

CASCO TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 @ 7:00PM

Approved 2/20/23

CALL TO ORDER: Overhiser called meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Overhiser, Brenner, Clevenger, Macyauski, Fleming, Dean Kapenga, County Commissioner, and 8 other interested citizens.

ABSENT: None

RECOGNITION: LU WINFREY

Allan presented Lu with a certificate for her sixteen years as the Casco Township Treasurer.

Dean Kapenga, County Commissioner, was present to give a brief talk.

Allan presented a Resolution for the Board to go into a Closed Session.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees desires to comply with the Michigan Open Meeting Act, and specifically seeks to assemble in closed session at its Regular Meeting on January 17, 2023 pursuant to the provision of MCL. 15.268 (e):

IT WAS MOVED by **Allan Overhiser** and seconded by **Dan Fleming** that the Board of Trustees of Casco Township, shall assemble in closed session to consult with its litigation counsel concerning the pending law suit identified as Allegan County Circuit Court Case No. 22-65944-CE Franklin and Sarah Sisson; Grzegorz Rommanczuk and Marina Burkova v. Casco Township since discussing the litigation, trial and settlement strategy in open session would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating, trial or settlement position of the board.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	Nay
Allan Overhiser	x	
Cheryl Brenner	x	
Kenny Clevenger	x	
Dan Fleming	x	
Paul Macyauski	x	

The Board went into closed session.

CLOSED SESSION WITH ATTORNEY-SISSON V. CASCO TOWNSHIP

The Board of Trustees with Attorney Straub went into closed session at 7:10pm.

Allan entertained a motion to presume going into Public Session.

Paul made motion to open back up the Public Meeting from the closed session. Kenny supported. All Votes in favor. Motion Carried.

Allan made motion supported by Cheri Brenner, the Casco Township Board of Trustees herewith grants its general and litigation counsel authority to proceed as each recommended during the closed session with reference to the lawsuit filed in Allegan County Circuit Court Case No. 22-65944-CE Franklin and Sarah Sisson; Grzegorz Rommanczuk and Marina Burkova v. Casco Township.

Roll Call Vote. Overhiser, Brenner, Macyauski, Clevenger, Fleming. All yes votes.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

PUBLIC MEETING OPENED BACKUP AT 7:39PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORTS:

- Police- No Report
- **Clerk:**

Clerk Brenner presented minutes for the December 19, 2022, Regular Meeting for approval. Paul made motion to approve the 12/19/22 regular meeting minutes. Kenny supported. No discussion or corrections. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

The November minutes are complete, they didn't get sent to the board members. These will be presented at the February 20th meeting.

Cheri made motion to amend the following budget accounts:

General Fund

101-262-980.000	Elections- office equipment	\$45.00
101-265-803.000	Technical Support	\$1.99
101-401-752.000	Misc. Supplies-Rental	\$440.60
101-528-752.00	Misc. Supplies (transfer station)	\$46.94

Roads

204-446-868.000	Reseal Program	\$108,646.15
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Cheri created two new accounts per Jeff Rood, the township auditor-

Pacific Water-liability

866-000-214.703	Due to Tax Fund	\$51,169.41
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General-Inspections-Expense

101-371-801-024	Inspections-Contractural/Building	\$6,488.90
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Paul supported. No discussion or corrections. All Votes in favor. Motion Carried.

Cheri reported that Allegan County Health Department is offering free Radon Test Kits for residents in Allegan County. January is National Radon Action Month. Test kits are available at ACHD 3255 122nd Ave, Suite 200, Allegan, Mi 49010.

Cheri completed the 4th quarter recycling expenses to be refunded in the amount of \$4,005.16. There will be a May 2, 2023 election, so far the only thing on the ballot is Lake Michigan College.

- Treasurer:

Balances of all funds as of 12/31/2022 are as follows:

101 General Fund	\$1,017,350.00
204 Roads	\$355,980.00
206 Fire & Ambulance	\$360,391.10
207 Police	\$191,259.76
208 Parks & Recreation	\$128,516.38
209 Cemetery Fund	\$101,656.96
290 Senior Service Fund	\$153,928.73
863 Lakeview Sewer Sad Fund	\$10,014.81
864 Lakeview water	\$633.84
865 Pacific Sewer	\$12,556.29
866 Pacific Water	\$86,558.19
867 Orchard Sewer	\$21,448.79
868 102 nd Ave	\$70,515.89
869 Beach Dr	\$56,023.46
870 Lakeview Paving	\$56,729.66

Kenny made motion to approve the following bills in the amount of \$231,988.99.

Check #'s 28015 thru 28062	\$226,643.27
EFT # 36	\$4,534.70
EFT # 40	<u>\$811.02</u>
Total Bills	\$231,988.99

Paul supported. No discussion or corrections. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

- SHAES

Allan gave a brief report for SHAES, Dawn Hinz retired from the Fire Dept, she was the first female fire fighter.

- Casco Senior Service

Mary Campbell gave a report on the Senior Program.

- Parks & Recreation

Paul gave an update on the grant that we were approved for, the committee is starting to work on the design.

Paul made motion to approve spending \$2,000.00 to have invasive species removed at the Preserve and maintain the area. Dan supported. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

Allan mentioned that some seniors in Casco have requested to be able to play pickle ball, requesting to be able to play in the garage.

Allan measured the area of the garage, and the area is big enough. It will take some time to prepare the area.

- Planning Commission

Dan reported that the committee discussed sand mining, firepits, setbacks, and a campground on 70th street was approved.

- ZBA – no meeting
- Library

Bob Sherwood was present to give a report. He discussed that the penal fines are way down and talked about the issues as to why they are lower. Bob also mentioned that you can apply for a library card on-line now.

- SHAWSA: No meeting in December

OLD BUSINESS

- South Haven Public Schools (collect taxes)

The South Haven Public Schools sent letter requesting that the Township collect the summer taxes at 100% for the same rate as last year at \$2.50 per parcel.

Kenny made motion to approve collecting the summer taxes at the same rate as last year. Dan supported. No further discussion or corrections. All votes in favor. Motion Carried.

- Cemetery Signs:

Allan presented a copy of new cemetery signs from Mike Kiefer, the cost would be about \$2,200.00 per sign. Paul made motion to have Mike Kiefer proceed with the format presented for the three cemetery signs. Cheri supported. No further discussion or corrections. All Votes in Favor. Motion Carried.

- Board of Review Appointments:

Allan made motion to appoint Dave Campbell, Matt Hamlin, Mary Tobin as regular members and alternate members Kim Overhiser and Alex Overhiser to the Board of Review. Kenny supported.

- Rental Administration:

Allan said that himself, Kathy Stanton, and Paul Macyauski are meeting to discuss looking at other options for the Managing of the STR.

- Audit:

All board members were given a copy of the audit for year ending 6/30/2022 to read and bring any questions they might have so it can be passed at the Feb. 20, 2023 Board Meeting.

- Internet Update:

Overhiser explained that the Allegan County Board of Commissioners, the County, and 123 NET signed an agreement that will provide wired broadband infrastructure and service to 12,000 unserved addresses. Per their letter the final agreement was negotiated after the Allegan County of Commissions awarded the \$17.7 million bid to 123.net of Southfield in November. Jill Dunham, County's Broadband Project Manager, said that 123.net from their reasonable monthly rates to the open access network proposed, offer a great solution for Allegan County. If there is a whole where there is no service to let Jill Dunham know.

- VC3-formerly I.T. Right-contract:

Paul made motion to approve paying the renewal fee of \$6,934.00 for this current year and pursue looking for an alternative for next year. Kenny supported. No further discussion or corrections. All votes in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 20% Review – Assessing Contract

Allan explained that we are required by the State of Michigan to do a 20% review of all of our assessments.

There has been a lot of building in Casco that has been found on lot of omitted property. Our current assessor has agreed to do this at \$35.00 per parcel of 4165 parcels total cost \$145,800.00, our assessor is already in the process of doing this.

Paul made motion to support the \$35.00 per parcel evaluation with Appraisals Plus. Kenny supported.

Roll Call Vote:

Yays: Overhiser, Brenner, Macyauski, Fleming, Clevenger

Nays: None

- Roads:

Allan and Paul went to the Allegan County Road Commission annual millage meeting and gave each board member a copy of the Allegan County Primary Road Millage report.

The work in Casco Township this year is primary road to be resurfaced is 102nd Street between 60th and 66th Street, then next year they will be going out of Casco.

- Grant Updates:

Paul mentioned that our grant for the Preserve was approved.

- Nuclear Plant-Reopen Support letter.

Allan & Kenny met with a Holtec International representative, there is talk about reopening the Nuclear Plant in Covert.

Allan presented a Resolution, that explains why Palisades should be reopened.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Palisades Nuclear Plant provided more than 800 megawatts of safe, reliable, and carbon free generation to the State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, Palisades recently completed consecutive record breaking generation runs and boasted an online reliability factor greater than 95 percent, a testament to the workforce and continuous investment in safety and equipment reliability, and

WHEREAS, Palisades provided 600 full-time, highly skilled, and good-paying jobs in Southwest Michigan, which were supplemented by the influx of an additional 1,000 specialty workers into the community to support scheduled refueling and maintenance outages, and

WHEREAS, Palisades was one of the largest tax payers in the region, directly supporting local public school districts, Lake Michigan College, public libraries, and vital municipal services, and

WHEREAS, a study by the Economic Growth Institute at the University of Michigan found that the shutdown of Palisades resulted in the annual loss of \$259 million in labor income and value added for the tri-county region, and

WHEREAS, Palisades and its employees have long been actively involved and invested community partners, and

WHEREAS, Palisades has maintained strong community outreach and engagement with its stakeholders, including but not limited to state and local units of government, economic development organizations, non-profit organizations, labor, federally recognized Tribes, and the public, including disadvantaged communities, and

WHEREAS, Palisades provided a bridge of clean, reliable generation for the State of Michigan as it transitioned from fossil-fuel generation to renewable and advanced technologies, including the potential Deployment of small modular reactors, and

WHEREAS, the operation of Palisades supported the State of Michigan's goals to cut carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions by millions of tons per year, thereby reducing the direct environmental and human health costs to disadvantaged communities and the general public, and

WHEREAS, Palisades ranks in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's highest safety category and has been recognized by the institute of Nuclear Power Operations as a top performing plant in the country, and

WHEREAS, Palisades operated in strict adherence to all federal and state regulations under the independent oversight by the Institute of Nuclear Regulatory Commission to maintain the health and safety of our community, its workforce, and our environment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that **Casco Township, of Allegan County**, supports the repowering of Palisades by plant owner Holtec International.

Kenny made motion to pass the **Resolution** supporting the reopening of Palisades Nuclear Plant. Paul supported. No further discussion. All Votes In Favor. Motion Carried.

- Tiny Homes:

The discussion was recommended to present this to the Planning Commission.

Kenny made motion to adjourn. Dan supported. Meeting adjourned at 9:14pm.
Minutes Respectively Submitted by, Cheryl Brenner, Township Clerk