

VOLINIA TOWNSHIP

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

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Chris Brooks at 6:40pm.

Prayer was given by Denny Grice.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chris Brooks.

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

Others present: Bob Rasmussen, Wes Pegler, Chuck Wilson, Brenda Blough, Beth Brooks, Bill Personette, Tammy Orr, Jen Chucta, Don Chucta, Deb Chambers, Jamie Chambers, Larry Davis, Victoria Locke, Tim Wilson, Leslie Wilson, Steve Kent, Brenda Kent, Stacey High and Katherine Yoder.

Agenda

Chris Brooks said Cass County Sherriff's office was unable to make it, so they need to be removed from the agenda. Annette Peters said that bills need to be put on the agenda. Nick Seelye made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of Cass County Sheriff and adding the bills; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

CCRC

Nick Seelye asked the CCRC reps their opinions of the differences in the dust control applications. Nick said that he received contracts from CCRC to be approved, Annette Peters reminded the board that the 2025/2026 budget must be approved before contracts can be determined.

Chris Brooks read the MTA Public Comment Guidelines

Minutes

The minutes from the last regular meeting, February 10, 2025, were presented. Chris Brooks said in the last paragraph, the fourth word should be how not who. Chris Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes with the recommended word change of who to how; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

The minutes from the Special Meeting, February 15, 2025, were presented. Annette Peters said in the title it should say Special not Regular. Chris Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes with the change of Regular to Special in the title; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

The minutes from the Special Meeting, February 26, 2025, were presented. Nick Seelye made a motion to approve the minutes; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Supervisor

Camp Matziv/MMW – Chris attended a meeting with the Camp owner and both attorney's March 5, 2025. At this time our attorney is putting together a memorandum together for our April Board meeting to be acted on in a closed session.

Zoning Administrator Report – Continued discussion and letter about fence. Continued contact about home teardown, rebuild and variance granted by ZBA. Conferred with Assessor with 3 property splits. Gave 2 property split approvals. Approved zoning for new home. Discussed zoning for grain bin.

The Board of Review will be meeting tomorrow from 9am to 3pm and Thursday from 3pm to 9pm.

Building Inspector Report – No Activity.

Weed SAD Contracts – Contracts for Finch Lake and Little Fish Lake Weed SAD. Table the decision on the LFL contract with Solitude Lake Management until more information is available. Nick Seelye made a motion for Supervisor Brooks to sign the 2025 Weed SAD for Finch Lake with Aquatic Weed Control; Denny Grice second the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Chris will be attending the MTA Annual Conference March 30 – April 2. There will be no charge to the township for his housing.

There will be a Budget Hearing on Thursday March 20, 2025, at 7pm. Nick Seelye said that he will not be able to attend.

The Cass County Prosecutor's Office received a complaint on January 27, 2025, of an Open Meeting Act violation at the Planning Commission meeting. They have found no evidence of a violation and have closed the complaint.

On March 4, 2025, Ron Butts submitted his letter of resignation as planning commission member effective immediately. Nick Seelye made a motion to accept Ron Butts letter of resignation; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

PC Appointment – Chris Brooks made a motion to reduce the planning commission board from 7 member to 5, adjust to staggered terms, keep members currently involved in SUP, and the following appointments: 1 year – Randy Cuthbert, 2 years – Dave Goodenough, 3 years – Jeff Steinkraus and 3 years – Bruce Butchbaker. Denny said that this is a sensitive matter, Nick Seelye should be excused from voting due to SUP, Dave Goodenough tried to resign 2 weeks ago but Chris Brooks talked him out of it and Frank Ross wanted to stay on until the end of the SUP. Annette agreed since the motion stated SUP that Nick be excused from voting. Chris stated that he received confidential information from legal counsel, both former and current and Frank staying on. Annette said that its concerning dropping member size 6 months into this application, also concerning to replace a member 6 months into this application. Annette Peters made a motion to reduce the planning commission board from 7 member to 5, adjust to staggered terms, keep members currently involved in SUP, and the following appointments: 1 year – Dave Goodenough, 2 years – Randy

Cuthbert, 3 years -Jeff Steinkraus and 3 years – Bruch Butchbaker; Chris Brooks seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Chris Brooks requested a roll call vote:

Brooks – Yes

Grice – No

Peters – Yes

Seelye – EXCUSED

The board approved to reduce the planning commission board from 7 member to 5, adjust to staggered terms, keep members currently involved in SUP, and the following appointments: 1 year – Dave Goodenough, 2 years – Randy Cuthbert, 3 years -Jeff Steinkraus and 3 years – Bruch Butchbaker.

Treasurer's Report

None.

Bills

The February Revised Bills were presented with a total of \$20,087.15. Nick Seelye made a motion to pay the February Revised bills as listed; Chris Brooks seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Annette Peters requested a roll call vote:

Seelye - Yes

Grice – Yes

Peters– Yes

Brooks – Yes

The Board approved the February Revised Bills.

The March bills were presented with a total of \$25,466.85. Annette said that she received a bill today from Zoning Solutions for \$180.00 that needs to be added, making the new total \$25,646.85. Nick Seelye made a motion to pay the March Bills as listed with the addition of Zoning Solutions; Chris Brooks seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried. Annette Peters requested a roll call vote:

Brooks– Yes

Seelye – Yes

Grice – Yes

Peter – Yes

The Board approved the March Bills.

Clerk

None.

Trustee Grice

Cemetery digitization progress – One more cemetery left after that then the mapping. Bob Rasmussen said that there may be a few tweaks and new burials to add but that should be about it.

Denny said that Bob is going to purchase 300 flags in the upcoming weeks. We are going to try to rally people together to help putting the flag out before Memorial Day, probably the weekend around May 15th. Bob Rasmussen said that the money for the flags was donated this year.

Trustee Seelye

Roads Contracts– Paving Warner Rd. \$109,086.94, Gravel McKenzie Penn Rd to Briarpatch \$24,948.00 and Gravel McKenzie Briarpatch to Lawrence \$48,898.08. We have \$42,980.36 available in match from CCRC. Total cost after match is \$139,952.66 expecting \$171,814.12 from mileage. This does not include dust control.

CCRC said they will be re-milling and paving Dutch Settlement from Gards Prairie to Penn Rd this year.

They will be working on the culvert on West Dewey Lake Steet this week.

They received 10 calls last month from Volinia Township Residents.

Fire and Ambulance Report

The Ambulance Authority Contract must be signed by the Supervisor and clerk. Chris Brooks made a motion for Annette Peters to also sign the contract with the Ambulance Authority for the SMACAS Ambulance services; Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Cemeteries Report

There was a burial last month at LFL.

Guys will be starting on spring cleanup before long, just need the ground to dry out a little bit.

The Annual Cemetery Maintenance Contract is due April 1, 2025. Chris Brooks made a motion to approve the annual cemetery maintenance contract with New Leaf Landscape; Nick Seelye seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

Board

None.

Public

Victoria Locke – Russ Forest is an awful mess. There are logs in the roadway and branches in the road.

Tammy Orr – Agrees the Russ Forrest is an awful mess. The whole winter has been horrible with the forest.

Bob Rasmussen – Everyone agrees the wood being logged at Russ Forest and the aftermath is bad, but there is nothing the township or county can do, it's MSU.

Tammy Orr – There has been suspicious activity next door to her house. At 11pm they are pulling siding. Nick Seelye said that the house was sighted for blight last year, the Sheriff knows. Blight Enforcer is working on getting it tagged properly. Tammy said there is also a camper dumping waste. Nick said that former zoning admin submitted evidence on this to the EPA and they never came down, we need to talk to Roger about following up.

Brenda Blough – Liked the dust control that's been used the last couple of years, the 2 full applications with the option of a spot application has been nice. If it's not broken don't fix it.

Adjournment

Nick Seelye made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Denny Grice seconded the motion; all in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Peters
Volinia Township Clerk