

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP  
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 11, 2024  
6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Larry Davis at 6:30pm. Members present: Supervisor Larry Davis, Trustee Denny Grice, Trustee Nick Seelye, Treasurer Alex Williams and Clerk Annette Peters. Members absent: None.

Others present: Bob Rasmussen, Leslie Wilson, Tim Wilson, Jen Chucta, Katherine Yoder, Frank Maley, Carol Keim, Linda Vlaeminck, Steve, Vlaeminck, Mike Hicks, Margaret Hicks, Jamie Chambers, Deb Chambers, Joe Colgan, Anne Colgan, Chuck Wilson, Sue Conklin, Tyler Augst, David High and Brian McKenzie.

Prayer was given by Denny Grice.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Larry Davis.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the last Regular meeting February 12, 2024, were presented. Alex Williams made a motion to approve the minutes; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

The February Treasurer's report was presented with a balance of \$313,264.21 in the general fund. Balances in the other funds are as shown. Receipts are as listed. The bank cleared a check in the wrong amount again, so there is an adjustment that will be fixed next month. The tax balance has not been reconciled yet, as the banks online portal has been down. Nick Seelye made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's report; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes  
Peters – Yes  
Davis – Yes  
Williams – Yes  
Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the February Treasurer's Report.

**Bills**

The February Revised bills were presented with the new total amount of \$13,062.37. Denny Grice made a motion to approve the February revised bills; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes  
Peters – Yes  
Davis – Yes

Williams – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the February Revised bills.

The March bills were presented with the total amount of \$34,219.92. Denny ask if the Wayne Township Fire Contract is for half the year. Denny Grice made a motion to approve the March Bills; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice - Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Williams – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the March Bills.

### **Cemeteries**

There were 1 burial this month.

The cemetery contract is due. The only change that will be on it is the dates. LFL had a headstone tip over this winter that was straightened out today. Spring Clean up will be starting soon.

Denny said that he got the quotes for cemetery software's: Web Cemetery Software out of Pennsylvania. It's \$7,500 to set up then \$300 per month. Sim Cemetery Software out of California is \$15,000 to set up then \$200 to maintain. Denny would like to erase the board and look at other options.

Larry will contact Wayne Township and see who they use for their cemeteries, and see if they can come to our meeting.

Annette presented the 2024/2025 Cemetery Maintenance Contract with New Leaf Landscape. Annette Peters made a motion to approve the 2024/2025 Cemetery Maintenance Contract with New Leaf Landscape; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Williams – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the 2024/2025 Cemetery Maintenance Contract with New Leaf Landscape.

### **Roads**

CCRC was out again today grading.

Bob Rasmussen said that there are 3 roads that he thinks we will want to get contracts for but doesn't know if we'll be able to do them. All the gravel roads need something, but county is trying to stay on top of grading.

Larry said that we received 2 contracts, saying that we asked for them, one for Penn Rd and one for Warner Rd. Annette said that she agrees with CCRC that the Penn Rd contract would be a waste of money. Bob said that he thinks he may have said Gards Prairie, North of Fosdick Road. Bob said that North Gards Prairie, Warner, a pick of gravel roads and an updated contract for Penn Rd.

Alex said that he's not interested in either of the current contracts that we received.

### **Supervisor**

Tentative Budget was distributed for review before finalizing at next months meeting.

Larry thanked the residents of Volinia for passing the fire and ambulance millage. Margaret Hicks asked what now? Contract out with ambulance service? Larry said that there is a current contract with the ambulance authority. But there will be no more Air flight as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Alex said that there may be a small movement towards a county wide ambulance.

The next ambulance meeting is April 2, 2024 at 5:30pm

Last months fire report was distributed. There were 2 calls for Volinia Township.

There was a packet from the combined ambulance meeting March 5, 2024 distributed.

Ron Troxell emailed about wanting to put in a tiny home. The tiny home does not meet the square footage ordinance requirements for the township. They are working with Beth Pompey on it. Denny asked isn't there other steps before coming to the board. Larry said yes. One problem he sees will be opening the door for other variances. Denny said that Ron called him too; he understood that Ron's biggest problem was that Beth was not calling him back. Ron said that four years ago he built his home for about \$450,000 after the fire it was over \$750,000 to rebuild, it's putting the housing market out. He had to get a permit to live in a travel trailer during the rebuild. He's getting resistance but knows of 2 places that people are living in travel trailers. He looked at the state's guidelines, there's not enough rental housing in our area. Tiny houses would help the community with starter houses and looks better than travel trailers. Larry said that tiny houses are just a shell, does not have plumbing or electricity. Ron said that there is one in Newburg Township; they are being put up all over the USA. Ron said if the variance isn't likely, it is even worth him filing? What about pole barn style home. Joe Wickey told Ron that a crawl space with insulation to get up from frost would be needed. Larry said that he will set up a meeting with Beth. Alex said that we need to find out if some one is actually in office during office hours.

BOR will be meeting Tuesday from 9am to 3pm and Thursday from 3pm to 9pm

Par Plan – Larry will be meeting with the Plan Risk Control representative on March 21, 2024 at 1pm to do a site visit.

### **Board**

Siegfried Crandall sent over an audit agreement. This year's rate will be \$6,200.

Alex distributed a report of tax collections.

### **Public Comment**

Cass County Under Sherriff said that they have held 3 vaccine clinics this spring at animal control and vaccine over 150 animals. The sheriff department is still hiring, they currently have two trainees attending GVCC who will be graduating in May, and then doing ride along for 3-4 months. They have 3-4 who will be starting LMC in May. Denny asked what the starting wage is. They start at approximately \$27 per hour. Larry asked if they have good retirement. Yes, through the State of Michigan.

Tyler Augst distributed information on the upcoming MSU Extension series.

Margaret Hicks suggested that the township investigate infrastructure money for roads, homes or under privileged. She suggested talking to Jaclyn Terrill from Marcellus. She is present with others who live on or around Church Street and Marcellus Highway. They suspect the property owned by Early Pompey is operating an unlicensed campground on the property line. They are moving trailers in and out by the pallets and drain. Is this a blight issue? Larry said that he had the blight officer there once. Margaret said they have had people trespassing, and cutting down trees, even with no trespassing signs up, and wants the townships help. Dave High asked who enforces the blight. Alex said we need to let Beth and the attorney know and start actions. Brian McKenzie said that there have been many arrests in a day, and then they are released. Police say that it's up to the prosecutor. Prosecutor says it's up to the judge. Everyone is just passing the blame. Margaret said it's a major thorn. Brian said there's a fear of these people. Margaret said they had confrontation, and then their trees were cut. Dave asked if there is a conflict of interest if with the landowner and blight officer having the same last name. Larry said that he will take to our attorney and see what we need to do.

Leslie Wilson, from the Cass County Farm Bureau, said that there is currently a legislation that allows solar, turbine and wind permits approvals to bypass townships and goes straight to the governor's office for approval. They currently have a petition to bring these permits back to the local township. You can stop by the farm bureau office to sign. There are also board members who have petitions going around to sign.

Chuck Wilson, LFL Association, asked if there was an update on the camp. Larry said that he knows that Beth has a meeting tomorrow with 2 attorneys and the camp owner. She is supposed to let Larry know if we get the warrant. Also, he has not heard anything on the gravel pit.

Dave High asked if we can get a committee started to spear head on roads. Annette said that she believes that we were given misguided information on the ability of doing a post card for the ambulance millage. She does not believe that we can legally use tax dollars to even educate on millages. We could possibly see if we could get a committee together, who people could donate to, to promote a potential millage for roads. Alex said that the attorney said we can send information, it just can't persuade. Denny said it was approved, we attempted to inform but that failed. Dave asks what about grants. Denny asked Tyler about any grants. Margaret said to ask Ms. Terrill. Tyler said that some communities have grant writers, but they're tricky and grants typically are not for infrastructure, help fund can use for "Robust Communications." Tyler suggested reaching out to Sarah or county partners. Alex said that last year we took advantage of ARPA money towards roads. He will reach out to Sarah. We can ask for additional road millage, but we just asked the township and they passed one millage. Larry said one thing we can do is ask for a millage. Denny said that we need to outline what we want to accomplish and go from there. Annette said that April 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for ballot millage request for the August election.

Bob Rasmussen said that Marcellus is using money for facelifts on their store fronts. We're hurting for money, for years we tried to keep taxes down. We should have raised taxes years ago. We will have to rely on our community.

Alex said the Land Bank for Cass County, we didn't know about in time. He has talked to Hope to get on board for the next time to help with blight issues.

### **Adjournment**

Annette Peters made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Peters  
Volinia Township Clerk