

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Minutes of Special Meeting
Monday, July 17, 2023
6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Larry Davis at 6:41pm. Members present: Supervisor Larry Davis, Treasurer Alex Williams, Trustee Denny Grice and Clerk Annette Peters. Members absent: None.

Others present: Nick Seelye, Terry Ferguson, Bob Ferguson, and Anne Colgan.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Larry Davis.

Zoning Administrator

Doug Kuhlman sent a letter of resignation effective July 11, 2023.

Larry had handouts of documentation from the Township Attorney concerning zoning administrators.

Larry has contacted Doug to see if he would reconsider. Doug said that he would reconsider, with meeting between the board, the township's legal council and himself. Annette Peters said that she wouldn't mind sitting down to talk about it. Alex questioned if it would be a closed session, Larry said no. Denny said that he would be open to meeting, but sees a struggle to move forward after receiving a resignation.

Mr. Poulsen did receive GAAMP's review and did get Site Selection. Now the determination is in the State's hands not the township.

Alex Williams said that after the April 4th ZBA meeting, Doug never told the board his concerns until the July meeting.

Denny said that he attended the ZBA meeting in April, and that Doug had done two incorrect things during the permitting process.

Larry said that Doug was just doing what the previous Supervisor has stated.

Alex said that he is willing to sit down and talk too, but it's hard to go back, and not even sure he wants Doug back.

Denny said that it's more work to get a new zoning administration but would be worth it in the long run. He does not want to have a meeting.

Larry again stated that he will not do a closed session.

Gravel Pit

The gravel pit people have asked for a new point of contact about the proposed project. They were instructed to contact Randy (Planning Commission), Larry (Supervisor) or Roxanne (Attorney).

The July 19, 2023 Planning Commission Continuation meeting has been cancelled at this time at the request of the Gravel Pit Applicant.

Little Fish Lake

Annette Peters made a motion to have New Leaf Landscaping spread the topsoil at Little Fish Lake Cemetery, that they quoted prior to the last Board Meeting; 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 having New Leaf Landscaping spread topsoil at Little Fish Cemetery.

Larry has talked to several companies who told him to wait until fall for doing the fence at LFL. We can't wait that long due to people driving on graves. Larry is meeting with one place this week to look at what we want for a fence. He will ask about quotes with and without pedestrian gates.

Camp Matziv

Doug and Roxanne had a potential ordinance drafted, and now the camp and townships attorneys have been going back and forth over it. We are currently waiting on the camps council.

Denny said that he looked up the camp and starting Thursday til August 15 they are holding a camp for 400 kids.

The camps are not the issue; it's the Airbnb, liquor sales and wedding venues that the property is not zoned for.

Alex said that the lawyers need to get this resolved, but they need to request doing an ordinance. He doesn't feel like Attorney or Zoning Administrator are doing anything to resolve issues, but writing ordinances without the board being notified.

Larry will question the attorney on this tomorrow.

Denny said if the attorneys are coming to a deal with an ordinance, there's a concern about not negotiating. Doug did get the camp back on the tax roll.

Larry said that the camp could be turned into the state for serving alcohol with no license, but what proof is there?

Alex said that Doug had previously said that the liquor Licensing Board and been notified. The operations should be stopped then resolved.

Ambulance Authority

The Ambulance Authority contract is up December 1, 2023. Van Buren and Berrien Counties are no longer using Pride Ambulance. They are solely operating in Cass County now.

There will be a meeting at 2:30pm Wednesday at the Dowagiac City Hall with Patrick O’Neal.

Larry does not want Marcellus Ambulance to take back over our township.

There was nothing accomplished at today’s ambulance meeting but hopefully there will be more answers on Wednesday.

Pride is putting ambulances back at Wayne Township Fire Department. This will help on the lead times.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Annette Peters made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Peters
Volinia Township Clerk