

Approved 8/20/12

Casco Township Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting of July 16, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Called to order at 7:01 pm. Present: Overhiser, Graff, Ridley, Cowie, and approximately 8 interested persons. Winfrey was absent due to vacation. Overhiser led in a moment of silence in honor of Toni Carroll, who recently passed away. Toni represented Casco Township on the Allegan County Commission on Aging and was active in many community organizations.

Overhiser led in the pledge of allegiance.

Candidates: Cheryl Brenner is a Democratic candidate for Township Clerk. Cheryl grew up in Casco Township; she has worked in banking, medical billing, real estate, at a car dealership and as a bookkeeper for BPU for the City of South Haven, where she worked under the comptroller.

Bike Trail Resolution: Jeanne Van Zoeren, Eileen Mead, and Sunny Hill were present regarding the Blue Star Bike Trail. The Friends group will be submitting a proposal to the City of South Haven for funding, and they would like to see the bike trail extended south of Baseline Road to Phoenix Road.

The city of the village of Douglas will be establishing a trail from the bridge to the south border of Douglas. Van Zoeren stated that there is extensive support from neighborhood associations along Blue Star Highway. Resolution 120716 (attached) was read aloud. Cowie moved support of the resolution, seconded by Graff, with Cowie, Ridley, Overhiser, and Graff voting yes in a roll call vote. Winfrey was absent.

Public Comment: None

Minutes:

- Regular meeting of May 21, 2012: Graff moved approval, supported by Ridley; MSC.
- Special meeting of May 29, 2012: Graff moved approval, supported by Cowie; MSC.
- Regular meeting of June 18, 2012: Graff moved approval, supported by Ridley; MSC.
- Special meeting of June 25: Graff moved approval, supported by Ridley; MSC.

Those present were reminded of the Free tire disposal day on Saturday July 21. Cowie announced details on the Primary Election scheduled for August 7, 2012.

Parks & Recreation: Bruce Brandon is out of town. Pam Blough provided an update on Maple Grove. The proposal process to move the yellow house & garage is underway with bids accepted until August 1. An electrical pole has been installed. At the next committee meeting, security, maintenance, and operation of the park will be addressed. Pam has been working with the Allegan County Road Commission regarding having signs installed. No Parking signs have been installed on the west side of Blue Star Highway today.

In public comment, Bruce Barker said the south border natural wood/brush "fence" looked good.

Planning Commission: Two weeks from tonight, on July 30 at 6 pm, the Planning Commission will address a proposed High Density residential district along Baseline; a public hearing on that amendment and some others will occur.

Hospital update: Judy Graff announced the South Haven Health Systems was a recipient of the Hospital Choice award.

Treasurer's Report:

In Lu's absence, Supervisor Overhiser presented the following balances:

General Fund	\$336,268.14
Parks Fund	\$ 23,092.94
Senior Services	\$ 28,647.50
Fire Department	\$671,360.96
Road Fund	\$264,608.50
Cemetery Care	\$ 29,608.50
Collected Tax	\$ 625.27

Overhiser moved to pay the following bills: General Fund orders #21536-21580 in the amount of \$757,494.60; Collected tax orders #2747-2752 in the amount of \$2,355.18; Road Fund #1074, \$550.00; Parks fund orders #273-282, in the amount of \$7,647.24; Seniors Fund Orders #317-320 in the amount of \$7,895.30; Graff seconded, MSC.

It was noted that half of the chair cost should be transferred from the General Fund to the Senior fund to offset the cost of new chairs for senior exercise and Township Hall use.

Old Business:

Miami Park: Members of the Wastewater association (private sewer system) are exploring the question of expanding the drain field or hooking up to the Authority; an estimate is being worked on by MCE and will be provided to the Miami Park Wastewater Association. The proposal would include installing a grinder pump at each home. Interest in this project varies from house to house.

Bill Watt asked about the grinder pumps and costs. Each person on the private system would have their own grinder put in at their own cost. The Township will not cover any costs.

The proposed connection point would be the manhole on Lakeview. The connection could tentatively come across Michigan Avenue (a platted road that doesn't exist), or go south to Highfield. The project will not dig up Atlantic Avenue—the pipes that are there will stay there.

Priscilla Massey asked several questions about the fees associated with the engineering study for the Miami Park hookup.

Sixteen residences are hooked up to the private system. The capacity of the Boardwalk lift station is 200 homes; and there are about 80 homes at the ready, so that will mean this system could provide capacity to an additional 100 homes within Miami Park. The system will stay private.

Priscilla Massey: Q/ if you currently have septic and water and it goes out, will you be required to hook up to the sewer? A/ At this point, no; but if there is difficulty in getting a septic system to work, the Health Department might require something (it is not a Township decision).

As soon as the 16 residents hook up, the Water/Sewer Authority will benefit from the hook up fees paid and also the additional sewer/debt retirement customers. These additional customers will ease the financial pressure faced by the WSA (which is currently being felt by existing customers).

ZBA: July 12 meeting: Steve Hammersmith, variance request related to an accessory building (12' x 16' storage building, located 3' from lot lines) on Beechwood. Needed 7' side and 7' rear variances; granted.

Daniel Way, acting as agent for Andrew Marks, sought a variance related to a front yard setback. Parcels located at the NW corner of Atlantic Avenue and Lakeshore Drive in Miami Park. He requested a 10' front yard setback, which was denied.

New Business:

Boundary Line adjustment: lengthy discussion ensued about the Marks request for a boundary line adjustment.

In public comment, Deniece Barker stated that this seems like someone coming back after not getting the variance that they wanted.

A legal opinion was requested from Ron Bultje to address the contiguous non-conforming lots in common ownership, and the correct way to read the zoning ordinance.

Cowie also suggested a review of other boundary adjustments to see what has been granted in the past.

In public opinion, David Campbell said the matter of putting a second house as a guest house needs to be addressed.

No action was taken on this matter; it was tabled.

Bike Trail report: Cost information is not yet available from Prein Newhof.

Electrical Inspector: Dick Burrows plans to retire at age 86; Alfred Ellingsen is checking on who Saugatuck uses.

Other business: None

Public comment: Bruce Barker announced that the South Haven Community Foundation has set up a fund for Deerlick Park. If Casco Township is interested in setting up a foundation fund, there are certain benefits and drawbacks to that. Jim Marcoux is the contact person as Executive Director of the SHCF.

With no other public comment, Graff moved to adjourn at 8:52 pm, supported by Ridley; MSC.

Respectfully,

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

Casco Township Board of Trustees

Attachment: Resolution 120716, Supporting the Expansion of the Blue Star Trail to Phoenix Road