

**Casnovia Township Regular Board Meeting for
October 14th, 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

Members Absent: None

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda with the addition of Resolution 2024-12, Resolution Establishing a Receiving Board for Elections Held in Casnovia Township requested by Clerk Marlatt. Motion made by Marlatt, supported by Willick; CARRIED.

Motion to approve minutes: of September 9th, 2024, Regular Board Meeting made by Willick, supported by Jorgensen; CARRIED.

Public Comment: Began at 7:02PM, with 20 attendees. Paul Back, 210 Canada Rd. introduced two environmental specialists who have assessed and have opinions to the Bailey Sewer Drain Field, noting the August Board meetings approval under Attorney guidance to allow Dave VerSluis to assist in creative solutions. Mr. Black also spoke on his recent Freedom of Information Act request regarding Violation Notices from EGLE with Ms. Ashbaugh’s official responses 2018-2023 stating that his request was denied as no official statements were released to him. After speaking to directly to EGLE, township responses couldn’t be confirmed and advised that the MIEnviro Portal is public information with the seriousness of no comment submittal. Also asking the board to use available ARPA funds to assist in possible solutions including hiring a licensed operator and sanitarian to address reaming issues. Andy O’Riley, 6420 Fisk, introduced as candidate for County Commissioner 2nd District, advised to previously presenting sewer grant information to the township and has intentions to build a team of grant writers to assist smaller communities. Mr. O’Riley also spoke on rural veteran assistance. Kendra Robinson introduced as candidate for Probate Judge for Muskegon County spoke of previous and current employment as public defender including credentials and asked for support in upcoming election. Amanda White, 380 Moon Ct. claimed to have an official sewer violation response via email sent on February 1st by Ms. Ashbaugh to Lucy Robinson at EGLE. Public comment ended at 7:09 PM



Casnovia Township Offices

245 South Canada Rd. / Casnovia, MI 49318

REPORTS:

1. FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Jones presented the Incident Run Log; 13 calls for September 10th, 2024 – October 14th, 2024 reporting. Noted successful Ham Supper which occurred on October 5th, 2024. Inquired about the status of both property purchase and grant approval. Advised the board that two cadets are in the process of medical first responder education.

2. SENIOR RESOURCES:

Two monthly dinners fell within the previous meeting's minutes, therefore both reports were discussed. The next dinner will take place on November 14th for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner, at the Bailey Christian Church.

3. TREASURER:

Muma presented the treasurer's report. Items referenced were MI Class interest rates, current senior resource funding implementation, delinquent personal property taxes, and the completion of the year-end closing of the General Ledger. Advised the Board of the hiring of Paula Newman for the Deputy Treasurer position on a trial basis.

4. CLERK:

Marlatt prepared bills and payroll for payment approval. Motion made by Jorgensen to approve payments, seconded by Willick; CARRIED Introduced Resolution 2024-12 To Establish a Receiving Board for Elections Held in Casnovia Township. Marlatt spoke on state requirements per election law, receiving board appointment for a transparent method of transferring election materials between parties on election night. Motion to approve resolution made by Willick, seconded by Muma; roll call vote CARRIED

5. ZONING REPORT:

Ashbaugh presented the September 2024 Zoning Administrator Report noting current enforcements. Discussed potential need for food truck ordinance requested by zoning admin.

6. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Ashbaugh presented the September Sewer Report noting flow summary. Items noted were F&V's response of not wanting to do engineering for an aeration system. Advised the Board of the cleaning of the sewer system including pumping, pulled pumps, cleaned filters and lateral lines with Amanda White's organization.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

1. Resolution 2024-10 Performance Resolution for Municipalities required by MDOT for issuing permit designated for new fire department property driveway. Motion to approve made by Willick, supported by Jorgensen; roll call vote CARRIED.
2. Ordinance 2024-05 Ponds. Muma questioned permitting in agricultural-zoned parcels only. Marlatt advised of a conversation with zoning administrator that by removing residential properties from permitted allowance would disqualify them from future variance requests. The board agreed that if land setbacks allow for pond development, no zoning districts should be defined. Motion made by Marlatt to approve ordinance with Section 3.30 (a) to reflect "A pond shall be permitted in all zoning districts", seconded by Willick; roll call vote CARRIED
3. Introduce Ordinance 2024-__ Adult Entertainment – tabled
4. ~~Resolution~~ 2024-13 ORV Ordinance – reviewed response from Attorney with other township copies. Tabled for further review regarding fines for enforcement/funds.
5. Resolution 2024-11 FOIA Policy – Marlatt advised the Board to define the office in which a denial with explanation is expressed, typically being Supervisor or Clerk. Marlatt offered the Supervisor to take the role for transparency within the process. Motion made by Marlatt to approve the resolution with an update for Supervisor Role, seconded by Willick; roll call vote CARRIED
6. ARPA Spending – Ashbaugh presented the current chart regarding previous spending with totals & percentages per departments. Spoke on current fund totals spent at Drain Field. Cemetery tree removal bids update, one company has finalized bid with two others still in the process of finalization. Marlatt asked for an extension to assist bidders for completion. Ashbaugh advised more funds available for cemeteries in road fund. Ashbaugh requested forward motion to approve MDOT driveway. Willick offered motion to approve driveway pending MDOT permit approval and conclusion of the fire department property sale. Motion by Willick, Seconded by Jorgensen. AYE votes: Ashbaugh, Willick, Jorgensen Nays: Muma, Marlatt with asking for record notation that preferred to wait until property purchase is finalized before entering into any additional contracts using ARPA funds. Heating and cooling bids were tabled till next month. Ashbaugh requested for funds from previous property sales, public improvement \$193,000, to be transferred into fire department fund through Michigan Class and set aside for grant match. Ashbaugh noted the township will need to take out installment loans with assistance from an attorney. Muma to conference with auditor for application of request. Willick requested for the next meeting, cemetery quotes, HVAC bids, and information on FD money transfer.
7. Wastewater – presentation from John Anderson, with his opinion of failures and potential remedies to eliminate the 6 million dollar cost of rerouting the current drain system to the City of Grant. Requested to see current pump cards from recent drain field maintenance from Amanda White. Claimed that the quoted price for recent pumping was much higher than the three quotes he obtained being \$10,000 cheaper.



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Marc Middlestadt introduced himself with his offer to assist in maintenance. Marlatt asked for a certified sewer maintenance contractual quote to be supplied by the next meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Board Comments: None
2. Next Regular Board Meeting – November 11th, 2024, at 7 PM.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 8:13PM by Willick, seconded by Ashbaugh; CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Marlatt, Clerk