

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP  
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, February 12, 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, Trustee Nick Seelye, Treasurer Alex Williams and Clerk Annette Peters. Members absent: None.

Others present: Bob Rasmussen, Chuck Wilson, Deb Chambers, James Chambers, Sue Conklin, Jeff Conklin, Frank Maley, Katherine Yoder, Glenn Blough, Brenda Blough, Daryl Franzel, Tamera Franzel, Zach Morehouse, Beth Brooks, Chris Brooks, Joe Mroczek, and Connie Mroczek.

Prayer was given by Denny Grice.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Larry Davis.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the last Regular meeting January 8, 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 January Treasurer's report was presented with a balance of \$286,989.25 in the general fund. Balances in the other funds are as shown. Receipts are as listed. QuickBooks and Verizon have early billings. The Tax account had a missed pay out in January. Nick Seelye made a motion to approve the January 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 January Treasurer's Report.

**Bills**

The February bills were presented with the total amount of \$12,983.26. Larry Davis made a motion to approve the February Bills; 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 February Bills.

### **Camp Update**

Seth Coaches, from the attorney's office was present and understands that the camp is allowing situations that are not allowed per township ordinances, i.e. Cabin rental, serving alcohol. He understands that the board is not interested in doing a text amendment, which would leave our option to have our zoning administrator do a civil infraction. There would be a trial over zoom, to enforce compliance. Seth understands there has not been clear communications with the camps attorney. There are ways to get on to the property to see what is going on. We could ask the courts for an admin search warrant that would allow for taking pictures and accessing buildings. Larry asked who would be allowed to go onto the property. Seth said that the warrant would specify, but normally it would be the zoning administrator, and assessor. But until we get onto the property and see what's going on, there really no decision that can be made. There is no knowledge of the 501c3 current status. Denny said that he doesn't want them to just be put on the tax roll; he wants to make sure they are made compliant and illegal activities are stopped. Seth said that is where the district courts come in. Kevin Harris said that he has not been on the property since the current owners have purchased it; he just knows that a lot of permits have been pulled. Larry said that there have been online advertisements of "love shack" rentals and alcohol sales. Alex asked what if hypothetically the court tells them to comply, and the camp continues not to then what? Seth said the court would give access to continue inspections, and if they are not compliant it would be a contempt of court. Alex asked what if they are listing on airbnb. Seth said that short term rentals would be another issue, and asked if we know what the property is zoned? Alex said that thinks is zoned residential or multi-use. Seth said that there should be enough reason to get onto the property. Alex asked if the next step is to have Beth work with Seth to get an admin search warrant started, we need to pursue if they are not in compliance. Larry said that he wants to make sure both Beth and Kevin are involved. Kevin stated that he's pretty much unavailable for the next 6 weeks. Larry asked if he can be on the list of allowed people. Seth said that he would get him on the list.

Larry asked if Seth has heard anything on the gravel pit. Seth said that he has not had the pleasure of working on the gravel pit.

The camp can file a formal tribunal. Kevin said that an evaluation appeal would be needed.

### **Cass Co. Sherriff**

There were 436 calls in Volinia Township in 2023, 8 of which were burglars, 2 deaths and 49 traffic stops.

There are new gun laws going in effect tomorrow. You now have to have a permit to purchase a riffle; all the regulations are currently unknown. Weapons have to be secured in your house, if there are children under the age of 18 present. Extreme protection

orders have to go in front of a judge be deemed at risk. There is a new medical examiner. The County Sherriff's office is down 11 officers, and is paying the way for anybody interested in attending the 18 week Academy.

### **Cemeteries**

There were 2 burials this month, one at Little Fish Lake and one at Charleston. We had to call the police to Charleston for trash that was dumped at the cemetery. Lucky for us there was a name and address on some of the trash and the officer was able to locate the responsible party. The trash was removed within 48 hours.

Denny and Bob have been working more on software. They are supposed to have a website preview (web cemeteries) pictures of cemeteries. Prices should be here next week. There are different phases they offer (they set up plot map, we download or they download data).

### **Roads**

Our roads are starting to look bad along with the rest of the county. The gravel roads are mushy, Bob called and CCRC came out and graded. The roads will probably be a mess until April.

We did receive the 2024 price schedule from CCRC. 1-1/2" hot-mix asphalt overlay \$87,248.92, 2-1/2" hot-mix asphalt overlay \$145,406.02, Chip & Seal \$17,835.66, Pavement markings \$939.84, Fog Seal \$6,687.81 and 3" gravel resurfacing \$29,482.20.

The sweeper did come out to Oak Street/Parker on Thursday and picked up all the extra access stones.

### **Supervisor**

There were 3 fire called in our township last month.

CVBESA meet February 6, 2024. The second ambulance will hopefully be starting March 1, 2024. It will be stationed in Dowagiac. It will be staffed, 12 hour days, with a paramedic.

Sue Conklin asked the status on the Millage postcards because she never received one. Denny Grice said that they were mailed out Friday or today. Sue said that she seen on Facebook that it's going to cost \$300/year per household for the ambulance, and asked if we knew where that number was coming from. SMACS isn't covering us; other ambulances are getting tired of covering us. Are we making the right decision? Denny said at this point it's the only decision we have. Sue said that SMACS didn't want to take us on. Larry said that's not what they told them last week at the ambulance meeting. Sue said that she doesn't want to have to have to work on someone knowing that an ambulance won't make it. Alex said there's no staff and it's not just us, it's the majority of the county that's being affected. The County Board is not interested in doing anything, and leaving it to the townships. We're left uncovered and don't have the funds to do it on our own. Denny asked under the emergency contract, there are not pick up

fees. Larry said no, unless the insurance company will pick it up. Denny said that the flyers are going out, if they haven't already, we really need the millage to go through. Alex asked if the CVBESA and CCAA have talked about combining authorities. Larry said yes. The Next ambulance meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 and is open to the public.

Adjustment of the BOR dates. Annette Peters made a motion to adjust the March BOR dates from the second Monday in March to the Tuesday following the second Monday in March; Alex William seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

BOR will have an organizational meeting March 5, 2024 at 5:30pm. BOR will be available March 12, 2024 from 9am to 3pm and March 14, 2024 from 3pm to 9pm.

Information from the Cass County Leaders meeting on January 17, 2024 was distributed.

### **Board**

Denny said that he hope that the township will pass the requested 2 mill Fire and Ambulance Millage on February 27, 2024.

Annette Peters said that she would like to thank Alex Williams and Denny Grice for their time getting the furnace fixed, and thank Nick Seelye for getting the flag fixed.

Alex Williams said that he wanted to thank Denny for doing the post card and helping Mike with the furnace. The final day for Taxes is February 29<sup>th</sup>, he will in person hours on the 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm.

### **Public Comment**

Bob Rasmussen thanked Denny Grice for his help looking into getting the cemetery software.

### **Adjournment**

Annette Peters made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Peters  
Volinia Township Clerk