

DRAFT

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Minutes, Regular Board Meeting
Monday, September 15th, 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, Clevenger, Ridley, Campbell & Fleming along with 5 guests.

Absent: None

SHAES: SHAES Captain Jim Quinn reported that there were 24 medical calls and 14 fire calls for the month of August; bringing the year total to 2,098 calls. He also reported that the department has just received a \$3,000 grant from W.R. Grace in South Haven to go towards equipment. The recent Labor Day Pancake Breakfast was a huge success. They served 562 breakfasts, bringing in \$6,541, which was their largest breakfast ever. Quinn also reported that Jacob Infante will be the first new hire to come. SHAES continues to work on their training schedule for the Fall/Spring, maintenance repairs on Squad 4 & well work at Station 1. The Department is thankful to Cody Sedlak and Paul Pant for not only putting the time and work into getting the three new grass trucks ready for operation but for also saving SHAES considerable money on this project. Lastly, it was noted that Rex Hainer will be moving to the Police Department but will remain as a 'paid on call' employee with SHAES.

Public Comment: None

Clerk: Clerk Ridley presented the meeting minutes from the August 18th Board Meeting. A motion was made by Campbell to approve, support by Fleming. All votes in favor.

Treasurer: Clevenger presented the balances on all funds as of

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|------------------------------|----------------|
| • 101 General Fund | \$1,654,802.71 |
| • 204 Road Fund | \$804,414.81 |
| • 206 Fire Fund | \$177,110.60 |
| • 207 Police Fund | \$100,763.49 |
| • 208 Parks & Rec. | \$295,874.25 |
| • 209 Cemetery | \$99,007.63 |
| • 290 Senior Serv. | \$84,243.06 |
| • 703 Current Tax Collection | \$978,282.21 |

Clevenger made a motion to approve checks 29951-29975 in the amount of \$193,436.35. Support by Fleming. All votes in favor.

Supervisor Overhiser requested that the Financial Balance Statement be edited in the future to include the three CD's set up by Treasurer Clevenger. The Clerk and Treasurer will work together to make sure that is included.

Planning Commission: Trustee Fleming reported that the last meeting was a Workshop meeting including the Planner to continue work on the Master Plan. They are in the process of getting this wrapped up. Campbell inquired about when this would be finalized, and Fleming said he was not completely sure but expected it to be done within the calendar year. Fleming also reminded the Board and public of the upcoming Planning Commission

meeting set to take place on Wednesday, September 17th at 7:00 PM, and there is expected to be a large attendance by the public at this meeting.

Parks & Recreation: Trustee Campbell reported that everyone continues to be very happy with Brian Ridley's work at Casco Nature Preserve in regard to the fence repairs and mowing. The Park's Committee received a letter from Park's Secretary Kelly Hecker stating her concerns over the misuse of the wetlands and mowing of certain areas at Casco Nature Preserve. This letter will be discussed more at the next meeting and a plan made for going forward. Linda Teeter attended the last Park's Meeting to ask for support for a National Night Out set to take place August 4, 2026. Campbell also reported that the LRE (Land Resource Engineering) Study that the Board had recently approved had been canceled by Paul Macyanski and Trustee Campbell questioned why this would have been canceled. Supervisor Overhiser did not know but said he would follow up with Paul and find out. Campbell also mentioned that the committee would like to get soap dispensers and trash cans purchased for the new bathroom area, but no motion was made to do so. At this time, Campbell again asked that the Board add a STR (Short Term Rental) report to the agenda and made a motion to add STR Incentive to the next agenda for October. Clerk Ridley added that Treasurer Clevenger said that he would also like a monthly report from Paul regarding his monthly salary and requested that we get one report to serve both purposes. Supervisor Overhiser agreed this made sense and plans to follow up with Paul on getting this report.

ZBA: The ZBA met on September 11th, 2025, at the request of a variance for height and square footage for a storage building at 319 Blue Star Hwy. This is a 23-acre parcel where the storage will be used for an antique car collection. This was approved but will ultimately go back to the Planning Commission for clarity.

Senior Advisory Committee: Committee Member, Linda Teeter provided the Board with numbers from August 2025. There were 13 unduplicated visitors to the Casco site. There were 215 unduplicated visitors from Casco, at the Sout Haven site. There were 143 activities enjoyed here at the Casco Township Hall and 1,726 activities enjoyed at the South Haven site. Teeter reported that Van Buren County Senior Services Director, Diane Rigozzi is very happy with Rhonda and the Fitness Team here in Casco; our numbers continue to grow. Teeter also reported that there will be no meals in December or January due to an expansion happening at the South Haven site. There will be a staff retreat during the month of January as well, but all Township activities will continue as normal. Teeter also let Clerk Ridley know that she will send minutes to her in the future for the Senior Advisory Committee. Clevenger inquired about how information is shared between Allegan County Senior Services, Casco and Van Buren Senior Services. Campbell, who is a Board Member for the Allegan County Commission on Aging stated that it is her responsibility to bring that information to each board meeting and she will continue to do so. Teeter responded that Diane Rigozzi is also working to get a representative from Allegan to come to the Casco site once/month to interact with and offer services from Allegan County.

Campbell reported that the Allegan County Commission on Aging just held a Senior breakfast at the Allegan County Fair where they served breakfast to 200+ Seniors.

Campbell extended thanks to Treasurer Clevenger for his help that day. She also reported that there will be a Veteran's Stand Down event coming up in October. Lastly, Campbell

reported to the Board that all in home contracts have been renewed and the wait list for services is going down, due to the adding of additional services and she reported there is no wait for receiving meals.

SHAWSA: Construction continues on the water tower in South Haven. Painting will begin soon. The Palisades plan to join SHAWSA is now on hold for 1 year as Holtec was not at a place where they could commit at the time.

At this time, Supervisor Overhiser also reminded the Board that the Denbow's have their upcoming Wedding on September 20th and have a Noise Ordinance Variance for that event.

County Commissioner: Brad Lubbers reported that there is one more tire collection in Otsego on October 4th.^{*} Casco recently had a successful Tire Recycling day, filling 2 trailers full. Lubbers also reported that Confluence Hydro has agreed to purchase all 13 Hydroelectric dams in Allegan County for \$13.00. All these dams will continue to run as electricity producing dams where the energy will be sold back to Consumers Energy. The Parks/Tourism Council is beginning a postcard promotion to help promote Allegan County restaurants. The County is currently in the process of discussing their 2025/2026 Budget with a Public Hearing planning for October 9th at 7:00 PM. Lubbers also reported that the County is in the process of looking for companies to renew the satellite maps they use for equalization. In the past it has been done every 5 years, but they are now looking at doing that every 3 years. Lastly, Lubbers mentioned to the Board that recently Drew Barrymore visited the Fennville area and promoted Virtue Cider and other various Allegan County Attractions.

^{*}Please note, there are no more tire recycling days scheduled for Allegan County as Commissioner Lubber reported. However, on October 4th there is a Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste pick up scheduled in Otsego at 234 N. Farmer St from 9am-12noon. Trustee Fleming asked at this time who makes decisions about specific roads and the need for drains and ditches. Discussion was had between Lubbers, Overhiser and Fleming.

OLD BUSINESS:

Anti Noise and Public Nuisance Ordinance: The Casco Noise Committee met three times to discuss and help create this updated Noise Ordinance. This one follows closely with the Lee Township Noise Ordinance and is liked by our current Sheriff Deputy. Discussion was had on some of the verbiage in the Ordinance. Clerk Ridley had concerns with the repeated phrase 'disturbing the peace' out of concern of who will determine that peace is being disturbed and questioned who defines disturbed peace. It was noted that the Allegan County Sheriff's Department will be the ones responsible for this determination and ultimately its enforcement. A motion was made to approve by Fleming to approve, supported by Campbell. All votes in favor. Roll Call Vote: Campbell, Yes. Overhiser, Yes. Ridley, Yes. Clevenger, Yes. Fleming, Yes.

Resident Andrea Stein commented that the Board should move item #10 to the beginning of the document to be better noted but ultimately it was decided that the entire document is the ordinance and that change should not matter overall.

NEW BUSINESS:

Outdoor Gathering Amendment: There are some concerns about our current Outdoor Gathering Permit and how it might not be appropriate for all situations. This has come up several times in the past couple of months in dealing with the issue at The Domes. This is

an amendment drafted by our Township Attorney with intent that the Board will discuss and provide input into other changes that might make sense in the current ordinance.

Discussion was had on special uses, permits to do so and amendment rights. This Amendment is meant to be a first draft and will be discussed more after the Board has the time to read and research accordingly.

At this time, Trustee Campbell provided the Board with a copy of an After-Action Review that she would like the Board to complete after this issue is resolved between The Domes and the Township.

Trustee Fleming inquired about the new paving on 68th Street.

Clerk Ridley extended a thank you to the team who helped her get the garage empty and ready for the renovation project: Julie Cowie, Brian Ridley and Craig Overhiser.

Public Comment:

- Julie Cowie, Casco resident and Project Manager for the building renovation commented that construction is set to begin the following morning, September 16th, 2025. This project is expected to last 7 months so expect some noise and dust. Julie also verified with the Board that it was ok to share the door and alarm code with the builders. She plans to check into parking changes that may need to happen to accommodate the process.
- Linda Teeter, Casco resident and Casco Senior Advisory Committee member had some insight into the Park's meeting as she was in attendance to talk about National Night Out and also took minutes as no one was there taking minutes. Teeter asked for support from the Park Committee for the event to take place on Aug. 4, 2026. She will also attend the next SHAES meeting to ask for their support as the goal of this event is to connect neighbors with their fire, police and EMS. She plans to return and ask the Township Board for support after she takes care of a few more details. At this time, Teeter clarified that Kelly Hecker's letter was sent asking the Chairperson to respond but not asking to be put on the agenda. Teeter also requested information regarding 7369 North Shore Dr. asking if they have a Special Use Permit or Outdoor Gathering Permit?
- Jeff, Casco resident, requested a copy of the approved Anti-Noise and Public Nuisance Ordinance. Supervisor Overhiser also informed the Board and public that this document will be posted on the website and will go the paper for print. After 30 days it will go into effect.
- Dave Campbell, Casco resident made comments on Trustee Campbells request for an After-Action Review stating that he felt it was an important step in analyzing the developments between The Domes and Casco Township.

Adjournment A motion to adjourn was made by Clevenger to adjourn at 8:56 PM. Support by Ridley. All votes in favor.

Rachel Ridley
Casco Township Clerk