

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGIAN
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2024
6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Larry Davis at 6:43pm. Members present: Supervisor Larry Davis, Trustee Nick Seelye, Trustee Denny Grice, Treasurer Alex Williams and Clerk Annette Peters. Members absent: None.

Others present: Bob Rasmussen, Glenn Blough, Brenda Blough, Jim Churchill, Carol Churchill, Tamara Franzel, Jamie Chambers, Deb Chambers, Chris Brooks, Beth Brooks, Victoria Locke, Mike Lutz, Patty Gremarx (COA), Anne Colgan, Joyce Locke, Bob Lutz, Jeff Hupp, Stacey High, Brian McKenzie, and Andrew Hampe.

Prayer was given by Denny Grice.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Larry Davis.

Minutes

The minutes from the last Regular meeting May 13, 2024, were presented. Denny asked about the county's Master Plan and if we get it give any input. Larry said yes the planning commission is working with the county planning commission on the master plan. Alex said on page 3; his new employer is Jakes Country Meats not Robinson Farms, should be recuse not recluse, KVCC not GVCC and The Sheriffs not They Sheriffs. Denny Grice made a motion to approve the minutes with the above mentioned corrections; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The May Treasurer's report was presented with a balance of \$232,779.07 in the general fund. Balances in the other funds are as shown. Receipts are as listed. Annette Peters made a motion to approve the May 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
Seelye –Yes

The Board approved the May Treasurer's Report.

Bills

The May Revised bills were presented with the new total amount of \$72,342.40. Nick Seelye made a motion to approve the May revised 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
Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the May Revised bills.

The June bills were presented with the total amount of \$12,416.00. Stacey High questioned the attorney bill; Alex Williams said that it was charges for the gravel pit and multiple communications. Alex Williams made a motion to approve the June 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
Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the June Bills.

Brian McKenzie PA116

Brian McKenzie stated that Camp Matviz has been pushing for the last 3-5 years for him to sell them 3 acres of land for a softball field. The land is currently part of a PA116 and is 3 acres of woods. He is requesting permission to sell the 3 acres to Camp Matviz for the public good.

Clerk-Discussion of Website Services

A proposal for the website launch the township won from Civic Clarity was presented to the board. Denny Grice said that it sounded too good to be true. Carol Churchill asked what all the \$450/year included; Annette listed out what it included. Alex Williams said that he didn't get to ready everything, and would like more time to. Nick Seelye said that there is all kinds of testimony's included in the proposal. Denny Grice said that they may have a cookie cutter platform. Alex Williams said that we should get a .gov platform. Annette Peters said that we should table the discussion until next month.

Discussion of pay increases

Larry Davis said that only 2 of the board members are elected by the residents. Annette Peters said that she has already pointed out the same thing. Alex Williams said that he's fine waiting on pay increases since we are already dipping into the general fund for road contracts. Alex was going to recommend increasing the Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor to \$1,100 per month, which would increase the budget by \$11,300. Since the Trustees are per diem they don't need separate resolutions, but again he's fine waiting until November or the next budget. Denny Grice said that he didn't know that it was a paid position when he took the board seat. The clerk, treasurer and supervisor seats struggle to get people interested in those positions, and thinks we should look at them hourly and the true hours put it. As for the trustee, he doesn't want or need more, but the other 3 should figure hourly. Alex Williams said that he is the highest paid board member at \$935 a month. Denny asked how many hours does he work. Alex said minimum 10 hours per week and he knows that the Marcellus Treasurer makes \$1,500 per month.

Annette said that Marcellus is a bigger jurisdiction. Alex said that a basic bookkeeping job pays \$25 per hour on the low end and actual accounting is a lot higher. Annette Peters pointed out again that the residents just approved the fire/ambulance millage and we're fixing to asking them for another road millage, and she cannot justify asking for a pay raise.

Cemeteries

Denny Grice has been looking into getting computerized more and distributed a packet to the board. He feels that CIMS seems to be the best solution. Bob Rasmussen asked if the \$4,350 set up fee is per cemetery, Denny said no, that would be all the cemeteries. Denny recommends going with the gold package. CIMS is what Wayne Township uses. Suggests that the board takes home the packet, review and let him know if we have any questions. Denny said we're spending a lot of money, but the cemeteries are a blessing and a liability. We are currently using a burlap map system and that needs to change. The plot look up would really support a township website. Bob said that we really need to get the cemeteries on a computer; it would make it easier on the next person.

Bob Rasmussen said that the cemeteries are looking great, except Crane. There was a limb that fell on a tombstone. Larry is contacting the insurance company to see what we can do. Bob asked everyone to go to Rosehill and look at the flags and compare to the others. He made new flag holders to extend the life of the flags.

Roads

Bob Rasmussen said that all of the township gravel roads were graded and the first dust control application was applied. There were a few intersections that were not like we would have liked but rain will take care of that. There were 6 semi trucks dumped of treatment. Warner Road is not holding like we had hoped, and doesn't know what we can do about that. Stacey High said pave it. Bob said we can pave it but we need donations, even the paved roads are deteriorating.

Cass County Road Commission

Not Present.

Fire and Ambulance Reports

There were 5 fire calls in the month of May.

Cass County COA Millage

Carol Churchill and Patty Gre Marx distributed a packet on the Cass County COA. They have a 16 member board who are all concerned and diligent members, and the staff is amazing. On the August Election ballot they will have a Renewal Millage. They have held this millage since 1976. Due to rollback the current millage is 0.985. The COA's mission is aging with dignity and respect through nutrition, staying mentally active, staying physically active and socially connected. Larry Davis said that he went in there a few weeks ago, he had to scan a card, he didn't eat lunch but was asked to fill out a form because that will help them with grants.

Supervisor

Little Fish Cemetery – the neighbors that we had issued with the motor home and speed boat have now put up a pole building. Larry wants to check the set backs. He has contacted Joe Wickey and Beth Pompey and both said that no permits have been pulled. Brian McKenzie said that they have stuff parked on his property too.

Nick Seelye made a motion to approve the Brian McKenzie's PA116 Resolution for a Partial Termination of a Farmland Development Rights Agreement for the Public Interest request; Annette Peters seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Board

Annette Peters was notified that in 2010 the Township of Volinia and Michael O'Lear entered into an agreement to provide land owned by the Township to O'Lear in exchange for an ingress/egress easement to all cemetery access along and existing gravel drive. O'Lear for his part executed the easement and had it recorded; however the Township Assessor has recently learned that the Township's deed to O'Lear was either never created or never recorded. The Township needs to execute the deed provided by our attorney in order to complete its obligation under the 2010 agreement. Annette Peters made a motion to authorize Larry Davis to sign the deed on behalf of the Township; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – No

Williams – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The Board approved authorizing Larry Davis to sign the deed on behalf of the Township.

Annette Peters said that there is Election Prep training by MTA next week that she may try to attend.

Public Comment

Beth Brooks said that Camp Matviz had a wedding 2 weeks ago. It was posted on their website or Facebook page. Nick Seelye has pictures of the posts already are we are waiting for Beth Pompey to arrive to the meeting.

Chris Brooks asked when the next Planning Commission meeting is. Larry said that he doesn't know, the last meeting that he knew of, he was told that none of the planning commission showed up.

Bob Lutz asked what the acceptable time period to get a response from township official should be. He initiated contact with Beth Pompey 2 weeks ago, by calling the office, emailing and calling her cell, and finally heard back from her at 2pm today. It's kind of an emergency, his mom's house burnt and they are trying to rebuild and have time limits with the insurance company. Bob Lutz said that he has started looking into the certification process to become a zoning administrator.

Brian McKenzie said that he knows he's only been to 2 meeting, but it seems that Beth is the problem. Larry Davis said that the contract with Zoning Solutions is up in August. Nick Seelye asked if we need to start interviewing. Bob Lutz said that he's actively pursuing the courses; it seems to be detail oriented. Bob Rasmussen said that it would be nice to have someone in the township. Nick Seelye said that he would start setting up interviews. Annette Peters asked Bob Lutz to please keep us updated on his status of pursuit. Bob Rasmussen asked if we like Bob Lutz can we hire based on certifications, Larry said no he has to be certified already. Larry asked Bob Lutz if he would like him to set up a meeting with Beth Pompey; Bob Lutz said no he will wait and fill out the application first.

Victoria Locke asked if there's an ordinance on ORV and golf carts. There is a 4-wheeler parade that goes by her place every night. Annette Peters said that there is an ordinance that says they are not allowed. Bob Rasmussen said that we opted out but it can't be enforced. Nick Seelye said that he was told they can't enforce it so the sheriff's office won't do anything about them. Victoria said that they seem to be coming from Oak Shores Campground. Larry said that townships that allow ORV's don't allow golf carts. Annette said that last month when the sheriff was at the meeting he said that if there are consistent times they can try to schedule a patrol person to be there at those times if you let them know.

Adjournment

Larry Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Peters
Volinia Township Clerk