

# Casnovia Township Offices

245 South Canada Rd. / Casnovia, MI 49318

## Casnovia Township Regular Board Meeting for November 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. "

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Ashbaugh called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Supervisor Ashbaugh led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call. Supervisor Kelli Ashbaugh, Treasurer Penny Muma, Trustee Jason Jorgensen, Trustee Todd Willick were in attendance. Clerk Carrie Marlatt was absent. Also in attendance were Fire Chief David Jones and Township Attorney Catherine Kaufman

Approval of Agenda. Motion by Willick to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was supported by Jorgensen. Motion carried 4-0, with one absent.

Minutes of 10/14/2024 and 10/31/2024 (special meeting). Supervisor Ashbaugh requested revisions to both sets of draft minutes, as follows: 10/14/2024 Minutes should reflect Board review of an ORV Ordinance (not resolution); 10/31/2024 Minutes Correction of name (Ralph Stewart should be Al Stewart). Willick made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/14/2024 Board meeting and 10/31/2024 special meeting as amended. The motion was supported by Jorgensen. Motion carried 4-0, with one absent.

Public Comment: Began at 7:02PM, with 20 attendees.

- Dave VerSluis 2375 S. Peters, upset with meeting on veterans' day, not happy with restrictive covenant, recommended Right of first refusal. Attorney Kaufman addressed concerns regarding purchase of land for fire station and restrictive covenant. Questions on status of his FOIA request.
- Paul Back, 210 Canada Rd. Remaining ARPA funds for sewer and Right of first refusal for fire barn property.
- Norbert Denhoff 16171 Laketon, 24 years on Township Board and always take care of fire department and sewer customers should pay for sewer.
- Judy Behler 1097 Peters Rd. Appreciates fire department for emergencies, supports fire property purchase.
- Dave Behler 1097 Peters Rd. served on fire department and said buy property
- John Behler 14225 White Rd. 50 years on department and community supports fire department.
- Eldon Clough 811 Canada Rd. Supervisor of 26 years. Supports fire department purchase but thinks should have sewer operator.
- Marylan Bull 15920 Hall, fire department has her kept and Larry alive several times, they are family and good opportunity for Township to buy property for fire station.

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- Brent Hermans Muskegon County Commissioner, elect

Public comment ended at 7:25 PM

## REPORTS:

1. FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Jones presented the Incident Run Log; 19 calls for October 14, 2024, to November 11, 2024, 2 cadets passed medical class, good turnout for Halloween, fire department did officer books and Dave Jones for Chief, and Sam Deems as Assistant Chief, attended chief's meeting and fees and dues are expected to increase, good piece of property for fire barn and has no issue with restrictive covenant.

Board thanked Chief Jones for good work. Motion by Willick to approve Dave Jones for Chief, and Sam Deems as Assistant Chief; supported by Jorgensen. Motion carried 4-0, with one absent.

2. SENIOR RESOURCES: no report
3. TREASURER: Muma presented the treasurer's report. Items referenced were MI Class interest rates, current senior allocation funding \$12,037, delinquent personal property taxes, point & pay. Deputy Treasurer did not work out, made USDA loan payment. Received \$27,000 from Rural Development for reimbursement for Fleis & Vandenbrink PER for Bailey Sewer
4. CLERK: None, as Clerk Marlatt was absent.
5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Ashbaugh presented the October 2024 Zoning Administrator Report noting current enforcement and that Julie Lovelace is leaving. A new zoning administrator will replace Julie.
6. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Ashbaugh presented the October Sewer Report, noting resolution of a backup in Bailey.

## BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

1. Resolution ~~2024-14~~ 2024-13 Fire Department Resolution for purchase of property. Supervisor Ashbaugh explained that the title company needed a resolution from the Board authorizing the purchase of property. Attorney Kaufman explained that the Board must purchase property by resolution, including determining the property would be used for a public purpose, in this case a fire station. Attorney Kaufman explained the resolution she drafted for purchase of the fire station property, including agreement for a restrictive covenant, authorizes the Township Supervisor to sign all documents for purchase of the property and directing the treasurer to prepare the check. Motion to

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approve the Resolution authorizing the purchase of property for a fire station by Willick, supported by Jorgensen. Roll call vote: Yes: Jorgensen, Willick, Ashbaugh, Muma. Absent: Marlatt

2. Ordinance 2024-06 Adult Entertainment. Motion by Willick to adopt ordinance; seconded by Muma. Roll Call vote: Yes: Jorgensen, Willick, Ashbaugh, Muma. Absent: Marlatt
3. Ordinance 2024- ORV Ordinance — Recommendation by Attorney that before adoption, the Township must prepare maps showing roads where ORV use will be allowed and must notice and hold required public hearing. Tabled further action on the ORV ordinance until all requirements met.
4. Michigan Class funds for Fire Department – Following explanation by Treasurer Muma regarding keeping funds from sale of Township properties intact, Jorgensen made a motion to move \$201,167.00 to Michigan Class for the Fire Department from the sale of township property, to be used for \$210,000 for matching grant. The motion was seconded by Willick. Roll Call Vote: Yes: Ashbaugh, Willick, Muma, Jorgensen. Motion carries 4-0, with one absent.
5. Budget Amendments. Supervisor Ashbaugh described proposed budget amendments regarding attorney fees and sewer work/repairs. Motion by Willick to approve budget amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Jorgensen. Roll call vote: Yes: Muma, Willick, Jorgensen, Ashbaugh. Motion carried 4-0, with one absent.
6. ARPA Spending — Willick discussed bids obtained for tree removal and maintenance work at the Township's cemeteries and Township park. Willick explained how he and Clerk Marlatt had worked for a few months on obtaining the quotes, noting that they had started with a non-biased tree service to map recommended work. They then used this map as the basis for bids, so that all bids were comparable. Willick discussed the various bids, noting that Alpine Tree Service worked in Moreland Township and at the Grand Rapids Veteran's Cemeteries. He noted that most of the bids were in a small range between \$37,000 and \$53,000, while one (Bark Busters) was over \$100,000. Willick noted that Alpine agreed to move headstones and replace them, back fill and seed. He said Alpine has workman's compensation and liability coverage. Willick advised that the Township frequently receives calls asking for the cemeteries to be cleaned up and maintained. Motion by Willick to accept Alpine Tree Service's bid of \$37,750 for all three township cemeteries and township park. The motions was seconded by Jorgensen. Roll call vote: Yes: Ashbaugh, Willick, Jorgensen. No: Muma. The motion carried 3-1, with one absent. Treasurer Muma said that she would prefer to deal with the sewer issues first.

Regarding a paved driveway for the property for the fire barn, Trustee Willick said he wants to guarantee that the Township allocates funds for a driveway for the fire barn property. He said that his firm has donated their' services to clear the fire barn property

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for preparation for construction, but that his equipment needs to have a paved driveway in order to access the site. Motion by Willick to approve All Around Excavating's bid for \$42,522 for MDOT driveway to be installed on fire barn property, once the property purchase is completed. The motion was seconded by Ashbaugh. Roll Call vote: Yes: Willick, Jorgensen, Ashbaugh. Abstain: Muma. Motion carries 3-0, with one abstention and one absent.

7. Point Broadband Metro Act Submission. Supervisor Ashbaugh said that Clerk Marlatt had reviewed the Metro Act Permit application and was satisfied. Motion by Willick to approve Point Broadband Metro Permit Application. The motion was seconded by Jorgensen. The motion carried, 4-0 with one absent.
8. Snowplow Contract. Supervisor Ashbaugh said that the price this year for All Around Excavating increased by \$10 per lot, but no increase for salting. The Board discussed shoveling, which is separate from this bid. Motion by Ashbaugh to approve Snowplow Contract with All Around Excavating, costs have increased \$10/lot – no increase for salt application. The motion was seconded by Willick. The motion carried, 4-0 with one absent.
9. Qualified Sewer maintenance. Supervisor Ashbaugh said that there the Board has two very different bids in front of them for consideration. Willick asked if the bidders could attend the next Board meeting to explain their bids and proposed services. Attorney Kaufman suggested allowing zoom or phone call attendance by the bidders, to facilitate attendance.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Board Comments: Todd thanked Kelli for 8 years of service.
2. Next Regular Board Meeting— December 9, 2024, at 7 PM.

Adjournment: Motion by Willick to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. The motion was seconded by Jorgensen. The motion carried 4-0, with one absent.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelli Ashbaugh, Supervisor (in  
clerk's absence)

Catherine P. Kaufman, Township Attorney  
Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches PC