

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGIAN
Minutes of Special Meeting
Wednesday, April 24, 2024
6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Larry Davis at 6:00pm. Members present: Supervisor Larry Davis, Trustee Denny Grice, Trustee Nick Seelye, and Clerk Annette Peters. Members absent: Treasurer Alex Williams.

Others present: Gary Locke, Vickie Locke, Jamie Chambers, Deb Chambers, Chris Brooks, Beth Brooks, Mary Fosdick, Bruce Burkett, Geri Burkett, Tim Wilson, Leslie Wilson, Ed Hollenbeck, Brenda Hollenbeck, Randy Ogrin, Glenn Blough, Brenda Blough, Bob Rasmussen, Lou Ann Robinson, Nate Robinson, Randy Cuthbert, and Amanda Hoefle.

Prayer was given by Denny Grice.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Larry Davis.

Road Contract Quotes

According to the last Treasurer's report we have \$57,000 to spend on roads.

Estimate 24-14-03 Penn Road is eliminated due to a cost of \$134,461.63
Bob Rasmussen said that he believes that the worse gravel roads are Halvorsen (\$22,111.65) and McKenzie (Decatur to Griffis \$18,868.61) and the remaining budget should be able to do McKenzie (Griffis to Churchill \$10,613.59). There is also \$42,000 available match fund from CCRC. Denny Grice asked if we would take \$25,000 from the General Fund to get the match fund from CCRC. Annette Peters said that it makes sense to take extra from the General Fund.

Denny Grice made a motion to take \$15,000 from the general fund for road repair to get the full \$41,000 match from Cass County Road Commission for road contract estimated on gravel roads: 241411, 241410, 241409, 241408, 241405 for fiscal year 2024/2025; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The board approved to complete road contract 241411, 241410, 241409, 241408 and 241405 by taking \$15,000 from the general fund if needed.

Dust Control

We were able to get penciled in for the schedule for full Dust Control applications in the first part of June and August and spot applications in July. The funds for the dust control

applications will come from the leased land fund. Vickie Locke said that the dust control should be done in May, July and September like it use to be, we also need to look into someone else doing it, and this company is a waste of money. Larry asked how many people today live on gravel roads and got a lot of showed hands. Dave High asked how much does the dust control cost. Annette said that the total for all 3 applications estimates at \$39,000. Beth Brooks asked who we use for Dust Control. Annette said that we use Southwest Michigan Dust Control. Diana Ogrin said that the application could be thicker. Brenda Blough said that last years application was better than before. Dewey Lake and Bond were a whole lot better, but if we could do earlier would be good. Annette said that she would see if we can get earlier but still do 2 other applications. Denny said that we should look into other company's. Annette explained when get got dropped by the last place at the very last minute, she had called around and no one else would give us the time of day. She will be happy to try again next year. Denny said that we need to hold the company accountable. Bob Rasmussen said that they never seem to run on schedule, but they always took care of issues. He or Annette has had to call in the past and they always righted the wrong. Annette reminded that CCRC offered a single dust control application for \$26,000. Bob Rasmussen said having good gravel will help.

Larry Davis made a motion to continue dust control like last year, the township paying for 2 full applications while offering a third spot application; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The board approved providing 2 full dust control applications and offering a third spot application.

Denny asked who to contact if there's an issue with the application. Annette or Bob can be contracted

Millage for the Roads

Annette Peters read the road millage language: "Shall the Township of Volinia, Cass County, Michigan, levy of up to 2.0 mills which is equal to \$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution and levy it for four (4) years, 2024 through 2024, inclusive, on all taxable property in the Township for the purpose of road repairs, upgrades, construction, improvement and maintenance of township roads located within Volinia Township. Bases on current valuation, it is estimated that the millage will generated approximately \$125,933.92 in the first year of the levy"

Chris Brooks asked when the current road millage expires. Annette said that she believes its 2026 off the top of her head.

Annette Peters made a motion to approve the road millage language for the August 6, 2024 election; Larry Davis seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Gravel Pit

Larry Davis made a motion to retract Denny Grice from the ZBA; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Larry Davis made a motion to appoint Denny Grice to the Planning Commission; Annette Peters seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Larry Davis made a motion to appoint Nick Seelye to the ZBA; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Larry Davis made a motion to appoint Williams and Works and Brad Kotrba as Planning Consultant for the Township and designates them to address the mining application of Top Grade; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

The planning commission has to have 4 meetings a year and they have to be posted on the board outside the township all.

Randy Cuthbert said that he talked to the township attorney, and Denny was retracted from the ZBA due to Bob Rasmussen resigning and needing a replacement and it's not a good idea for Nick Seelye to be on the Planning Commission. Since Doug Kuhlman has resigned the board has to hire someone to go over the gravel pit application since the gravel pit has hired attorneys to move forward. Beth Pompey said that Williams and Works specialize in handling applications like the gravel pit and they are more familiar than she is.

Discussion on Pay Increases

Larry suggested that the discussion on pay increase be tabled since Alex Williams, who requested the resolution is not present to give insight of what he wanted to recommend for the increases.

Annette Peters requested to still let the people in the audience know her opinion on it, as it was a full house and they deserved to hear. Annette's opinion is that there should not be pay increases for the current board members. Of the 5 current board members only 2 of them are elected and 3 of them are appointed, meaning that people only put 2 of them in these seats. If we were to look at pay increases it shouldn't be until after the upcoming elections. Also we just asked our residents to for one tax increase millage, we're here tonight approving the language to request them to approve another. I cannot justify a pay increase when we are already asking so much of our people.

Board

None.

Public Comment

Chris Brooks said that he's talked to other residents who are willing to chip in on the cost of doing an information post card mailing for the upcoming road millage. Annette said that she will be willing to assist him after the May meeting.

Adjournment

Larry Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Annette Peters seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 6:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Peters
Volinia Township Clerk