

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Minutes, Regular Board Meeting
Monday, May 19th, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

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

Present: Overhiser, Ridley, Clevenger, Campbell & Fleming. 13 guests in attendance.

Absent: None

Public Comment:

- Steve & Jo Earls-15-year residents of Casco, spoke on their concerns regarding the township's current noise ordinance and issues coming from Daydreamer Domes, 397 Blue Star Hwy in South Haven. They are neighbors to Daydreamer Domes and opposed to the property being used as an outdoor entertainment venue as it is extremely disruptive to their everyday lives. Mr. Earls would like to see decibels removed from the ordinance because bass is not picked up at these decibels and bass is the major concern. He feels there is an easy solution if we just follow our noise ordinance.
- Leanne McGrath also commented that the noise coming from Daydreamer Domes is not only disruptive to herself and neighbors but also to the pets in the neighborhood. McGrath also produced a recording of the bass sounds inside her home that she hears during events at Daydreamer Domes. It was also noted that its not as much the "bands" at these events but the "DJ's." McGrath also wrote a letter to Tasha Smalley, Zoning Administrator last week talking about bass, sound frequencies and the inadequacy of trying to monitor bass with a standard decibel reader. McGrath asked the Board to please limit these events at Daydreamer Domes.
- Zachary Jackson, an Audio Engineer at WMU, also added some insight on decibel readers regarding sound frequencies and bass sounds.
- Dave Campbell commented that he believes Daydreamer Domes is searching for ways to add revenue, but he is afraid it is creating some serious concerns for the neighborhood.
- Barb Calhoun, Sunset Shores; commented that her family moved here for a quiet and peaceful neighborhood and Daydreamer Domes is changing the entire neighborhood.
- Chris Kleinjans From the Allegan County Community Foundation spoke briefly on the housing needs in Allegan County. As a county we are currently 6,200 units short of housing. Lack of housing is not just hurting our residents but businesses within the County. The ACCF is here to support and assist the County. Chris will be present in and around the County to continue this conversation in the months to come.

Correspondence: Trustee Campbell informed the Board that resident, Debbie Weaver asked if the new lights at Casco Nature Preserve could possibly be dimmed in the evenings.

SHAES: Brandon Hinz attended and reported that SHAES has had another busy month. They have been busy with extraction demos now taking place. All SHAES Members have

passed their medical exams. SHAES came up under budget for 2024 with a \$21,000 increase in their net position. They will hold their first Pancake Breakfast of the year this Sunday, May 25th from 7-11AM. Cost will be a donation per plate vs a price per plate. Brandon also reported that maintenance continues on several trucks and that they are currently awaiting delivery of their new grass trucks. Last, SHAES is in the process of helping the Ganges Fire Department while they experience some growing pains in terms of their volunteers & coverage.

Library : Bob Sherwood reported that the Fennville Library's parking lot expansion is just about 95% complete. They are currently delayed as they determine the size of storage unit that is necessary for their storm drain. There is currently no parking available in the main lot; when visiting, plan to park on the street or behind the library to the West in the Credit Union Parking lot. They expect the project to be completed in early September. They are also currently raising money from the public to help with the remaining costs of the parking lot project.

Clerk: Clerk Ridley presented the regular meeting minutes from the 4/21/25 Meeting to the board for approval. Motion was made by Fleming to approve, Supported by Campbell. All votes in favor. Ridley motioned to amend budgets for the following:

- Professional Fees/CPA \$500
- Assessor's Supplies \$1,512.96
- Election Wages \$125
- Building Phone/Internet \$515.93
- Building: Misc. Expenses \$350
- Inspection Wages \$6,000.00
- Rental/Contract. Serv. \$12,500

Support by Fleming, All votes in favor. Clerk Ridley also noted to the Board that she is about 90% finished with scanning in all the 2024/2025 invoices into Accounts Payable, making it easier to find for accounting and auditing purposes in the future.

Treasurer: Clevenger presented the balances on all funds as of 4/30/25.

- 101 General Fund \$1,748,364.20
- 204 Road Fund \$1,430,015.15
- 206 Fire Fund \$824,703.55
- 207 Police Fund \$133,807.81
- 208 Parks & Rec. \$312,548.39
- 209 Cemetery \$101,102.31
- 290 Senior Serv. \$84,128.18
- 703 Current Tax Collection \$33,832.22

Clevenger made a motion to approve check #'s 29802-29832 in the amount of \$235,427.28. Support by Fleming. All votes in favor.

Treasurer Clevenger also reported that he has continued to work through our PCI Compliance the past month and after a referral from Julie Cowie for a company called Elavon, he is happy to report we are 100% PCI Compliant.

Planning Commission: No Report. The committee plans to meet again on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025.

Parks & Recreation: Trustee Campbell requested that the broken picnic table and bench be removed when we clean up at the Township Hall. Discussion was had on power washing to take place in the month of June. Campbell also reported to the Board that the Committee will be requesting estimates for tree removal work to take place at Casco Nature Preserve and she will be presenting that to the Board once they are received.

ZBA: Campbell reported that they had one variance asking for an additional garage. There were no issues with this as there was plenty of space to grant this variance.

Senior Advisory Committee: No Committee member in attendance but Linda Teeter did submit a report for the Board. For April 2025, there were 14 unduplicated Seniors who visited the Casco site and 152 unduplicated Seniors who visited the South Haven site. There were 123 activities enjoyed at the Casco Township Hall and 1,418 at the South Haven site. The Senior Services Advisory Committee met on April 22, 2025. Discussion was had on the Casco Township location; specifically, the lunch program and the exercise program along with updates from Director Rigozzi. This committee will meet again in July 2025.

SHAWSA The annual Budget for SHAWSA has been emailed to the board. This is a busy budget with lots going on; Please let Supervisor Overhiser know if there are any questions. This will be presented for approval at the next SHAWSA Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Noise Ordinance: Supervisor Overhiser presented the Board with a copy of Casco's current noise ordinance and a copy of Port Sheldon's noise ordinance, given to us by Township Attorney. Overhiser is requesting the Board look this over and start thinking about how we can look at the current noise ordinance to make better sense for the people of the Township. It was noted that this is the second Noise Ordinance the Township has adopted; the first one did not include the decibel criteria as it does now. We would like to bring the Allegan County Sheriff's office into this conversation as well. Discussion was had on understanding decibels and audio frequencies and the shortcomings of decibel readers in this situation. Clevenger recommended we stick with a system that is measurable and objective. A special Meeting was planned for Monday, June 9th at 7PM.

EMC Insurance Proposal: This is a policy renewal for fiscal year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$18,667.00. A motion was made by Clevenger, support by Ridley. All votes in favor.

Budget: The Board continues to work on the 2025/2026 Budget. There will be a special Budget Hearing scheduled to take place on Monday, June 16th at 7PM.

South Haven Highlands Plat Amendment: Annees Thaj has requested a resolution to amend the Plat of South Haven Highlands to vacate the block of unimproved Madison St. A motion was made by Clevenger to amend the Plat of South Haven Highlands. Support by Fleming. Roll call vote: Clevenger, yes. Overhiser, yes. Fleming, yes. Campbell, yes. Ridley, yes. All votes in favor. Resolution passes.

Daydreamer Domes Outdoor Gathering Permit: Discussion was had on the proposal of two large events to take place at Daydreamer Domes; July 12th and August 9th. Both events stated the maximum number of people in attendance would be 500. Trustee Campbell noted that the permits are incomplete and lacking detail on security, insurance and bonding arrangements. The Board was supplied with a site map of the property for the event. It was noted that the applications were received on time but not complete. A meeting is planned for June between Daydreamer Domes and SHAES to help work on some

of the items needed to hold large events like the ones being proposed. Concerns were raised that in order to approve the July date; we would need to have all this information clearly included in the application. Clevenger brought up the fact that this was the first commercial outdoor gathering permit he has seen in his time on the board. His concerns were parking, restrooms and security after issues that have already arose at Daydreamer domes. Discussion was held on safety and how this will happen with 500 people in attendance. If Daydreamer Domes can provide us with a complete plan that will satisfy the Board, we would consider the permit at that point. Clevenger made motion to Table this topic and the Daydreamer Domes Noise Ordinance Variance until the Special Meeting on June 9th. Support by Campbell. All votes in favor.

Daydreamer Domes Noise Ordinance Variance: See above; Tabled until Special Meeting on June 9th.

Lowlight Music: Zachary Jackson; Audio Engineer at WMU and community event organizer for Foundry Hall requested to be added to the agenda to get the Board's approval of a small music festival at Casco Nature Preserve that he would like to hold on June 27th, 2025. This would be a free event, but tips would be accepted, estimated to bring around 100 people. Mr. Jackson is fully insured for these types of events through the Foundry Hall in South Haven. Supervisor Overhiser brought up the concern of parking the 100 guests who could be in attendance without disrupting normal activity at the park. The Board recommended Mr. Jackson reach out to the Park's Committee and possibly collaborate for the party planned in the fall after plans are made to gain beach access and fundraising efforts are ready to begin.

Public Comment:

- Steve Earls commented that if Daydreamer Domes can't get it right for 50 people, how will they get it right for 500 people?
- Shannon Williams: Event Organizer at Daydreamer Domes, spoke on the proposal of the above-mentioned events at Daydreamer Domes commenting that they want to do the right things in terms of planning these events in the Township. They are currently meeting with SHAES to go over their site plan and gain more insight.
- Dave Campbell commented that he is concerned the Township might approve the Outdoor Gathering Permit for Daydreamer Domes without following the ordinance. He has concern over the application which needed to be in 60 days prior to the event but it still incomplete at 56 days away from the event.

Adjournment: 8:38 PM, Motion to adjourn by Clevenger. Support by Fleming. All votes in favor.

Rachel Ridley
Casco Township Clerk