.

Judy Graff explained that any reassessment is not a expense to water & sewer it is a direct expense to the township.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Josiah Jessup, Allan Overhiser, Judy Graff, Lu Winfrey, Cheryl Brenner.

Nays: none

All votes in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk: Cheri Brenner presented minutes for 6/4/13 special meeting, June 17, 2013 regular meeting, 6/24/2013 special meeting.

Lu Winfrey made motion to accept minutes for 6/4/13, Judy Graff seconded.

Lu Winfrey made motion to accept minutes for 6/17/13 regular meeting, Josiah seconded.

Josiah Jessup made motion to accept minutes for special meeting of 6/24/13, Judy seconded.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Allan presented letter from Siegfried Crandall explaining the fee and contract for them to do our annual audit at the amount of \$7,900.00.

Lu Winfrey made motion to accept Siegfried Crandall to do our audit in the amount of \$7,900.00

Judy Graff seconded.

Cheri Brenner mentioned about the DEBT Program with the Allegan County Sheriffs that this might be an option for the township to use this program for clean up at the Preserve.

Treasurer: Lu Winfrey reported account balances as follows for June 30, 2013

GENERAL FUND	BALANCE	\$631,171.06
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PARKS	BALANCE	\$ 42,058.80
SENIOR SERVICES FUND	BALANCE	\$ 27,487.74
FIRE DEPT. FUND	BALANCE	\$487,432.52
ROAD FUND	BALANCE	\$286,502.06
CEMETERY CARE FUND	BALANCE	\$133,833.31
COLLECTED TAX ACCT	BALANCE	\$ 997.31

Lu made motion to approve the following

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>ORDERS #22135-22179</b>	<b>IN THE AMOUNT OF</b>	<b>\$32,361.14</b>
<b>ROAD FUND</b>	<b>ORDERS #1082</b>	<b>IN THE AMOUNT OF</b>	<b>\$14,500.00</b>
<b>PARKS FUND</b>	<b>ORDERS #374-376</b>	<b>IN THE AMOUNT OF</b>	<b>\$ 4,132.19</b>
<b>SENIORS FUND</b>	<b>ORDERS #373-377</b>	<b>IN THE AMOUNT OF</b>	<b>\$ 3,362.17</b>

Josiah seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Park & Recreation: Bruce reported that the park looks great and that we are now in the park business. Allan said we have hired Baylor's to service the bathrooms. We need to set in place whom should take care of the trash. Bruce reported for the grant that we need the interpretive signs in place. The township has an opportunity to join the Michigan Recreation Park Association for a yrly fee of \$400.00. Allan thought it would be a good idea and that we could split the fee with the Parks account and the ~~general~~ senior account.

Judy made motion to join the Michigan Recreation Park Association and to split the fee with the Parks Fund and the Casco ~~General~~ Senior Fund. Josiah seconded. Motion Carried. Pam gave update on the stairs and that we do not need a permit from the DEQ for the construction.

County Report: None

Senior Report: None

Planning Commission: Judy Graff said the committee will be going over the zoning ordinances at their next meeting.

Hospital: Judy Graff reported that there is now a Urology service at the hospital. The urgent care program is going well they are averaging about 20 patients per day. The hours are 11:00 am to 9:00pm 7 days a week.

The hospital just got a rating of a 5 star hospital. There will be free athletic physicals on Aug. 3, 2013

Zoning: Nothing

Water/Sewer Authority: The authority sent letters to residents whom are not hooked up yet that they have until Aug. 5, 2013 to hook up. There are 47 residents in Casco so far not hooked up and 40 in South Haven Township.

North Shore Drain update: Allan said that possibly in August there will be a hearing.

Police coverage: Allan feels that the township should be looking at a police millage for possibly in November. Allan will contact the City of South Haven for a quote from them and possibly the Allegan County Sheriffs Dept.

Lu Winfrey made motion to adjourn. Josiah seconded.

Adjourned at 9:29pm.

Minutes prepared by Cheri Brenner, Clerk