

**Casnovia Township Regular Board Meeting for
August 12th, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

Regular Public Hearing: called to order with Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Kelli Ashbaugh

Members Present: Supervisor Kelli Ashbaugh, Clerk Carrie Marlatt, Treasurer Penny Muma, Trustee Jason Jorgensen, Trustee Todd Willick, Fire Chief David Jones. Attorney’s Catherine Kaufman & Michael Bila were also present.

Members Absent: None

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda with additions of Rural Water Report, Election Report and Sewer Maintenance made by Willick, supported by Jorgensen; CARRIED.

Motion to approve minutes: of July 8th, 2024, with the amendment to Board Action Item #4 per the recommendation of the Zoning Administrator to include reason for denial, update to state “Board does not support two dwellings on one parcel”. Motion made by Marlatt, supported by Muma; CARRIED.

Public Comment: Began at 7:03 PM. 23 in attendance. Andy O’Riley, 642 Fisk Rd. Cedar Creek. Introduced himself and stated his campaign stance running for Muskegon County Commissioner 2nd District. Paul Black, 210 Canada Rd, Casnovia, handed each board member a packet regarding Bailey Sewer Violation Notices per levels of reporting agencies, inspection reports and highlighted excerpt from ordinance regarding annual residence notifications. Reviewed with each member if knowledgeable to the extent of violations and continued conversation of sewer failure and violations. David Versluis, 2375 S. Peters Rd, Casnovia, handed each board member a packet regarding the Bailey Sewer with highlighted violation language per state penalty and continued conversing regarding the failing sewer. Public Comment ended at 7:16 PM

Michigan Rural Water Report: Amanda White introduced herself and stated her background in Sewer facilities. She explained the intricate nature of our failing system and steps taken to maintain with very low funding available. Questions were raised and Amanda spoke as representative of the Bailey Sewer System.



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245 South Canada Rd. / Casnovia, MI 49318

REPORTS:

1. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Jones presented the Incident Run Log; 9 calls for July 9th, 2024 – August 12th, 2024 reporting. Noted a successful controlled burn located on Peters Rd. Advised board of the upcoming Ham Supper with set date of October 5th, 2024.

2. **SENIOR RESOURCES:** Dinner on July 15th, 2024 was catered by White Linen Caterers with 53 residents in attendance. Dinner on August 8th, 2024 was catered by Roxanne Scheidel with 48 residents in attendance. The next dinner will be catered by Red Rock and will take place on September 12th, 2024 at the Bailey Christian Church.

3. TREASURER:

Muma presented the treasurer's report. Items discussed were Senior Allocation requests for assistance, inability to move ARPA funds without resolution, Drain Commission review, recent MTA Meeting attended with Clerk Marlatt, and other miscellaneous updates. With failing A/C at the Township Hall, Muma requested and received two quotes for review. Current heating system was analyzed during A/C examination with multiple irregularities found. Board has asked to contact previous furnace installer in attempts to remedy the situation. Board would also like to obtain a 3rd quote for A/C replacement and installation.

4. CLERK:

Marlatt presented bills and payroll for payment approval. Motion made by Willick to approve payments, seconded by Jorgensen; CARRIED. Election data was shared with in-precinct voter turnout including absent voter ballot sent and returned statistics. Current election results have not yet been certified. After the November Election, the date set for the earliest time for swearing in new board is November 20th and noon. Discussed cemetery issues including the need to inform residents of any chemical spraying and tree removal as courtesy. Asked board to review current Cemetery ordinance over recent concern of multiple monuments/markers when multiple burials per plot. Advised of recent update to Empowers internal policy change. Also relayed to board that policy updates and necessary creation will be proposed with minimum needed to serve the township using MTA guidelines.

5. ZONING REPORT:

Ashbaugh presented the July 2024 Zoning Administrator Reports

- a. Denny Abrahams Newaygo Rd. property: Board advised Mr. Abrahams that the condition of the property has worsened. Motion to move forward with citation for court enforcement made by Marlatt, seconded by Jorgensen; CARRIED
 - i. Mr. Abrahams has made claim that his truck that was removed from the Peters Rd property was damaged by the American Classic. He has previously been given Board permission for the truck to be returned in prior Board meetings.

Shaw Road Health Department claim / Township action was brought to attention by Marlatt. Stated we must proceed with action that protects from liability and felt current proposed action was insufficient. With advice from David Versluis, and attorney Catherine Kaufman, a more detailed action including heavier cover, caution tape and photo proof would suffice.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Ashbaugh presented the July Sewer Report noting flow summary. Current status of pumps was discussed with recent July 9th 1:00AM mission alarm. Discussed running on one pump starting July 11th, other was pulled for seal fix which should be covered by warrantee including labor, new pump replacement was installed July 22nd. Also included in report was recent conversation with Scott Anderson RCAP Services / Great Lakes Community Action Partnership and generator fixed at gas station by Smart Energy. Ashbaugh ran through notable actions within life span of Sewer. ** Board determined that the need for a Special Meeting to be held for further consideration of situation. The Special Meeting has been scheduled for August 14th at 6:00 PM. ** Clerk Marlatt will post on website and at Hall.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

1. Ordinance 2024-__ ORV Ordinance - Tabeled for Attorney review
2. Resolution 2024-__ Performance and Indemnification for Muskegon County Road Commission - Tabeled to give Clerk time allowance to adequately prepare the resolution presented
3. Ordinance 2024-___ FOIA Policy – Tabeled for Attorney review
4. Fire Barn Property – Van Andel / Franger Gas **Board also determined to move this discussion to the Special Meeting dated August 14th at 6:00 PM.**
 - a. Accept offer to purchase property – Price offered at \$32,000
 - b. Appoint representative to sign purchase agreement /Attorney suggested Supervisor and Clerk as typical parties involved
 - c. Hire surveyors – Two quotes provided



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5. ARPA Spending – Ashbaugh presented proposed use of ARPA Monies. Stated uses include Sewer, Cemetery tree removal, Cemetery improvements/headstone and proposed new Fire Department property . Board has agreed to obtain quotes for tree removal at cemeteries, all other potential uses will be tabled upon further meeting discussion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Board Comments: Clerk Marlatt handed Notice of Harassment letter to board for review as stated process in Employee Handbook
2. Next Regular Board Meeting – September 9th, 2024, at 7 PM.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 9:13 PM by Marlatt, seconded by Willick; CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Marlatt, Clerk