

**DRAFT**

Casco Township Board of Trustees  
Minutes, Regular Board Meeting  
Monday, March 16, 2026, 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, Campbell, & Fleming

**Absent:** Ridley (Planned absence due to training.)

**Public Hearing: MDNRTF Grant Application for Beach Access at Casco Nature Preserve**

A public hearing was held to discuss moving forward with beach access at Casco Nature Preserve in relation to a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund. Mike Morphey joined us from Edgewater Resources and gave a presentation to the Board and public on Option C that was created by Edgewater Resources. Concept C with variations is now what we refer to as Concept D. This information was presented at the Parks Committee meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> and is the recommendation of the Parks Committee. This includes modifications made to the plan after the committee gave its input. Information was presented to the Board and public on Lake Michigan water levels. They also provided information on what their process and scope are for this project. We are in a high-risk erosion area, which means changes upwards of 1 foot or more each year. A discussion was held on grading the bluff to a 1:3 slope. Mr. Morphey pointed out that there is a lot of flexibility in this design, and he spoke about how they broke the project into two phases for building and funding purposes. Discussion was had on revetment and the importance of that being step one. It was also noted that the revetment would be buried. All this work would take place landward of the high-water line, making the permitting process less ominous. Cost-wise for phase 1, the estimated total with equipment, soil removals, grading, stairs, site improvements, revetment, amenities, plantings, design permits, regulatory, and construction administration is \$980,000. Phase 2 is an estimated range of \$650,000-\$750,000. Phase 2 estimates are still in a rough phase and would be polished once we are closer to that stage in the planning. The MDNRTF grant application is due by April 1<sup>st</sup>, and if applicable, Edgewater will have that application to the Township by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was had on which grants are available to the township and which ones may make more sense. Supervisor Overhiser allowed questions or comments on the project. He then made a motion to close the public hearing. Supported by Clevenger. All votes in favor.

**Public Comment:**

- D. Beranek, who works for Community Action of Allegan County, spoke on recent changes to the meals program in Allegan County. This had previously been handled through the Community Action group, and Seniors received 5 hot meals per week, along with 2 frozen meals. That contract was recently awarded to Meals on Wheels, which currently does not provide hot meals but does provide up to 3 freezer meals per week. The concern from the Community Action group is that this will drastically reduce contact with these seniors, which is important when determining what other help, they may potentially need in terms of winterization, medical needs,

or otherwise. This also greatly reduces social interaction in this already isolated group. He feels the seniors have lost in this situation due to the Allegan County Board of Commissioners wanting to save a few bucks. Mr. Beranek provided numbers representing the important work being done by Community Action of Allegan County. He also provided numbers for their services, \$12.27/meal (this included the meal, delivery, and daily wellness check), and the numbers for Meals on Wheels, \$8.53/meal (this included a frozen meal and liquid nutrition).

- E. Cunningham is a retired nursing home director. She spoke on the importance of the connections made between the Seniors and delivery drivers who frequent their homes. They are often the front line for making sure that our senior citizens are safe and secure on their own, in their homes. She noted that Allegan County Community Action is asking for support and hoping for reconsideration of this decision.
- K. Hecker spoke to the Board about her plan to revitalize the “Friends of the Preserve” group. They are a group of local volunteers who want to help care for the park in terms of plantings, park clean-up, etc. They are happily accepting volunteers!

**County:** C. Machiela, Allegan County Drain Commissioner, spoke to the Board and public and gave an overview of recent projects and happenings in terms of drains in Casco Township. They have had a lot of routine tree work, various culvert replacements, and a culvert project on North Shore Drive. They have a couple of other projects that may need attention this year, but would wait until Fall, so as not to disrupt the farmers and Spring planting. There are no new developments in the Township currently. He noted that the drain commission now has the ability for mobile mapping, making them more productive in the field. They are also currently working on updating their website. Hours have been extended at their Dumont Lake location, daily 8-5.

**SHAES:** No report, but Treasurer Clevenger made note of the amazing response times that Casco Township sees thanks to the amazing team at SHAES.

**Library:** No report, but an annual report was provided to the Board.

**Clerk:** Minutes from February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Board meeting were presented to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Campbell, supported by Clevenger. All votes in favor.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Clevenger reminded the public that March 2<sup>nd</sup> was the last day to make tax payments at the Township. Remaining payments must be paid at the County Treasurer’s Office. Clevenger presented the balances of the funds as follows:

- 101 General Fund \$1,172,348.34
- General Fund CD \$200,000.00
- 204 Road Fund \$787,905.80
- Road Fund CD \$200,000.00
- 206 Fire Fund \$467,500.44
- Fire Fund CD \$200,000.00
- 207 Police Fund \$106,058.19
- 208 Parks Fund \$185,675.62
- 209 Cemetery Fund \$96,842.32
- 290 Senior Fund \$120,551.43

- 703 Tax Collected Fund \$6,724,468.42

Leaving a total balance of \$10,261,350.56. Clevenger made a motion to approve checks 30135-30151 for \$ 47,781.67. Supported by Fleming. All votes in favor. Campbell addressed the fact that Clevenger is currently running for State Senate and that if elected, both he and his Deputy Treasurer, Nate Sherman, would be leaving the Township. She inquired if the budget allows for extra hours for Nate to document some of the processes within the Treasurer's office, and Clevenger said he felt there was. Clevenger inquired about when the Township may consider switching to BSA Cloud, and Overhiser informed him that it would be 2027 since this is a busy election year in the Clerk's office. Clevenger agreed that he could work on a manual for training the next Treasurer.

**Planning Commission:** Trustee Fleming reported there is a meeting on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, and they hope to be at a place where they have the Master Plan ready for distribution. Fleming noted that the Planning Commission is not happy with McKenna in terms of the help with the Master Plan, saying they have not met their expectations. He also mentioned they will be talking about Daydreamer Domes at Wednesday's meeting. A discussion was held on the current legislation regarding zoning in the State.

**Parks & Recreation:** Trustee Campbell mentioned that the Parks Committee has committed to doing minimal maintenance this Summer at Casco Nature Preserve to save funds for a grant match for beach access.

**ZBA:** No Report.

**Senior Advisory Committee:** Trustee Campbell reported that the Casco Site Director for Van Buren County Senior Services, Rhonda Schneider, called her and inquired about volunteers to build a couple of raised flower and vegetable beds for the patio here at the Township Hall. Seed planting would begin soon and could be moved to planters once ready. There were no objections from the Board. Campbell also talked about a program with Whirlpool where they make donations to local non-profits. She would like Van Buren County Senior Services to ask on behalf of the Township for a new refrigerator and range. The Board has no objections to them moving forward with this ask.

**Short Term Rentals (STR):** No formal report, but registrations are coming in. The new online portal on Granicus is active and working.

**SHAWSA:** Overhiser reported that audit reports are in and all went well. He also noted there are a lot of cybersecurity drills happening in South Haven currently.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Building Dept. Assistant/Receptionist:** This was brought up at the February meeting. We have settled on Monday-Friday, 9-4. Discussion was made about what this position will look like and the budget for this. Overhiser mentioned the security aspect of having one point of entry into the building and keeping people from wandering around the building. A motion was made by Campbell to accept this position. Supported by Overhiser. Roll call vote: Campbell, yes. Overhiser, yes. Clevenger, yes. Fleming, no. Motion passed. The board decided that the hiring panel would consist of Supervisor Overhiser, Clerk Ridley, and Eric Davis, Building Inspector.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Boundary Line Adjustment:** This is for two parcels on the Hartman property on Beachview Drive. This is to split lot 218 in half. A motion was made by Clevenger. Supported by Fleming. All votes in favor.

**Zoning Moratorium:** On hold, this will be back on the agenda next month after the Planning Commission decides whether to support this moratorium on data centers, wind farms, and battery storage facilities. This gives the Planning Commission six months to decide if additional regulations are needed to protect Casco residents.

### **Edgewater Resources Resolution for Phase 1:**

This resolution is for the application to the MDNRTF Grant for \$400,000. \$75,000 from the EGLE High-water fund. \$28,500 from community donations. \$150,000 from the Parks and Rec millage. \$76,500 from the general fund. A motion was made by Clevenger. Supported by Campbell. Roll call vote: Campbell, yes. Overhiser, yes. Clevenger, yes. Fleming, yes. Motion passed.

### **Land & Water Conservation Fund:**

This resolution is for the High-water fund.

A motion was made by Clevenger. Supported by Campbell. Roll call vote: Campbell, yes. Overhiser, yes. Clevenger, yes. Fleming, yes. Motion passed.

### **State Appropriation Request:**

This resolution is for state appropriations from Joey Andrews' office. Campbell has created a draft, and Julie Cowie will follow up with this application, which is also due on April 1<sup>st</sup> and would likely be around \$250,000. A motion was made by Clevenger, supported by Campbell. Roll call vote: Campbell, yes. Overhiser, yes. Clevenger, yes. Fleming, no. Motion passed 3:1.

Overhiser discussed fundraising and identifying the mission, goals, and objectives of our fundraising committee. We want to be able to talk intelligently about our plan and phases with the community and raise funds based on consistent, clear information to our residents.

**Outdoor Gathering Permit & Noise Ordinance Variance:** Overhiser requested putting this on hold due to complaints received last year, after receiving a noise variance. Officer Hoyt did respond to a noise complaint last year after the allowed time frame. Overhiser wants to talk to the resident before approval to be sure that there is a plan in place for making sure the same issue does not take place this year.

**Noise Ordinance Variance Silva:** No previous issues with this resident and noise. A motion was made by Clevenger. Supported by Fleming. All votes in favor.

**Public Comment:**

- J. Cowie invited the board and the public to an open house dedication to be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 in honor of our new building renovation. This will be held before the April board meeting.

At this point, Overhiser mentioned the need for rules and guidelines for moving forward in the new facility before we are asked about renting the facility, etc.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Clevenger to adjourn at 8:53 PM. Supported by Campbell.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Ridley, Casco Township Clerk.  
Casco Township Clerk

I, Rachel Ridley, Clerk of Casco Township, Allegan County, Michigan, certify that the minutes provided here are a true and accurate record of the actions taken by the Board at the March 16, 2026, regular meeting of the Casco Township Board. This meeting was properly noticed, and a quorum was present.

Rachel Ridley  
Casco Township Clerk