

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP
24725 Jefferson Center Street
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Board of Trustees Minutes
July 13, 2023

Call to Order & Roll Call: Supervisor Hass called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
Present: Gillam, Mendenhall, Hass, Brunner, Bundle

Additional attendees: Willie Eltzroth, Ron Bellaire, Jennifer Ray, Jeff Locke, Mike Guinane, Nick Durkhammer

Pledge to the flag: Led by Willie Eltzroth

Approval of Agenda: Brunner asked to add an item to new business to adopt Assessor's Policy & Procedure presented by Shalice Northrop. Moved by Mendenhall, seconded by Bundle to approve the agenda as amended above. Motion passed.

Public Comment: Nick Durkhammer, supervisor of Pride Care (Ambulance service) gave an update on the financial status of the ambulance service. Pride Care is undergoing restructuring to consolidate resources due to rising costs and a shortage of emergency care responders. They have been trying to keep business afloat but may be required to re-negotiate their contract which is set to renew next year. They believe they will need double the current subsidies that Jefferson, LaGrange, Calvin and Penn townships are paying to keep ambulance services to our residents. It is very complicated as they provide ASL services to the Cass Ambulance Authority but are required to also provide those services to outside areas when called to do so. He is looking at several options to try to restructure and increase financial responsibility to certain communities who do not pay subsidies. He hopes to have more information for us at the next Cass Ambulance Authority meeting.

Mike Guinane represents several residents of Diamond Lake who are requesting that the township purchase an additional 2 speed limit signs in Jefferson Township around the lake. The township approved one and it was installed last year. Road studies have been completed and the signs would be appropriately placed. Hass will contact Joe at the road commission to get an estimate for board discussion and approval.

Correspondence: Mendenhall shared an email that a resident sent requesting the township to consider notifying all residents by email, text and on the website when there are opportunities for contract bids, job openings or volunteer positions. The board discussed this and agreed that we have no way to email or text all residents but that it would be appropriate to place these opportunities on the website and to post at the township hall. We do our best to keep services local.

Approval of Minutes:

June 8, 2023, meeting minutes were presented. Moved by Bundle, supported by Mendenhall to approve as presented. Motion approved.

June 26, 2023, budget workshop minutes presented. Moved by Hass, supported by Brunner to approve as presented. Motion approved.

July 10, 2023, budget hearing minutes presented. Moved by Gillam, supported by Bundle to approve as presented. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Mendenhall presented treasurer's reports. Moved by Brunner, supported by Hass to approve as presented. Motion approved.

Payment of Bills:

Brunner presented payment of bills. Moved by Bundle, supported by Gillam to approve as presented. Motion approved.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Quote from Kerry Collins for additional security camera for placement on exit of driveway presented and discussed. Moved by Hass, supported by Bundle to approve purchase of security camera. Motion passed.
2. Brunner presented an update to the Resolution passed last year to approve charitable gaming licenses to the Cassopolis Rocket Football & Cheerleading. "Cheerleading" had been left off the original resolution. Roll call vote to approve the amended Name of Organization. Hass-yes, Gillam-yes, Brunner-yes, Mendenhall-yes, Bundle-yes.

Inspectors Reports:

1. **Zoning/Code Enforcement:** Steve Allen submitted his report. No significant process on blight clean-up at 27064. Not sure if resident has paid court fines. Resident has been in contact with Supervisor Hass with no real commitment to clear up blight issues. Rec. Steve proceed with the next step. The swimming pool at 67041 has had the liner cut and it is drained. Supervisor Hass has been in contact with the property owner who is considering selling the property. Lawn excessively overgrown and trees need to be trimmed back. Supervisor Hass contacted Gordie's lawncare to ask for a quote. They will contact the homeowner if they are able to provide lawncare. The trees will need to be addressed.
2. **Building:** No report submitted.
3. **Plumbing/Mechanical:** No report submitted.
4. **Electrical:** Mr. Bellaire gave an update on workload in the township. It has been fairly slow. Mr. Bellaire will be attending the State Construction Code Appeal for Troy Adams on July 19th in Lansing.

Emergency Services/Utilities Reports:

1. **Cass Ambulance:** Nick Durkhammer spoke during public comment.
2. **Central Cass Fire Department:** Jefferson Township applied for the Fire Grant through the State treasury. We should hear something in August if approved for the purchase of up to \$10,000 in new gear.
3. **Edwardsburg Fire Department:** No update
4. **CAUA:** Next meeting is set for July 17, 2023

Township Board Reports:

1. **Planning & Zoning Commission:** Jennifer Ray confirmed that they will not be meeting in July but will be meeting August 2nd and August 16th to finalize new zoning ordinance. Supervisor Hass asked that Attorney Senica attend one of the meetings when they discuss the solar ordinance and tiny homes. These meetings will be with Mark Eidelson.
2. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** No business.
3. **Construction Board of Appeals:** No business

Public Comment: None

Next regular Board of Trustees meeting: August 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

With no other business before the Board at 7:46 p.m. Moved by Brunner, supported by Mendenhall to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Brunner, Clerk