

# VOLINIA TOWNSHIP

CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, November 11, 2024  
6:30pm

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Larry Davis at 6:31pm. Members present: Supervisor Larry Davis, Trustee Denny Grice, Trustee Nick Seelye, and Clerk Annette Peters. Members Absent: Treasurer Alex Williams.

Others present: Bob Rasmussen, Wes Pegler, Ann Colgan, Chuck Wilson, Rick Behnke, Jamie Chambers, Deb Chambers, Chris Brooks, Beth Brooks, Ryan Brown, Glenn Blough, Brenda Blough, Sue Conklin, Marth Selk, Stacey High, and Zach Morehouse.

Prayer was given by Denny Grice.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry Davis.

Larry Davis Thanked all the Veterans for their service.

## **Minutes**

The minutes from the last regular meeting, October 14, 2024, were presented. Annette apologized for any discrepancies, the file disappeared from the computer, so she had to scan in the printed copy and convert it back. Larry Davis asked about the High Grade section on page 2, Annette pointed out that is an editing issue, and William's response reflects down a line, and so does Seelye's. On page 3 under Cemeteries should say "other" not "Oth er." Nick Seelye made a motion to approve the minutes with the above-mentioned changes; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The October Treasurer's Report was presented with a balance of \$257,936.53 in the general fund. Balances in the other funds are as shown. Receipts are listed. Larry Davis asked about the Escrow fund for High Grade Special use permit, Annette Peters stated that it is a reimbursement fund. Nick Seelye made a motion to approve the October 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

Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the October Treasurer's Report.

## **Bills**

The Revised bills for October were presented with a new total of \$28,216.20. Denny Grice made a motion to approve the revised October Bills; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The board approved the Revised October Bills.

The bills for November were presented with a total of \$19,888.55. Larry Davis asked about the bill for the Concrete bill for the handicap walkway, Annette Peters said that she provided a copy of the hand wrote invoice for everyone, that it did not match the original quote. The bills include what the board approved for the quote, but not the additional as it was not approved and there is no explanation for the difference. Nick Seelye made a motion to approve the November Bills; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the November Bills.

## **Clerk**

Thank you to everyone who voted.

Municipal Retirement Systems, Inc has asked that we update our Financial Representative to Kevin Mannor, as Dan Blamer will no longer be managing our account. Annette Peters made a motion to have Kevin Mannor be our Financial Representative for Municipal Retirement Systems, Inc; Larry Davis seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Budget totals as of 10/31/2024 have been distributed for review. Annette Peters made a motion to table the discussion of budget adjustments until the December Regular Board Meeting, so everyone has time to review; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

## **Trustee Denny Grice**

Risk Manager Ryan Brown from Decker Agency was present to go over the Insurance Premium Proposal. The Township Attorney has recommended that the township increase the zoning liability due to our current zoning activity. A Proposal was handed out to each board member. This policy does include official bonds of \$100,000. Master Plan show 8 years old online; the carrier wants to see it within the last five years. The Carrier says if it has been reviewed or discussed in board minutes that should work, showing that we have

looked at it, something like “Trustee Grice has reviewed masterplan and has made no changes.” This is not a rush job, we can submit the minutes later, they can write the policy and endorse it later. Denny Grice said that insurance is a necessity, and we need to move forward, and he recommends this proposal for \$490 more a year. Denny Grice said that this is a two-part conversation though, renewing and/or adding additional coverage. Annette Peters made a motion to approve the renewal of the proposal of coverage with Decker agency; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

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

The Board approved the renewal of the Proposal of Coverage with Decker Agency.

After the last gravel pit meeting, Zoning Solutions' commitment to the township ended and Roger Leach became the new Zoning Administrator. Beth Pompey from Zoning Solutions has been on board for the gravel pit permitting process for the last 3-4 months, and Catherine from the Attorneys office did not recommend changing zoning administrators in the middle of the gravel pit process and rewrote a contract with the Township and Zoning Solutions. Annette Peters said that it makes sense to keep Zoning Solutions on for the duration of the gravel pit permitting process for just this work. Larry Davis said that we just hired a new zoning administrator and what Zoning Solutions was doing should not be too hard. Denny said that a small description of what Zoning Solutions would do is planning commission prepping, communication, scheduling, coordinating, and assisting the attorney, they would charge the same hourly rate as their previous contract. Denny said Roger could handle it, however Roger was very blunt during his interview about staying in the middle and not running down issues.

Annette Peters made a motion to keep Zoning Solutions on for the duration of the gravel pit permitting process; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes  
Peters – Yes  
Davis – No  
Seelye – Not eligible for Vote

The Board approves extending Zoning Solutions contract solely for High Grade application permitting period.

Last month we discussed that Lead Paint was found upstairs of the township hall. Denny had CertaPro Painters come give a quote to get it fixed. This is the only quote he has had time to get. The ceiling is \$1,625.27 and the walls are \$6,976.75 for a total of \$8,602.02. Denny Grice recommended that we do both the ceiling and walls if and when we do decide to take care of it. Annette asked if we could let it ride out since we cannot use the upstairs anyway. Larry Davis said that he just found Lead on the floor of the basement tonight, even though the block and walls were negative downstairs. Zach Morehouse recommended

checking with our insurance company, now that we know there's lead and if we do not do anything about it, we can be held responsible. Denny said that he just got one quote, and it was the day after the last meeting. He will also talk to Ryan Brown about it and see what he says about it being upstairs and downstairs. Wes Pegler asked how much time we do have now that it has been discussed, times ticking. Bob Rasmussen said that the only spot in the basement is the red spot on the floor over by the fridge. Annette Peters said that she would like to see more than one quote for that price.

Cemetery software update- Charleston has been fully uploaded. Crane is halfway done, hopes to be all the way done by the end of November. The first timecard was submitted with 39.22 hours. Denny is estimating 4 months until they are all completed. They all met at Charleston about a month ago to figure out the mapping. Seems to be on budget currently.

### **Cemeteries**

There were 2 cremation burials this month, one at Charleston and one at Crane.

Summer mowing should be all done and winter maintenance will be starting.

### **Roads**

CCRC has been grading here and there.

The gravel on Crane has been patched, East of the Cemetery.

Limb work has been completed at Crane.

Nick Seelye said that CCRC contacted him Tuesday last week about scheduling a ride along and wanted to know when the board would be available. Annette said that it would depend on when they schedule it for if she can make it or not, she knows she will be around November 22 and 29 during the day but cannot promise anything outside of that. Bob Rasmussen asked if Nick wanted to take over the roads. Denny Grice said that the board needs to be more hands on, to see what is going on. Nick said that he is available during the week, Denny said that he is flexible during the day, Nick said that he assumes they would want to meet during the day light, Annette said that she is fine with missing out, if anything she can facetime. Denny suggested emailing back and forth to get a day set up. Nick said that he just forwarded the email.

### **Fire and Ambulance**

Ambulance Invoice was presented for June – August SMCAS in the amount of \$4,638.68. Annette Peters made a motion to pay the Ambulance invoice for June – August SMCAS in the amount of \$4,638.68; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The board approved to pay the June – August SMCAS ambulance invoice.

### **Supervisor**

Little Fish Lake – Church Camp Discussion (Camp Matviz)

On September 30, 2024, Camp Matviz posted on Facebook advertising a wedding venue and only having select dates available for 2025. The rental of the wedding venue is \$11,500 for the weekend, rental of the main lodge is \$2,000. On August 8, 2024, they posted cabin rentals and have 17 cabins. October 20, 2024, posted a Maker's Market. This is supposed to be a non-profit church camp, not a wedding venue/rental.

Larry Davis made a motion to put Camp Matviz on the tax roll; (Sue Conklin -they are going against the township zoning, Nick Seelye -this has been ongoing for 2+ years, we now have the information that we need) Nick Seelye seconded the motion; (Larry Davis – has not contacted the attorney, will now after this meeting, Sue Conklin-someone should let the IRS know) all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The board approved putting Camp Matviz on the tax roll.

### **Board**

Annette Peters announced that the township website is now live. The website is [voliniatownship.gov](http://voliniatownship.gov)

Annette Peters said that Roger Leach texted right before the meeting stating that he received the zoning ordinance from Beth. He has one request for zoning information from a homeowner on Little Fish Lake who was considering a tear down and rebuild. But that is all he has to report at this time.

Denny Grice said that the Master Plan is 8 years old, according to the website. Annette said that she has not put anything about the Master Plan on our website, so she is not sure what website that is coming from. Larry Davis presented a Master Plan from 2014, Denny said that he has been reviewing a 2005 Master Plan. Nick Seelye said that he will take the 2014 Master Plan and review it. Jamie Chamber asked is not this the County Master Plan that we're discussing and that they are in the middle of reviewing and rewriting.

Nick Seelye said that 2-3 weeks ago a resident told him they were calling and calling the zoning administrator about a property boundary with no response. Come to find out they were calling Doug Kuhlman and not Zoning Solutions, this could have been other residents' problems for the last few months too. Annette Peters already has contacted the County to get our website linked to the County's. The County only updated the printed directories every two years.

Larry Davis said that the Exit signs are now working.

Nick Seelye thanked Larry Davis for serving as Supervisory for the last 4 year.

**Public**

Sherrif Behnke wished everyone a Happy Veteran's Day. He was able to attend a Veteran's Day service today at 11am at the COA. The County has approved the Hazardous Migration Plan, which is the response plan for hazardous materials. This plan is approved every 5 years and can be referenced for any grant applications the township may try to get. Election Security was another key point recently. They had extra deputies patrolling on election day and visiting all the precincts. Volinia Township had great signage for the 100 foot no campaigning rule. Thank you for supporting the Drug enforcement Team, they did a warrant search on Twin Lakes Road on Friday. Everyone should be locking up their trailer. There has been a rash of unlocked trailer thefts in the county, mainly in the Dowagiac area.

Chris Brooks asked the board to remind Alex Williams to submit the Bendzinski & Co invoice to LASA for reimbursement.

**Adjournment**

Larry Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Peters  
Volinia Township Clerk