



245 S. Canada Rd.
Casnovia, MI 49318

T: (616)-675-4064
Fax: (616)-675-5611

Casnovia Township Special Board Meeting August 13th, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Special Public Hearing: Called to order with Pledge of Allegiance at 2:00 PM by Supervisor Paul Black

Members Present: Supervisor Paul Black, Clerk Carrie Marlatt, Treasurer Penny Muma, Trustee Jason Jorgensen, and Trustee Todd Willick

Members Absent: None

Statement for the record by Supervisor Paul Black: Under MCL 41.72(a), the meeting was not fixed by the board at the prior meeting and the Supervisor did not call the meeting. The Clerk probably received a written notice signed by the majority of the board. The clerk was then asked if she had a written signed notice with her response as "No". Mr. Black continued that given that there was no written request signed by the majority of the board, that creates a bit of challenge, raises the point of order, no statutory basis for cause of this meeting has been established, and he requested no business be transacted and the meeting be adjourned. Motion to Overrule made by Muma, seconded by Willick. Roll Call Vote: 4 Ayes Muma, Jorgensen, Willick, Marlatt, 1 Nays Black, 0 Absent. CARRIED

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda made by Marlatt, supported by Jorgensen. Voice Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent. CARRIED

Public Comment:

Began at 2:05 PM 38 in attendance

Tina ____ spoke on elected officials' purpose to represent the community not themselves

Sherre Winell spoke on Supervisor's position at the board table with difficulty in hearing his communication

Comment closed at 2:08 PM

BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

The Supervisor distributed a packet comprised of a time stamped transcript by unknown author of the August 10th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

1. Discussion regarding the actions of the Township Supervisor at the Regular Township Board Meeting of Trustees on August 10th, 2026. Black stated that the discussion can take the form of information communicated that is specific to the meeting with trying to relay information through time stamped transcript. Willick argued that the packet distributed was not official meeting minutes and were not going to be looked at. Marlatt commented her statement as follows: During the Casnovia Township Board of Trustees Regular meeting held on August 10th, 2026, it appears the Township Supervisor may have violated the Open Meetings Act. His actions/statements regarding information that was pertinent to attorney client privileged opinion, during a closed session held on the March 9th, 2026, regular board meeting and then publicly spoken at the August 10th regular board meeting may be cause for an OMA violation. The Open Meetings Act establishes how information is relayed to the public from government bodies and officials. Board members can access closed session minutes, but if they discuss the information publicly outside of the session, they could be subject to civil or criminal penalties, depending on the nature of the violation. Clerk Marlatt then passed out privileged copies of the potential breach of attorney client privilege/OMA violation citing a recorded statement from the Regular Board meeting held on August 10th, 2026 and Special Meeting minutes from the March 9th, 2026 meeting.

"Casnovia Township is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

www.casnoviatownshipmi.gov



245 S. Canada Rd.
Casnovia, MI 49318

T: (616)-675-4064
Fax: (616)-675-5611

2. Consideration of authorizing the board or a designated representative to contact and consult the legal attorney. Motion that we allow Muma to assist Marlatt with the conversation with the attorney made by Willick, supported by Jorgensen. Roll Call Vote: 5 Ayes Muma, Jorgensen, Black, Willick, Marlatt, 0 Nays, 0 Absent. CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Board Comments:
Marlatt spoke on Black's purpose of closed session with potential breach of attorney privileged opinion
Willick spoke on need for equal time on all community projects.
Willick asked for Black's consideration of resignation.
Black spoke on budget reserve with unassigned funds to be used wisely.
Jorgensen spoke on lack of timely notice in communication.
Black reminded the board that EGLE may still fine us for previous violations.
Willick spoke on hyper focusing on one township concern, related to the sewer.
Black stated he will not resign, stating there needs to be clarity at what's at stake.
Marlatt revisited the meetings beginning statements and asked for reference to special meeting origination other than 18-hour public notice.
Willick spoke on previous Special Meetings including those of Mr. Blacks never having written signed notice from the majority of the board.
2. Next Regular Board Meeting – September 14th, 2026, at 7 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 PM by Willick – Motion stalled.

Motion to enter back into Public Comment and that we move public comment for all future meetings just prior to adjournment made by Willick, supported by Muma Roll Call Vote: 5 Ayes Marlatt, Willick, Black, Jorgensen, Muma, 0 Nays, 0 Absent. CARRIED.

Public Comment:

Began at 2:40 PM 39 in attendance

Jack Hoffman asked how many townships are in violation with EGLE regarding sewer operations.

Eldon Clough spoke with disappointment at the board's conveyance with the community and questioned working together if Black resigned.

George Rusco spoke on recall information with consideration to replacement.

Sheree Winell asked Black if he felt he was an equal to the board and spoke on board appearance in reference to the Supervisor's position at the table.

Judy Behler spoke on the appearance of the Supervisor's superiority.

Eldon spoke on the importance of the sewer operator's attendance at the next board meeting.

Steve Jordan spoke on EGLE report submittal with boards refusal to pay for the report.

Unknown spoke on scraping the sewer drain field and starting over.

Comment closed at 2:55 PM

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 2:55 PM by Jorgensen, seconded by Willick CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Marlatt, Clerk