

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, August 14, 2023
6:30 PM

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

Others present: Doreen Williams, Steve Potter, Joan Potter, Deb Chambers, Chris Brooks, Beth Brooks, Charlie Kantz, Eugene Sibley, Gary Locke, Victoria Locke, Scott Bauer, Wendy Bauer, Ed Kosher, Glenn Blough, Brenda Blough, Joe Colgan, Ann Colgan, D. Charles Wilson, Katherine Yoder, Frank Maley, Daryl Franzel, Joyce Locke and Dave High.

Prayer was given by Denny Grice.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Larry Davis.

Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting July 10, 2023, were presented. Alex Williams made a motion to approve the minutes; Annette Peters seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

The minutes from the special meeting July 17, 2023, were presented. Alex Williams made a motion to approve the minutes; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

The minutes from the special meeting, July 25, 2023, were presented. Alex Williams made a motion to approve the minutes; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

The minutes from the special meeting, July 31, 2023, were presented. Larry Davis made a motion to approve the minutes; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The July Treasurer's Report was presented with a balance of \$336,197.74 in the general fund. The Fire Escrow accounts balance is as of 6/30/23. The amount is interest earned and Alex had asked to close the account and transfer the funds to the general fund, but the transaction did not finalize until 8-1-23. Balances in the other funds are as shown. Receipts are as listed. 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 July Treasurer's Report.

Bills

The August bills were presented with the total amount of \$30,467.64. Alex Williams made a motion to approve the August 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 August Bills.

Cemeteries

There were 2 burials this month.

Roads

The Dewey Lake Street/Lawrence Road intersection is now a T.

Bob will call CCRC again about patching Penn Rd between the ponds.

Supervisor

Larry Davis made a motion to appoint Nick Seelye as Trustee; Denny Grice verified that Nick would be recused from any decisions regarding the gravel pit then 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 appointing Nick Seelye as Trustee.

Annette Peters administer the Oath of Office.

We received a quote for an L-shaped fence at LFL Cemetery with two foot openings from Martin Unlimited. The quote was for \$2993.21 Annette Peters made a motion to approve the quote from Martin Unlimited for the fence at LFL Cemetery; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

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

The board approved the quote to have the fence at LFL Cemetery completed by Martin Unlimited.

Larry Attended the Cass County Leaders Meeting on July 19, 2023. The main discussion was the Ambulance Service. Alex asked if there was a viable alternative. Larry said that the contract with Price expires 12-1-2023. At that time they will probably start charging for services. If that happens we will have to ask for additional millage. There are currently 5-6 other providers, but all seem to be in the same bind as Pride. Denny asked if the cost would be monthly, plus a per call fee to the patient. Larry said that the monthly rate would be either based on taxable value or per parcel.

Larry attended the CVBESA meeting on July 17, 2023. The minutes and call logs were distributed. The next meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2023, with the owner of Pride.

We now have a new zoning administrator and blight officer. Zoning Solutions LLC will be handling these services. They have 5 employees in their office and are located in Cass County.

Mike Hayden had submitted his notice of resignation as blight officer effective August 20, 2023. Larry Davis made a motion to accept Mike Hayden's resignation; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Robert Lehigh had submitted his letter of resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals on August 3, 2023. Annette Peters made a motion to accept Robert Lehigh's resignation; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

There will be a Truth in Taxation Hearing tonight at 8:00pm.

Board

None.

Public Comment

Doreen Williams stated that years ago we did pay for ambulance services, before Pride took over.

Chris Brooks asked where Special Meeting Notices are posted. Notices are posted on the board outside the Township Hall.

Chris Brooks said that the culvert on Lawrence Road is pinched at Bunker Lake. Larry will call Bob this evening about it.

Dave High asked who the engineer for CCRC is that does the road layouts. The culvert that they put in on Dewey Lake Street makes it hard to turn. Commissioner Locke suggested that Dave go to the CCRC Board meeting.

Victoria Locke asked what happened to the website the township was going to build. She said that there needs to be a better way to get word out about meetings to the public. She requested that a facebook page or website be done. Larry said that the Cass County Leaders are working on a more portal and will hopefully be a better answer.

Chris Brooks asked what newspapers the township uses for notices. We use the Marcellus News and the Decatur Republican.

Doreen Williams said that a website for the township isn't like a normal business website. There are lots of legality's required and hoops to go through being a government agency.

Katherine Yoder asked if there was an update on the Parker Road Chip and Seal that is suppose to be done. Larry said CCRC is supposed to be doing seal coat projects at the end of this month. Katherine said that there are huge chunks of asphalt missing from former attempts at patching. Larry said that he will call Bob about this.

Dave High asked if there is a plan in motion to raise or generate more money for the roads. Larry said that we is 2024 we are looking for more road millage, also millage for ambulance and recouping Head lee losses. Dave suggested that there be more explanation on the math on road millage increase so that people understand. Larry said that our attorney says we don't have to pay for road, but then CCRC would only maintain the road for safety and would end up grinding up all the roads.

Steve Potter asked if there is a long term plan for the roads. Larry said that every late fall/early spring we work with CCRC for the upcoming year. Denny asked what the cost to pave one mile is. Larry said approximately \$150,000. Dave High said that if we grind up and relay, it should only be half for the top layer.

Charlie Kantz asked about the percentage that CCRC gives to the township. Said that we need to go to the statehouse and have them redistribute funds. He said that putting notices in the newspaper is pointless and that we need to do mailings to every resident for all meeting including regular board meetings.

Doreen Williams asked how many in attendance read their newsletters that come in their tax bills read. Less than half raised their hands.

Daryl Franzel said that he is a Vet that has only been in the township for a few years, but has lived all over. He believes that the state desires for people to not live in rural areas. People need to realize that the roads will get worse. We will never have city pavement.

Brenda Blough asked about the last Planning Commission meeting at CCRC being cancelled. She asked if there will be letters mailed again. She stated that only 2 notices were received last time, them and Peggy Yordy. There needs to be more notices.

Steve Potter asked when the next gravel pit meeting will be. That is unknown at this time.

Chris Brooks asked if we need to appoint a new ZBA member. No, we have the three members: Steve Kent, Denny Grice and Randy Cuthbert. We will be looking for an alternate; Chris will let Larry know if he's interested.

Charles Wilson asked about the camp discussion from the 7-25-23 special meeting. Larry said that there is still not resolution for the text amendment.

Adjournment

Alex Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Annette Peters seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Peters
Volinia Township Clerk