

Casco Township Board of Trustees  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of  
December 21, 2015 @ 7:00 pm

Approved 1/18/16

Call to order: Allan Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Present: Allan Overhiser, Josiah Jessup, Cheri Brenner, Lu Winfrey, and Judy Graff, and 43 interested people.

Also present was Justin Burchett who presented what the Allegan Conservation District is doing. He shared documents including *Who We Are And What We Do* and their *2014-2015 Annual Report*. The board will look into the possibility of making a donation to their efforts, if the budget allows.

Public Comment – None

**Reports:**

**Parks & Rec.:**

Discussion about the unapproved cutting of trees in the Miami Park subdivision: Bruce and Clayton from the Park Committee investigated trees cut on park property in the Miami Park subdivision. They compiled a list of 67 trees that were recently cut. One was an 18" tree and the rest were scrub trees, like cedar. Allan talked to John Weaver, who admitted he cut the trees and said he would cooperate. The crowd thought that the person who cut the trees should be fined for doing this. Clayton invited the public to the meeting for the discussion about the trees. The cost will be pretty minimal to replace the trees.

Bruce Brandon's and Johanan Jessups' terms are up.  
Renewal of their terms was approved.

The committee approved the surveying of Miami Park.

Pam indicated there are two projects; one is the parking lot at the park. The second project is paving of the parking lot at the hall. The far end of parking lot will be designed for basketball and other uses. We hope to have bid specifications at the next meeting in Jan.

**Clerk:**

Election, March 8<sup>th</sup>

Cheri passed out September 21, 2015 minutes for approval.

Lu made motion to approve the report. Josiah supported.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

**Treasurer:**

Balance as follows in all accounts-

General Account	Balance	\$518,187.38
Parks Fund	Balance	\$14,241.05
Senior Services Fund	Balance	\$18,065.31

Fire Dept. Fund	Balance	\$473,077.14
Road Fund	Balance	\$116,233.49
Police Fund	Balance	\$35,746.97
Cemetery Care Fund	Balance	\$106,249.11
Collected Tax Acct	Balance	\$56,803.36
Lakeview Sewer	Balance	\$8,852.44
Lakeview Water	Balance	\$79.86
Pacific Sewer	Balance	\$12,156.75
Orchard Sewer	Balance	\$31,884.29
Lakeview Paving	Balance	\$12,585.10

Lu made a motion to approve the following *anticipated* bills in the amount of \$361,287.09

General Fund	Orders #23474-23559	in the amount of	\$80,782.35
Parks Fund	Orders #689-715	in the amount of	\$13,636.31
Seniors Fund	Orders #515-526	in the amount of	\$7,554.02
Collected Tax	Orders #3118-3123	in the amount of	\$90,682.01
Police Fund	Orders #118-123	in the amount of	\$13,607.92
Road Fund	Orders #1108	in the amount of	\$24,581.58
Fire Fund	Orders #3933-3934	in the amount of	\$110,673.13
Orchard Fund	Orders #1204	in the amount of	\$9,933.43
Lakeview Sewer	Orders #1006	in the amount of	\$9,837.34

Lu made motion to approve the report. Cheri supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

Planning Commission:

*See Master Plan under Old Business*

Seniors Care Program:

Allan read the report submitted by Senior Services

Library:

Bob Sherwood announced that you can return items from the library here at the hall in the drop box.

Hospital:

No Report

Water/Sewer:

*See Old Business*

Regional Water/Sewer

Allan handed out a presentation and draft agreement for the Regional Water/Sewer Authority. The township is responsible for some of the infrastructure maintenance. Judy Graff handed out a document that she read of her opinion and concerns about the way the planning is moving forward. She expressed concern about township control over decisions and the cost of expanding. Allan answered all the questions and misunderstandings about the Authority, explaining that there isn't any plan to expand the system beyond the current service area.

Allan also explained that the city has been undergoing a study of its sewer system. They plan to make various upgrades. The township is responsible to participate in the cost of improvements that benefit the township within the current agreement capacity. It is believed that the township will soon exceed the current capacity, so the Water/Sewer Authority believes that this would be a good time to resolve future capacity needs by entering into the proposed joint agreement.

There is a joint workshop to explain the sewer study, proposed upgrades, cost projections, and proposed Regional Water & Sewer Agreement, at City Hall at 6:00 pm January 27, 2016. At the meeting information will be shared by ABONMARCHE (engineering firm), the attorney for the city of South Haven, and the attorney for Casco Township, and the Water & Sewer Authority.

#### Five-Year Review of the Township's Master Plan

The board discussed the five-year review of the Master Plan. Everyone agreed that the Goals and Objectives are relevant and consistent with the current issues and needs within the township. The board also agrees that the current Master Plan is sufficient to allow for the needed plans to the Zoning Ordinance.

Lu made motion that the board recommend to the Planning Commission that the goals and objectives are in line with the current needs of the township and that no changes are needed at this time. Josiah seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Allan announced there is general Road Commission meeting, Jan.14, 2016.

The Recycling Surcharge Contract for the \$20 recycling fee with the county needs to be renewed. Josiah made motion. Lu seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

A quote from Travis Johnson to extend electric to the new cemetery maintenance building was reviewed, in the amount \$1850.00.

Lu made motion. Josiah seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried.

Allan shared Senate Bill 571. The Michigan Township Association encouraged the township to request that the senate veto the bill, which would restrict using public funds to disseminate information related to election ballot issues. 517-373-3400 is the number to call.

Lu made a motion to adjourn. Josiah seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by-  
Cheryl Brenner, Clerk