

Approved as amended, 12/17/12

Casco Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Monday, November 19, 2012, 7:00 pm

Allan Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and led in the pledge of allegiance. Approximately 20 people were present, along with Eldon Ridley, Trustee; Judy Graff, Trustee; Julie Cowie, Clerk; Lu Winfrey, Treasurer; and Allan Overhiser, Supervisor.

A representative from Wolverine Pipeline made a short presentation about the pipeline that traverses Casco Township north to south near 61st Street. The pipeline was laid in 1963 and is in very good shape. He emphasized the need to call Miss Dig prior to any digging in that area.

Public Comment: Jeanne Van Zoeren wished to make a presentation about the Blue Star Bike Trail project. This will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

Minutes: October 15, 2012 minutes will be handled next month.

Julie Cowie thanked the election workers who worked 19 ½ hours on Election Day, especially co-chairs Anita Walker and Ruth Hewitt. There were about 1,425 voters including 383 absent voter ballots. Congratulations to newcomers Cheri Brenner (Democrat) who won the Clerk's office, and Josiah Jessup (Republican) who won the Trustee position, along with returning Trustee Judy Graff (Democrat), Supervisor Allan Overhiser (Republican), and Treasurer Lu Winfrey (Republican). Paul Macyauski and Joseph Jessup were thanked for running for office also.

Treasurer's report:

General Fund	\$463,048.72
Parks Fund	\$ 8,762.05
Senior Services	\$ 10,953.45
Fire Department	\$521,124.67
Road Fund	\$ 26,613.02
Cemetery Care	\$133,149.50
Collected Tax	\$ 75,507.73

Winfrey moved payment of bills, including the following: General Fund orders #21731-21777 in the amount of \$158,948.50; Collected Tax orders #2769-2774 in the amount of \$109,078.73; Fire Fund order #3904 for \$90,912.25; Parks Fund orders #313-320 in the amount of \$2,865.26; Seniors Fund orders #335-342 in the amount of \$4,768.67; and Road Fund orders #1079-1081 in the amount of \$138,904.70, supported by Ridley; MSC.

Parks: Bruce Brandon introduced himself. The fence project at the Casco Township Nature Preserve is underway. "No dogs" signs are needed at the Nature Preserve. Committee members are willing to be trained on gate operation. A "Friends" group is of interest. Two members are up for reappointment. Kevin Ricco has left the County. Pam Blough provided an update on the stairs project (through the

Coastal Management Zone Grant program). The committee hopes to look at stairway designs in December.

Seniors: Susan Katt provided an update on programs underway. The renovation of the kitchen-into-office has begun with a new window installed.

Fennville District Library: Bob Sherwood reiterated that the millage passed in August allows the library to keep operating as the library board had hoped.

ZBA met recently and both variances were granted.

Planning Commission: On December 12, 6 pm, there will be a meeting to receive public input about amendments to the Wind Energy Zoning ordinance.

Water/Sewer Authority: Overhiser distributed a report about new connections to date. The new hookups include some homes on Lakeview which don't count the same as other new construction. The reporting format will be improved, and Graff asked for the annual target number to be included also.

County Commissioner Report: Jessup reported on the West Side County park which will have two staircases. The proposed renovations are probably a ten year project. The County will have a wellness program funded by the County health care fund.

Jessup thanked Eldon Ridley for his 40 years and 7 months as a trustee. He thanked Julie Cowie also for her years of service, and affirmed people who serve their local governments.

Old Business:

North Shore Drain: There was a meeting on November 8 with the County Drain Commissioner, with good information shared. Residents have the option to petition the Drain Commissioner and request a hearing of necessity. There are two drains—North Base and North Shore. The two drainage districts need to be consolidated. The gravel roads are probably also contributing to the filling up of the North Shore drain. The petition looks at the whole watershed to control the flow of water.

Overhiser presented a Petition for Cleaning Out...the North Shore Drain and read it aloud (included with these minutes). Graff moved and Winfrey supported approval of the petition, with Graff, Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, and Winfrey all voting yes in a roll call vote.

A Resolution to file County Drain Petition, North Shore Drain was also read aloud by Overhiser (attached to these minutes). Graff moved to approve the resolution, supported by Ridley: Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, and Graff voted yes in a roll call vote.

Mt. Pleasant Tree Cutting update: As a follow up to the Kurgan matter from last month, Overhiser pursued bids and Dave's Tree Service was the low bid for clearing brush from the public park in Mount Pleasant Subdivision. The Kurgan's Estate attorney agreed to pay the bill of \$1200. The trees on the public park located north of the elevator in Mount Pleasant were cleared.

433 Drainage District Requirements: Judy Graff explained that the purpose of this action is to involve the County in the development and set up of any drainage system when any new development is proposed. The Planning Commission needs the Board to state the 433 Drainage District is REQUIRED

~~desirable.~~ Upon Board direction, the Planning Commission will then pursue the 433 Drainage District amendment to the Casco Township Zoning Ordinance.

Cowie moved to direct the Planning Commission to pursue the 433 Drainage District amendment to the Zoning ordinance, supported by Graff; MSC.

Pacific Avenue: People on Pacific Avenue are interested in developing an undeveloped portion of the road (Pacific Avenue). A County drain runs through this area.

Representative compensation: Some people get compensated for representing Casco on other boards, and some do not. A policy is needed for equity purposes. Cowie moved to have persons appointed by the Board to represent Casco on other boards be compensated equal to the rate of other Casco Township commissioners, supported by Graff; MSC.

Library Board: Overhiser moved to reappoint Bob Sherwood to another 4 year term on the Fennville District Library Board, supported by Winfrey; MSC.

Board of Review resignation: Cheryl Brenner submitted a letter of resignation from the Casco Township Board of Review; Overhiser moved acceptance of the resignation letter, supported by Cowie, with regret—and appreciation for Cheri’s years of service on the Board of Review. Brenner resigned because she cannot serve as Clerk and as a BOR member.

Roads: Lakeview (for paving) and Glenn Shores (for resealing) are being considered for this year's projects.

Blue Star Bike Trail: Jeanne Van Zoeren gave an update on the Bike trail project and led the Board through a handout outlining trail connections across Michigan, north-to-south (of which this project is an important link), and east-to-west. She explained the routes and funding plans. A “special projects” fund and an endowment fund will be established at the Allegan County Community Foundation. About \$10,000 is needed for a credible endowment fund.

The Friends group is very encouraged by the feasibility study underway. The park will be a linear park to be owned and maintained by Allegan County. While Casco will not be asked for financial support, a contribution would be welcome.

A resolution of support is needed based on the six points of the overview presented by Jeanne Van Zoeren.

Casco Township would have no responsibility for the construction of the trail but is supportive of the project if the funding is raised by the Friends group.

Pam Blough stated that having the County take responsibility for the trail means that the Township, then, would not have control over the construction—since the County would. And it was also acknowledged that the Township does not want to have responsibility for maintaining the trail, as it would be a County linear trail (or a County owned and maintained entity). Action will be taken at a future meeting. The CMAQ administration needs to be a bit clearer, and also what the project status would be if there is no endowment in place, and who the money would come to and who would administer the project.

Graff pointed out the County's slow response to Casco Township, given geography, and raised questions about the speed with which maintenance of the trail might occur. Allan will follow up with Larry Brown about this project.

FRIENDS OF BLUE STAR TRAIL CAME TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO REQUEST THAT THE ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO CMAC TO FUND THE BLUE STAR TRAIL. THEREFORE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN. REFERENCE ATTACHMENT.

Public Comment: Judy Graff read emails from residents regarding positive regard of the Nature Preserve. Robbie and Bill Childs, Blue Star Highway residents, have been enjoying the preserve; they walk 6 laps in the morning and the evening. Georgia Sizemore, a seasonal resident of Glenn Shores, also appreciated the simple beauty and layout of the Nature Preserve.

Allan Overhiser thanked Eldon Ridley and Julie Cowie for their years of service; they will be missed. Overhiser also thanked Paul Macyauski and Joseph Jessup who ran, along with Josiah Jessup and Cheri Brenner (who won the election as Trustee and Clerk, respectively). Eldon Ridley and Julie Cowie were acknowledged with a plaque of appreciation and a short reception held ahead of this meeting.

The December meeting will take place on December 17, the third Monday of the month.

Cheri Brenner thanked everyone who voted for her; and asked for patience as she and Josiah get started on the board.

Ridley moved to adjourn, Graff supported; adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully,

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk
Casco Township Board of Trustees

Attachments:

Petition for Cleaning out, widening, deepening, straightening, adding branches, extending and/or consolidating drains pursuant to Chapters 8 and 19 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956 as amended, North Shore Drain; and
Resolution 121119, Casco Township Resolution to File County Drain Petition North Shore Drain