

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, May 8, 2023
6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Larry Davis at 6:31pm. Members present: Supervisor Larry Davis, Trustee Harry R. Rasmussen, Treasurer Doreen Williams, Trustee Denny Grice and Clerk Annette Peters. Members absent: None.

Others present: Charlie Kantz, Eugene Sibley, Nick Seeley, Joyce Locke, Stacey High, Chris Brooks, Shannon Grice, Tyler Augst, Joe Colgan, Anne Colgan, David Wilson and Sue Conklin.

Prayer was given by Bob Rasmussen.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by Bob Rasmussen.

Public Comment

Gene Sibley said that there is a small junk yard on the corner of Church and Lawrence. He also thinks some one is possibly living in the trailer. Larry will contact the blight officer.

Charlie Kantz wanting to know about zoning that does not apply to our community.

Tyler Augst said the upcoming Citizen Planner registration is coming to and end. May 23, 2023 there will be Fiscally Ready Communities Program from 10am to 11:30am. May 21, 2023 is the Master Citizen land use webinar.

Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting April 10, 2023, were presented. Alex Williams made a motion to approve the minutes; Bob Rasmussen seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The May Treasurer's Report is not ready. Receipts are not balancing. Balances are available upon request. Finch Lake has \$13,442.42, General Fund has \$438,892.19

Bills

The May Bills were presented with the total amount of \$250,082.55. Bob Rasmussen made a motion to approve the May Bills; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis - Yes

Williams – Yes

Rasmussen - Yes

The Board approved the May Bills.

Cemeteries

Rosehill needs the most work done including a 12x200 driveway extension. Cripps has been requested to quote the work needed at Crane.

Roads

Not too bad, for this time of year. Some areas do need smear patches. Marcellus Highway from Decatur Road to Gards Prairie has been paved.

Parker Street contract was missed in last month's contract approval. Annette Peters made a motion to accept the contact from CCRC to sealcoat Parker for \$5,429.20; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Williams – Yes

Rasmussen – Yes

The Board approve to sealcoat Parker Street.

Supervisor

LASA has submitted a resolution for a Finch Lake Sewer rate increase. Mircle Camp wants to connect in. It would be a 22% increase from 3 years ago. The sewer was installed in 2010. This is the 2nd increase since then. Bob Rasmussen asked to please keep retiree's in mind. Alex Williams made a motion to approve the Resolution to increase the Finch Lake Sewer rate; Annette Peters seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Larry Davis requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Davis – Yes

Williams – Yes

Rasmussen – Yes

The board approved the LASA resolution to increase the Finch Lake Sewer Rate.

Zoning

Doug Kuhlman had distributed the Zoning logs. MSU is holding a ZBA course. Doug believes this course is very valuable for everyone, including himself. The course is currently \$75, but will increase to \$150 in December. Denny Grice said that he would like to take the course.

Master Plan – Matt is supposed to send Larry the contract when it is ready. It has not been started yet. County will be reaching out to the township for input.

Grave Pit – there is an application on file, but Doug has deemed it incomplete. There is no information from EGLE or Soil reports. CCRC will be holding a meeting next week to discuss. The township may need to have a truck route ordinance.

The Village of Decatur is putting in for a traffic study, and has written an opinion.

Reverse tipping fee is just rumors.

There will have to be a Special Use hearing. There will be notices published in the newspapers and sent to all parcels within 300' of the proposed gravel pit. If all conditions are met there is no stopping the gravel pit, however the township can put reasonable stipulations in place.

The township's attorney will be at every meeting. All attorney fees will be paid from the escrow fee not by the taxpayers.

Doug guesses we will have a date in within the next 30 days, but nothing is scheduled yet.

State legislation just started again over gravel mining, and flyers have been distributed.

Doreen Williams asked if it will affect taxable values (personal property tax). Doug said that is a question for the assessor.

Bob said that he has been to the mines. Everything that has been going around is just rumors. There is not injection, not a whole lot of dust. He was able to have a conversation right next to the machines. There was no ground shaking. There was not a lot of fumes. Asked the residents to not just go by the rumors.

Denny asked if there has been any environmental study done, or provided by the company for reference. Doug said that is what he is waiting on from EGLE.

Brian suggested an annual license and fee ordinance.

Sue asked if this would provide any jobs. Bob said they may hire local but nothing has been said. There will be an increase in traffic at the Decatur Road – Marcellus Highway intersection. Doug said CCRC also has concerns about the hill and celery flats.

If a truck route is put into place, it will not affect farmers. But no one knows where the trucks would be headed when leaving the pit.

Denny asked if there was a start up dates. Doug said they wanted May, but that's not going to happen.

Doreen asked if they put ponds in after mining wouldn't that take prime ag away?

Camp Matiz – Nothing new. The two attorneys are working on resolve things.

Charlie said that he will wait for the planning commission's meeting. Doug said that there is nothing scheduled at this time. Doug stated that our zoning ordinances are consistent with other municipalities.

Gene asked about Setbacks. He was told he has to have 20' for him to put up a pole building, but lake parcels only have to have 3' set backs. Wanted to know who makes these decisions. Zoning district is who determines. Michigan goes by jurisdiction.

Gene said that the paving on Church Street shoulders are starting to crumble. Bob will contact CCRC.

CCRC has submitted the contract for Paving Markings on Lawrence and Gards Prairie. Bob Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Pavement Markings contacts; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed. Larry Davis Requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes
Peters – Yes
Davis – Yes
Williams – Yes
Rasmussen – Yes

The board approved the contract for the Pavement Markings.

The CVBEMA agenda and runs were distributed. They have a new administrator.

Board

Bob Rasmussen made a motion for the Resolution of Guidelines for Applicants requesting Consideration for Poverty Exemption; Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Alex said we are still waiting on the refund check from FerrelGas.

Annette thanked Denny for accepting the Trustee position.

Adjournment

Annette Peters made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Bob Rasmussen seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Peters
Volinia Township Clerk