

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
March 20, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Approved 4/17/17

Call to Order: Allan called meeting to order @ 7:08 and led in the Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Brenner and 17 other interested people.

Absent: Macyauski

Public Comment: Chris Barczyk asked Cheri if her recordings of the meetings was available for the public. Cheri stated that the recording is erased as soon as the minutes have been completed.

Chris is also concerned that the planner is trying to move the planning commission to fast. He suggested that maybe she should come to every other meeting instead of everyone. He felt that the PC should have time to discuss the issue amongst themselves.

Deputy Kurt Katje was present and reported that the new radio system will be installed in each vehicle and ready for August this year. This is the same system that the State police have also Van Buren County, Kent County, City of South Haven, and SHAES. He also warned everyone that there has been some car theft again at the Preserve so everyone should lock their car and make your things that are left in the car invisible. The theft started in Saugatuck and came right down the lakeshore.

Kurt also suggested because of the new additional parking lot at the Preserve that we purchase a trail camera to put in place in that area.

It was discussed to put a better camera up by the front gate where there is electricity. The board agreed that this is a good idea to place a camera at the Preserve Parking Lot.

Kurt also mentioned that the new Sheriff has hired one new patrol deputy and a couple new staff people in the office.

Kurt said he would check on getting the incident report again.

Judy made motion to approve the Agreements for Collection of Summer School Property Taxes for Lake Michigan College and South Haven Public Schools for the 2017 summer tax collection period.

Lu supported. All Votes in favor. Motion Carried.

Reports:

Clerk- The clerk presented minutes for the Special Meeting 12/12/16 to be approved. The board wanted more time to read them. These minutes were tabled until next meeting in April.

Cheri reported that all Fennville School District residents need to vote at Ganges Township Hall for the May 2, 2017 election. The State is having the counties consolidate their townships for elections. If you just have a very low number of residents in a district they are having adjoining townships handle that election. This includes absentee ballots also.

Treasurer-

The balances for all accounts are as follows:

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|----------------------|---------|--------------|
| General Fund | Balance | \$401,801.61 |
| Parks Fund | Balance | \$ 10,690.15 |
| Senior Services Fund | Balance | \$ 10,050.85 |

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|------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Fire Dept. Fund | Balance | \$ 296,759.55 |
| Road Fund | Balance | \$ 35,836.02 |
| Police Fund | Balance | \$ 65,743.79 |
| Cemetery Fund | Balance | \$ 114,916.65 |
| Collected Tax Account | Balance | \$1,442,238.22 |
| Lakeview Sewer | Balance | \$ 8,528.31 |
| Lakeview Water | Balance | \$ 361.05 |
| Pacific Sewer | Balance | \$ 19,757.46 |
| Pacific Water | Balance | \$ 47,395.06 |
| Orchard Sewer | Balance | \$ 16,137.99 |
| Lakeview Paving | Balance | \$ 36,713.56 |
| 102 nd Avenue SAD | Balance | \$ 50,873.19 |

Lu made motion to approve the following

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|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | Orders#24261-24315 | in the amount of | \$ 54,985.88 |
| Parks Fund | Orders#873-881 | in the amount of | \$ 2,698.28 |
| Seniors Fund | Orders#605-610 | in the amount of | \$ 2,241.68 |
| Collected Tax | Orders#3280-3291 | in the amount of | \$681,480.11 |
| Police Fund | Orders#167-169 | in the amount of | \$ 7,392.93 |
| Pacific Water | Orders#001-101 | in the amount of | \$195,608.26 |
| 101 nd Ave | Orders#001 | in the amount of | \$385,885.85 |
| Fire Fund | Orders#3944 | in the amount of | \$ 49,035.00 |

Cheri supported. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

Park report:

Bruce Brandon reported that

1. The wind storm of March 8th & 9th eroded the sand away from the bottom four posts supporting the bottom flight of stairs and are presently not anchored in the ground. Repair will be needed before they can be used. Also, two of the three stored life ring posts were washed away and will need to be replaced.
2. The committee continues to work forward on the parks & recreation master plan update. As of this date 30 responses to the on-line survey have been received. The committee will tentatively bring the final draft to the board in April.
3. The committee will meet at the nature preserve on April 12, 2017 at 6:00 pm to review a possible path from the new parking lot to the beach access stairs.
4. The committee is developing a selective mowing policy in regards to the north parcel of the preserve.
5. The Coast Guard Auxiliary continues to conduct NOAA surveys.
6. Allegan County Parks has announced two Outdoor Discovery programs that might be of interest to Casco Residents. June 24th at Little John Park "Up close & wild" and August 26th a family kayaking experience beginning at New Richmond and concluding in Douglas.

7. The Committee recommends the board purchase Bison Playground Basketball System a detailed sheet on another sheet. We are also considering the cost of “pickle ball” equipment. The board discussed the purchase of the basketball equipment for the parking lot at the hall and **they deferred the purchase to the 2017/2018 budget.**

ZBA- no meeting

Planning Commission- Judy gave report from the 3/15/17 meeting and the committee recognized 3 townships and the City of Traverse that are renting and the planner will bring back information from these communities so we can understand how others are doing. At next week meeting we are going to start identifying where the rentals are, including campgrounds and resorts.

Water/Sewer: Allan reported that they will be talking about some petitions that have been received recently and the fall season was good and they are wrapping up some mandatory hookups Casco doesn't have any but South Haven Township has a few mandatory's that were still working thru.

SHAES: Nothing new to report.

Old Business:

Audit-

The audit was handed out last month and hope everyone had a chance to look at it.

Lu made motion to receive the Audit for 2016. Judy supported.

All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

Consolidated Fee Resolution:

We passed this out last month and it has been about 20 years since we have looked at our fees. Judy thinks we should have a special meeting to discuss the fees. Possibly we could have a meeting during midday so Alfred could meet with us.

Judy recommended she would like to also update fines and penalties and would like a meeting on this also and then put these on the website once they are finalized.

Some fees are in the ordinance and are hard to change. Civil in fraction ordinance has some fees.

Noise Ordinance:

Judy said we should go thru the noise ordinance as a group and it should be done soon.

Rental committee:

There is a meeting set up on Thursday 3/23/17 @ 6:00pm. It is going to be run like a forum.

Mary Campbell and John Barclay are going to run the meeting, they both have experience in professional consulting. Kathy Stanton is going to be the recording secretary and she also has some consulting experience. The goal is how do we have success in the short-term rentals, just for short term renting. It is to give people input on their experience with short-term renting and involve Deputy Katje in the discussion.

Lois Swartz stated is confused with the Township Supervisors statement that we are just going to go ahead and allow renting, ignoring the Judge's decision based on your own master plan and zoning Ordinance. So, right from the get go you are saying that you are going to allow renting no matter what the judge said and in addition we are letting non-residents giving direction to the residents of having to live with the renting. I find this whole process a direct slap to the face of those who are living with the renting. Lois stated that she plans to be on this committee and she hopes people that are there that are not residents shouldn't have a say in what direction this is going. Also, people that own property but do not live in their property should not have a say on the direction of which this is going to go.

Allan stated that we can debate the court case but the court case is not binding in the township. Casco Township was not even given the opportunity to defend their ordinance. As far as what we did for signing up people we looked at primarily property owners.

Judy said the comments are valid but if she thinks about all the other communities in the township comprise of residents in this township the topics are different. Allan said in parks we have had a lot of non-resident input in the development of the parks. The committee is composed of residents and non-residents and other committees are composed of township residents. We're talking about an advisory committee not a board committee. The foot print of the committee is not even the foot print of the state. Bill mentions to exclude non-residents. There is room to accommodate approx. 30 people. There is nothing binding about this committee.

Chris Barczyk asked if there is enough room for the fire trucks to get thru. The off-street parking is if your car is not able to get your car totally off the street you will get a ticket. Judy said there is a chapter in the zo that covers parking. It is what is on the books right now. Chris asked if you could tie it back to the owner about the parking? Also, Chris asked what happens when a fire truck can't get down a road? Allan was going to check on that with SHAES. Allan read the names of the people that have agreed to be on the committee.

Compensation committee:

See above in the Clerk's section.

Judy requested to be interviewed by the committee.

Al-Van:

Lisa Galdikas was here at our December 2016 meeting and gave a report and for the surrounding townships to increase their contribution amount. Currently we have contracted with Al-Van for \$1500 annually. Lisa said that last year the cost for Casco's share is \$18,000 but they only ask for 10% so that would be \$1,800. Judy felt that we are not doing our share and that our commitment should be more than 10%. Judy said there are 12 townships and Al-Van receives about \$20,000 annually from these townships.

Marijuana Growing Request- Allan, Paul, and Judy went to an informational meeting in Allegan and amongst the information they received was the way the law states, if the township doesn't want it we can choose not to have it. Judy stated that recreational marijuana is legal in Michigan.

The board agreed to not accept a medical marijuana facility in Casco.

New Business:

Road Millage: We all agreed that we are going backwards with our road maintenance. We feel that we need to go for an increase in our road millage which is now 1.464 at the next election. Allan suggests that we ask for a 1 mill increase at the next election, the November election 2017 would be the best.

Special Assessment District:

Beach Drive – Bill said if 50% of the property owners and if two people own the 51% then those two people carry the expense.

Val wants to know how this starts. Allan said it doesn't start from the township. A 90' lot would be 15,000.00 Allan read Dan Way's letter.

Allan said that Dan's letter is going out to the people that signed petitions.

Val said we need to tell the people that they don't have to agree with this special assessment district.

Allan explained to Judy that we don't have the actual cost until after the 2nd hearing. The people need to know that they do not have to be part of the assessment.

It would of made a lot of since for the private system to accept the 50' lots. **Val said the private well system at Miami Park has capacity and a new district is not needed.**

Judy made motion to adjourn. Lu supported.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectively Submitted by,
Cheri Brenner, Clerk