

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2023
6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Larry Davis at 6:37pm. 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, Glenn Blough, Brenda Blough, Mary Fosdick, Beth Brooks, Chris Brooks, Tyler Augst, Steve Kent, Brenda Kent, Joyce Locke and Zach Morehouse.

Prayer was given by Denny Grice.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Larry Davis.

Minutes

The minutes from the last Regular meeting November 13, 2023, were presented. Denny Grice made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction of the Treasurer's roll call vote, the second Davis should be Peters; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Annette Peters will look at the APC Towers Contract for the insurance responsibility.

The minutes from the Special Meeting November 29, 2023, were presented. Denny Grice made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Alex Williams apologized that the November Treasurer's report is not ready, as there is a \$500.10 discrepancy that he is trying to find in order to balance. He will have it ready for the next meeting. He can say that the bank balance is \$266,297.82, and the actual balance is either \$260,072.33 or \$260,572.23. There are no longer any ARPA funds, as they have all been used. The only special funds are the \$1000 for High Grade's escrow.

Bills

The November bills were presented with the total amount of \$12,792.03. Larry Davis made a motion to approve the November Bills; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Seelye - Yes

Williams - Yes

Davis - Yes

Peters - Yes

Grice - Yes

The Board approved the November Bills.

Alex said that he attended his semi annual county wide Treasurer's meeting last Wednesday. County treasurer Hope Anderson runs the Land Bank. There is a MI-HOPE program that is a COVID hardship grant funding to improve home efficiency. Alex has brochures available if anyone is interested, and any questions should be directed to Hope Anderson. The Land Bank is state grant money for blight issues. The funds are done for this year but hope to apply again next year. Alex is keeping an eye for it to come back to help address our township's blight issues. The township and residents would have to apply. There is no cost to the township or the resident, but there is a 7 year lien placed on the property. There was a guy who handles the state level homestead exemptions that spoke. There are currently 2 homestead exemptions in our township.

We received a contract from Aquatic Weed Control for the 2024 treatment of Finch Lake. Annette Peters asked if the Finch Lake Representative is okay with the contract, Chris Brooks said they are good with the contract, they have not complaints. The assessment is a little high so they don't cut the funds so close this year. The contract would approve 3 applications. Annette Peters made a motion to sign the 2024 weed treatment of Finch Lake contract with Aquatic Weed Control; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Cemeteries

All the cemeteries look good for the winter. No snow yet to cover the last of the leaves.

The neighbors of Crane Cemetery had a land survey done. Now we know the exact property lines, and there is a little more property to the North than we thought. Bob is going to get 10 fence posts to make the property line for the future.

There will be one cremation burial tomorrow for Chris Fox.

Denny said that he's still looking at computer mapping the cemeteries. He talked with Steve Kent and would like to explore more software's. Steve Kent has looked into 35 cemetery software's and the pricing ranges from \$5 per month to \$1,000 per year. Denny would like to research for another month and report back to the board next month.

Roads

There as been a complaint on Parker/Oak Streets. Bob has inspected the issue and reported it to Bob at CCRC, who is going to look into it. Bob Rasmussen is not sure there is enough damage that CCRC will fix it, but is waiting on the response from CCRC.

The rest of the roads are basically the same as last month. CCRC has been grading and doing tree work in the area, gearing up for winter.

Alex asked if CCRC is still patching pot holes, Bob was not sure.

Larry said that he is not happy with Parker/Oak Streets or Stevens Forest Lake Road's seal coating. He called CCRC today, but Robert was unavailable.

The 2024 Road packets have been distributed to the board for review. Nick said that gravel road treatments show Fosdick was done 3 times over the last 10 years. Blough's have not seen 3 applications in 10 years. Bob Rasmussen said that he noticed some discrepancies too. Annette said that the gravel road treatment reports only shows Fosdick one time, the other 2 mentions are in the cross road section. Nick said that he was looking at it incorrectly but still doesn't think the list is correct.

Annette asked to request a CCRC representative been at our January meeting.

Denny asked if we get notice of completed work order to check quality of the road work when it's done. Nick said that he remembers when the gravel was put on McKenzie Street in 2020, that it was so thick you couldn't drive on it for a week.

Larry asked the board to review the packets and bring any questions to next months meeting.

Supervisor

The Ambulance Authority meet December 4, 2023. There was a Cass County SMCAS Operations update. They are trying to get another ambulance. The contract was renewed for another 3 months.

The second 3 months contract was based on a 13 week period and the first was 14 weeks. The second payment was short \$421.14. Annette Peters made a motion to pay the \$421.14 difference for the 3 month ambulance contract; Larry Davis seconded the motion; all is favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Seelye – Yes

Williams – Yes

Davis – Yes

Peters – Yes

Grice – Yes

The board approved the \$421.14 difference payment.

The minutes from the last Ambulance Authority meeting were distributed.

The Fire report was distributed, with 3 calls for Volinia in November.

Larry has contract our attorney for updates on the camp and Gravel pit, has not heard anything back. The gravel pit has put down test wells on the property, and markers. You can see these from the road. Larry has not seen any paperwork from the attorney, planning commission or High Grade.

Board

Alex said that the camp is getting property tax bills. He hand folded and stuffed all the tax bills.

Public Comment

Chris Brooks asked if there was any update on the Nicholsville Culvert. Larry said the last he heard, it would be done by the end of fall, other than that he hasn't heard any more.

Tyler Augst distributed the MSU quarterly email, and said that there is a webinar bundle special. Tyler also pointed out the Charges Ahead for Renewable Energy Permitting in Michigan Webinar on January 10, 2024.

Chuck Wilson asked if the Camp received a tax bill, does that mean they can do whatever they want now. Larry said no, they still are not allowed alcohol sales or rentals; they still have to follow zoning.

Chris Brooks asked if the camp was receiving the same tax rate as 2019. Alex Williams can't answer that right now; he would have to look it up, but thinks it was only part of the property.

Chuck Wilson said that we will probably hear from the Camp's attorney now that they received a tax bill. Larry said possibly, but the biggest issue will be policing.

Zach Morehouse said that he has noticed shining/hunting out in rural areas, and asked if there was anyone besides Cass County Conservation officer that he could contact. He also heard 2 gunshots about 8:30pm the other night and just weird activity. Denny said that shining is legal any time except during November, and there are only 2 conservation officers in SW Michigan. Nick said that shining in November is illegal, however artificial light in predator hunting is legal and there are a lot of coyote tournaments going on right now. Annette said that if something gives you an uneasy feeling, don't feel bad about reporting it. Steve Kent said that car and catalytic convertor theft is still high too. Zach said that he just feels like he's beating a dead horse.

Adjournment

Annette Peters made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Peters
Volinia Township Clerk