

# VOLINIA TOWNSHIP

CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, February 10, 2025  
6:30pm

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Chris Brooks at 6:30pm.

Prayer was given by Denny Grice.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chris Brooks.

Annette Peters requested roll call: Trustee Grice – Present, Clerk Peters – Present, Supervisor Brooks – Present, Treasurer Williams – Present, Trustee Seelye - Present.

Others present: Tim Wilson, Leslie Wilson, Victoria Locke, Larry Davis, Wes Peglar, Chuck Wilson, Glenn Blough, Brenda Blough, Deb Chamber, Jamie Chambers, Beth Brooks, Sue Conklin, Jeff Conklin, Ed Zablocki, Sue Zablocki, Mandy Wallace (Wayne Township), Randy Cuthbert, Steve Kent, Brenda Kent, Eric Kruger, Dave High and Bob Rasmussen.

## **Agenda**

Alex Williams made a motion to approve the agenda; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

## **Minutes**

The minutes from the last regular meeting, January 13, 2024, were presented. Chris Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

The minutes from the Special Meeting, January 20, 2025, were presented. Alex Williams made a motion to approve the minutes; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

## **Supervisor**

Camp Matziv/MMW – Attorneys are trying to set up a meeting, nothing is set yet, hopefully this month.

Zoning Administrator Report/Poulsen Fence Bid – A letter was sent pertaining to two fence sections found to be in violation to the township fence ordinance by the zoning board and township board. Spoke to resident J.P. On Friday, January 24, 2025, and Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, his opinion was heard. Zoning Administrator advised him he had 30 days from Wednesday of communication to have both fence sections removed. He said he was in the process of seeking legal counsel. He did admit to me (zoning administrator) in our Friday discussion that the fence behind neighbors house is not going to work for chickens. Spoke with B.L. concerning his neighbor's fence sections. Spoke to the homeowner of property at 17033 Lake St. on Little Fish Lake, would like to tear down existing house and build new, one that better meet their needs. Spoke with W.M. concerning his home on Little Fish Lake, he wants to tear down his existing home and build new, but he's still waiting for

official approval by the ZBA for a request they passed last year regarding the new home setbacks. Reviewed the 187 paged Cass County Master Plan rough draft at the Volinia Township Planning Board meeting. An estimate was received for the removal of the two fence sections if the homeowner does not remove the two fence sections of \$1200. Chris believes that we should have two more estimates and seek legal counsel.

Build Inspector Report – Joe Wickey (who is present) would like to resign as building inspector and appoint Luke Wagoner as his replacement. The board questioned Luke Wagoner about procedures. Chris Brooks made a motion to hire Luke Wagoner and the building inspector; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Annette Peters requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Brooks – Yes

Williams – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The board approved to hire Luke Wagoner as building Inspector.

Reassignment of Road Liaison – Chris Brooks made a motion to appoint Trustee Nick Seelye as Road Liaison, Alex Williams seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Annette Peters requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes

Peters – Yes

Brooks – Yes

Williams – Yes

Seelye – Yes

The board approved appointing Trustee Seelye as Road Liaison.

Resolution to adjust March BOR dates – Annette Peters made a motion to accept the requested resolution request by Assessor Harris to have the March statutory Board of Review date adjusted. The request is for approval to have the March Board of Review second meeting date adjusted from meeting on the second Monday in March, to meeting on the Tuesday following the second Monday in March; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Approval of legal counsel for High Grade SUP application – Catherine Kauffman resigned as legal counsel for the High Grade SUP application. The Baukham firm has approved Seth Koches to represent us on this application. Annette Peters said that per the resignation letter no one else from the firm was willing to represent us on this application what changed. Chris said he asked nicely. Denny said that Catherine was supposed to be the best for Gravel pit mining from the firm, Seth probably isn't as experienced. Denny had done research and found another attorney. Annette said that this is the second time this law firm has threatened to or has resigned over this SUP, and Seth has not been the best on the Camp issue. Denny said that he would like another week to study and review the options, so we don't make a mistake in hiring the wrong attorney. Alex said that it's a good idea to explore other options.

Planning Commission Appointments – Table to another meeting

## **Treasurer's Report**

The January Treasurer's Report was presented with a balance of \$245,936.90 in the general fund. Balances in the other funds are as shown. Receipts are listed. High Grade Balance is showing as zero because we are waiting on a check. Annette Peters made a motion to approve the January Treasurer's Report; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Annette Peters requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes  
Peters – Yes  
Brooks – Yes  
Williams – Yes  
Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the January Treasurer's Report.

### **Bills**

The January Revised Bills were presented with a total of \$18,414.72. Chris Brooks made a motion to pay the January Revised bills as listed; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Annette Peters requested a roll call vote:

Grice - Yes  
Peters – Yes  
Brooks– Yes  
Williams – Yes  
Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the January Revised Bills.

The February bills were presented with a total of \$18,852.63. Alex Williams made a motion to pay the February Bills as listed; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Annette Peters requested a roll call vote:

Grice – Yes  
Peters – Yes  
Brooks – Yes  
Williams – Yes  
Seelye – Yes

The Board approved the February Bills.

### **Clerk**

Annette Peters made a motion to help APC Towers reach their goal in 2025 by eliminating 100% of paper checks by switching to ACH; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Annette Peters made a motion to sign the engagement letter from Siegfried Crandall PC to commit to them doing our annual audit; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

CCRC submitted a contract for Pavement marking in the amount of \$4,457.66. Annette recommends if we look to see if we have the money left in the 2024/2025 budget before we push it to the 2025/2026 budget.

CCRC also sent the Dust Control agreement, in the amount of \$27,576.96 for one single application.

Annette will be attending training for the Open Meeting Act on Wednesday.

**Trustee Grice**

Cemetery digitization progress – LFL will be done this week. One more cemetery left after that then the mapping. So far, we have spent \$1,434 on labor and \$4,350 on software and we have halfway done.

Planning Commission – Meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> to review the Master Plan draft. They found some clerical errors. Waiting on the minutes to they can be sent the Cass County Planning Commission.

**Trustee Seelye**

Roads – CCRC will be sending emails 1<sup>st</sup> of each month of what they have done and are planning to do. They are currently working on potholes and tree removals. Decatur Road is on their plan for paving this year.

**Fire and Ambulance Report**

Chris attended an Ambulance Authority meeting last month. Annette Peters made a motion for Chris brooks to sign the contract with the Ambulance Authority for the SMACAS Ambulance services; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

**Cemeteries Report**

Chris has received a request for proposals for the annual cemetery services, to bid out. Annette has the current contract and reminded Chris if he wishes to bid out the job, it has to be published in the papers. He said that he will work on that.

**Board**

Chris said that he will be gone February 17-24 with limited internet access.

Alex made a reminder that property taxes are due February 28.

**Public**

Brenda Blough said that the no Board members are supposed to attend the SUP meeting, as they are not supposed to know what's going on.

Ed Zablocki said that we mentioned the CCRC Dust control agreement, and he wanted us to know that who we have been using for the past few years does a superb job.

Jeff Conklin asked ~~who~~ how long the ambulance contract is for. Annette Peters said that last month it was stated as one year.

**Adjournment**

Alex Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Peters  
Volinia Township Clerk