

DRAFT

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Minutes, Regular Board Meeting
Monday, March 17th, 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, Campbell & Fleming. Guest, Deputy Clerk Kathy Stanton in attendance along with 2 Casco residents.

Absent: Ridley; away at Clerk's Institute.

Public Comment: None

SHAES: Johanna Quinn reported that SHAES saw a total of 38 Casco calls in the month of February; 27 EMS calls and 11 Fire calls. 85 total for 2025 and for a SHAES Total of 520 so far this year. SHAES has a new Career Hire, Duke Packer from the Lawton area. He is currently finishing the paramedic program, and the department is happy to be rotating him in. There will be another Career Hire Eligibility list this year to hopefully be able to fill some open positions quickly. Aaron Sawyer will be taking a leave of absence but plans to return. There are currently 5 or 6 cadets with the newest being Nick Rainey. Training continues for much of the team through Spring. Engines have been serviced with planned repairs completed. The new Grass Rig is coming along nicely, and work will continue on this. Chief Branson Hinz passed along that Bronson Hospital is currently on diversion which automatically doubles or triples the call time from SHAES EMS. In January, 13% of patients were diverted out of town, with February being at 28%. The Department has had some people out sick recently but are hoping to be back at full staff soon. The current focus is getting ready for grassfire season.

Trustee Campbell: Reported that she has received some calls from neighbors with questions on their property assessments that she was not able to answer. After reading some information from MTA (Michigan Township Association) regarding Trustee's roles in meeting with Assessor's and understanding the job they are doing, Trustee Campbell would like to further discuss a possible meeting in the future. Campbell also shared an email received from David Campbell in support of hiring Kelly Jellison as Casco Assessor.

Clerk: Supervisor Overhiser gave the Clerk's report because of Clerk Ridley being away at MAMC Clerk's Institute for training. Overhiser presented the meeting minutes from the February 17th Board Meeting. Motion by Clevenger to approve, support by Campbell. All votes in favor. Overhiser also presented meeting minutes from the Special Meeting regarding the Township Hall renovation on March 3rd. Motion by Clevenger to approve. Support by Fleming. All votes in favor. Overhiser presented the following budget amendments to the General Fund:

- Legal Advertising \$100
- Treasurer Prof. Fee/CPA \$3962.85
- Printing \$108
- Election Wages \$11,424.84
- Building Dept/Clerical \$939

- Misc. Expenses \$39.74
- Other Activities-Al Van \$1700
- Other Activities: Airport \$126.25
- Road Fund \$384
- Fire Fund \$2000
- Parks & Rec 5762.39
- Senior Services \$553
- Erosion: Weaver/Schneiderman \$25,862

Motion made by Overhiser, Support by Fleming. All votes in favor.

Treasurer: Clevenger presented the balances on all funds as of 2/28/25.

- 101 General Fund \$1,325,342.26
- 204 Road Fund \$739,108.55
- 206 Fire Fund \$305,295.65
- 207 Police Fund \$135,638.86
- 208 Parks & Rec. \$148,921.58
- 209 Cemetery \$100,168.64
- 290 Senior Serv. \$55,604.24
- 703 Current Tax Collection \$3,590,436.74

Clevenger made a motion to approve check #'s 29737-29772 in the amount of \$43,965.75. Support by Fleming, All votes in favor.

Clevenger also reported that his Deputy Janet Knisely has recently retired. Clevenger noted his appreciation for Deputy Knisely, all her hard work and dependability. Clevenger has appointed Nate Sherman as his new Deputy. He also noted that the township can officially take credit and debit cards now, there is a 3% convenience fee for credit card use. Deputy Clerk Kathy Stanton also noted the appreciation from the Clerk's office on getting this set up, as it will be a big help to their office as well.

Planning Commission: Work continues for the Master Plan with another meeting planned for Wednesday, March 19th where Jim McMannis will join us from Mckenna to go over goals, objectives and future land use. Work continues on accessory dwelling units and minimum lot sizes in the Ag district. Trustee Fleming made a note about zoning and how one of the things it tries to do is preserve farmland. He has concerns that maybe we are not seeing the effects of zoning as a complete picture. Trustee Fleming also read the following statement regarding the taking of other people's property through zoning that he also shared with the Planning Commission, "It is shameful that we should be so selfish as to want it, so arrogant as to expect it, so brazen as to take it or so callous as to not return it."

Parks & Recreation: Clerk Ridley's financial report was welcomed and very helpful. Clerk Ridley plans to get that to the Park's Committee each month. The Parks Department is requesting \$500 for bulbs to plant this Spring. A committee has been formed to plan an Open House for June. A motion was made by Cambell to purchase \$500 in bulbs, Support by Clevenger. All votes in favor.

Senior Services: Julie Cowie, Casco Senior Services Representative reported that to date, 375 people have utilized Van Buren Senior Servies either at the Casco site or in South

Haven. 13 people are regularly using the Casco Site and for the month of February, 112 people have used the South Haven site. Lunch plans have been terminated for the Casco site due to people not utilizing the lunch program so in the future, they will plan to do something special periodically in place of those lunches. The Senior Advisory Committee will meet again in April.

SHAWSA: Supervisor Overhiser reported that The Covert wastewater system continues to be the major discussion. It is a rather large project that looks promising. Another meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18th so there will be more information to come on this at our next meeting.

Reappraisal Discussion: Supervisor Overhiser introduced Tony Meynard and Kelly Jellison with Assessing Solutions who have been our temporary Assessor's for the past few months. Tony explained that when they came into the picture late in 2024, most of the deeds had not been processed so they had to process an entire year's worth of deeds. Next, they focused on new construction and found that the past 3 years of building permits had not been added to the tax rolls. Discussion was made with Supervisor Overhiser about moving forward and how to include these properties on the tax roll from here on out. Value was carried forward on these properties from 2022. \$9 Million has been added to the tax rolls this far just with omitted properties. This means that there was \$18 million worth of omitted properties before they added the 2024 properties, adding another \$6 million. At this point, they are not even close to being done. Our Assessor's records are in poor shape. Land improvements like driveways & sheds have not been added. Assessing Solutions is recommending we have a complete reappraisal of Residential and Agriculture Properties. This would essentially be our reset button so we can get the Township back to maintenance mode. Tony also backed up Trustee Campbells comment about the Board knowing and understanding the Assessor's role. A reappraisal has not been completed in Casco Township since 2010 and with the growth happening in Casco, we are due for a reappraisal. The proposal is for 2 years and would be through Northrop Assessing Inc. for \$252,720.00. This can be paid over 3 fiscal years. A motion was made by Overhiser, support by Campbell. Roll call vote; Campbell, yes. Overhiser, yes, Clevenger, No. Fleming, yes. A motion was made by Clevenger to contract Assessing Solutions as Casco Township Assessor. Support by Campbell. Roll call vote; Campbell, yes. Overhiser, yes. Clevenger, yes. Flemming, yes. All votes in favor.

Boundary Line Adjustment: Debbie Weaver, Lot #24. Motion made by Clevenger, support by Fleming. All votes in favor.

Budget: Supervisor Overhiser noted that we need to have a Budget Workshop. A possible Monday night meeting was mentioned. That day will be announced after checking with Clerk Ridley.

Class C Liquor License: Regarding Daydreamer Domes at 397 Blue Star Highway. Supervisor Overhiser reported that the Planning Commission has looked at this and found no reason not to support it. The Township itself does not approve Liquor Licenses, but this is our recommendation. A motion was made by Cambell to recommend, support by Overhiser. Roll Call vote; Campbell, yes. Overhiser, yes. Clevenger, yes. Fleming, No.

Township Hall Renovation: Julie Cowie gave an update from Architect Brian Peterson on details that will be worked out with a Building Contractor down the line. We are still waiting

for the contract to come from the State so hopefully we will see that soon and be able to start getting bids.

Public Comment: Julie Cowie shared her appreciation for the approval of the new Assessor's Contract and plan for reappraisal.

Adjournment: 8:28 PM, Motion to adjourn by Campbell, support by Clevenger. All votes in favor.

Rachel Ridley
Casco Township Clerk