

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2024
6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Larry Davis at 6:34pm. Members present: Supervisor Larry Davis, Trustee Denny Grice, Treasurer Alex Williams, and Clerk Annette Peters. Members absent: Trustee Nick Seelye.

Others present: Bob Rasmussen, Chuck Wilson, Beth Brooks, Deb Chambers, Jamie Chambers, Tyler Augst, Sue Conklin, Jeff Conklin, Nate Robinson, Lou Ann Robinson, Stacey High, Steve Kent and Brenda Kent.

Prayer was given by Denny Grice.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Larry Davis.

Minutes

The minutes from the last Regular meeting August 12, 2024, were presented. Stacey High asked what the Headlee Roll Back is, Annette and Denny explained. Denny Grice made a motion to approve the minutes; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The August Treasurer's report was presented with a balance of \$263,767.95 in the general fund. Balances in the other funds are as shown. Receipts are as listed. High Grade Escrow is showing in the negative but a check was received today. Annette Peters made a motion to approve the August 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

The Board approved the August Treasurer's Report.

Bills

The September bills were presented with the total amount of \$54,301.06. Denny Grice pointed out that the cemetery software cost of \$5,150 covers us until next year since it includes the annual fee. Zach Moorehouse asked if it cover the hourly pay for the input. Denny said no, he has currently hired his daughter at \$20/hour; he still has to figure out how to pay her. Alex Williams said for her to submit an expense report or time card that should include her name, what she did, the dates and time. Alex said that he can show Denny what he uses. Denny said that he did purchase a computer that is being used to upload the project, but if the township doesn't want to buy it when done he will keep it. Zach asked how it will be appointed after all everything is input to keep it up to date.

Denny said that it will go to the cemetery manager, currently Bob Rasmussen, or work with him or Emily to keep maintained. Zach said that he wants to make sure the monies spent are going to good use by the software being maintained after spending all this money. Denny said that we will come up with a procedure. Denny said that he knows Stacey had volunteered to help with this project but this has been working out, Stacey said that this seems to be working out perfect. Alex Williams made a motion to approve the September Bills; 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

The Board approved the September Bills.

Clerk

Annette Peters said that she reached out the Bill's Roofing about the leak and they were able to come out inspect the building. They found some spots that were not caulked and where bird stop was not put in. They will be back in the next couple of weeks to fix these issues and it is covered under warranty.

The township was approved for a dot gov for the upcoming website.

QuickBooks sent a notification that there is another monthly rate increase. She asked the auditors about other software's and looked into BS&A. She contacted them and was given a quote of \$22,305 for set-up. She would rather stick with QuickBooks for that cost and asked for permission to switch to annual billing. The annual billing for QuickBooks is \$702/year. Alex Williams made a motion for Annette Peters to switch her QuickBooks subscription to annual bill and pay the \$702 for the first year, 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

The Board approved the Yearly Subscription for QuickBooks of \$702.

There were two notices for the Truth in Taxation posted in the Marcellus News. One of which had invalid information. Annette apologized to anyone who was present for the 6:30pm Truth in Taxation Hearing that was posted incorrectly. Annette reached out the editor to see who submitted the incorrect notice and was told it was submitted by a Legal Assistant for a law firm in Portage. She's not sure who has been communicating with the attorneys office or if this is unsolicited, but costing the township money.

Annette looked into the ParPlan grant for the handicap entry concrete. She was told they do ADA projects; however the funding is not available for projects related to building and ground improvements and/or maintenance projects.

Building

Nick Seelye was able to get one quote for the concrete of the Handicap Entry. Cairns Concrete quoted \$1,500 to remove the old concrete and step to the north, raise and pour so the rain runs away from the building. Denny asked if this would make us complaint. Annette said that we could possibly table since Nick's not here to verify. Denny asked if we could approve with condition since we're coming up to the end of the season. Alex said that it's a good idea to approve with conditions now. Denny Grice made a motion to approve the quote from Cairns Concrete of \$1,500 to remove the concrete by the north door and replace with handicap accessible sidewalk; Annette Peters seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Williams – Yes

The board approved the quote from Cairns Concrete of \$1,500.

Cemeteries

There was one burial at Rosehill this month. It was a relative of the original Finch Family from years ago.

Bob had a guy come out and quote for tree clean up at Crane. Quote came in at \$5,000, this would be to remove the smaller trees and trim all the trees. Hopefully no more trees fall on headstones. He hopes to be able to have it done by the end of the month. Alex Williams asked what the name of the Company is. Annette Peters said RC Tree Service.

Flags need to be pulled off. All the flags at Rosehill will probably be able to be saved and used again next year due to the new flag holders.

Annette Peters made a motion to approve the quote of \$5,000 from RC Tree Service to do the tree work at Crane Cemetery; 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

The board approved the quote from RC Tree Service of \$5,000.

Roads

CCRC didn't have time to grade before the final dust control application. Bob called CCRC and told them not to grade until next month and let the Dust Control set.

Bob told CCRC about holes on Penn Rd, Decatur and a few different roads. They are currently pushing for paving. They have not finished McKenzie yet; will probably be 2-3 weeks before they get it re-graveled. Alex questioned that the new gravel on McKenzie would go on top of the dust control. Bob said he stopped them from doing already, so we

won't lose that much. Larry asked why CCRC doesn't put dust control on the gravel they put down.

CCRC

Not Present.

Fire and Ambulance Reports

There were 6 fire calls in August.

Supervisor

Larry talked to Beth Pompey about the 2 houses in Volinia; she said that she was working on it.

Larry talked to Joe Wickey about 2 pole barns, one on Gards Prairie Rd, it has a permit and the one on Decatur Highway, and he is still working on this one.

Master Plan Meeting – Received an email about a Master Plan Meeting and emailed Randy Cuthbert and Denny Grice about it. Denny said that was his first hearing of it, but he did attend. The Master Plan is working through the new Planning Commission. Tyler Augst said that Volinia is one of four participating townships, and the zoning is still the townships authority. The meeting was to go over a draft of the current master plan; they are currently waiting on consultants for timelines and final approval. Denny said there was an online survey, that about 700 people responded from within county, and they general census was they don't want a whole lot of change. Beth Brooks asked how you get a survey. Larry asked if Randy showed up. Denny said that he's worried about getting notification in the future. Tyler said that the County Planning Commission meets the 4th Wednesday at 4pm.

Beth Pompey and Zoning Solutions submitted a letter of resignation effective October 31, 2024, as the Zoning Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer. Alex Williams made a motion to approve Beth Pompey and Zoning Solutions resignation effective October 31, 2024; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Board

Alex Williams said that he just noticed that the date on the Other Township Accounts portion of the August Treasurers Report should be 8/31/24 not 7/31/24.

Denny Grice asked what now for zoning. Larry said that we need to find out who other townships uses, and start interviewing. Denny said we struggled with Beth's communications, this is kind of welcome but kind of not due to how hard it is to find a zoning administrator. Alex said that we need to start looking and contacting people now. Larry said that he gave all the board members County Directories and we should start there. Denny asked about who we interviewed in June. Alex said he withdrew himself.

Alex Williams said that taxes are due September 16, 2024. He will be here all day on September 16, 2024.

Larry Davis said that he would like to thank all the ambulance and EMT personal who showed up on 8-10-24 to work on his son. He really appreciated it; he was just bothered on how long it took.

Public Comment

Jim Churchill said that he has been a farm for his whole life. He understands we are a farming community but it seems like we need opportunity for growth with farm community. One little store with next to nothing is all we have in our township. We should loosen up our rules so people can come in and due business.

Nate Robinson said our land is not all agriculture. Prices are low.

Lou Ann said we need Agritourism. They have thousand of customers who would take advantage of Agritourism.

Denny Grice said he doesn't want 7,000 more people in our township.

Jamie Chambers asked if citizens can bring suggestions to the board for a plan for consideration. Denny said historically the Master Plan is made from the survey results. Annette Peters asked Tyler Augst if the 700 surveyors were from the county or township. Tyler said that was from the whole county. Denny said county our survey, it should go to a vote.

Adjournment

Larry Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Peters
Volinia Township Clerk