

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP
24725 Jefferson Center Street
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2023

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

Additional attendees: Jennifer Ray, Jeff Locke, Rose Kelsheimer, Mary Howie, Mark Howie, Amanda Welzy, Dallas Austin, Wendy Glosser, Jeff Nelson, Kathy Nelson, Gerry Bundle

Pledge to the flag: led by Supervisor Hass

Correspondence: None

Public Comment:

Rose Kelsheimer and Wendy Glosser (resident from the City of Dowagiac) voiced concerns regarding “15 Minute Cities” and potential impact on communities like Jefferson Township. They informed us that the County Commissioners voted to study the impact of these developments on communities. Rose asked that the Jefferson Township Board also investigate this issue as well. There is a developer looking to build a development in neighboring Ontwa Township. Wendy spoke on UN agenda 2030 and provided a manual distributed by Project 2020 Vision with their view on this agenda.

Jeff Nelson voiced concern about exploding targets. These are commonly known by the name brand, Tana Rite. He has a neighbor who often sets these off. They are very loud and disruptive to those living near them. He is also concerned about safety and risks to those living around them. Gerry Bundle also spoke up as a representative of the township planning and zoning commission. They were advised by Mark Eidelson, a zoning consultant, that the township board address this issue. The board agreed to speak to Sara Senica, township attorney to get her input as the components to make these exploding targets are legal to buy and use.

Approval of Agenda: Brunner moved, seconded by Gillam to add discussions of Payroll Policy Resolution and removal of outdoor flag to the agenda under New Business. Motion approved.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Resolution 2023-13 Jefferson Township Policy for Board of Trustees Approval of Payables. Discussion. Moved by Bundle, seconded by Hass to approve resolution. Roll call vote: Bundle-yes, Brunner-yes, Gillam-yes, Hass-yes, Mendenhall-absent. Motion approved.

2. Resolution 2023-14 Jefferson Township Policy for Payroll Payments. Discussion. Moved by Gillam, seconded by Brunner to approve resolution. Roll call vote: Gillam-yes, Hass-yes, Brunner-yes, Bundle-yes, Mendenhall-absent. Motion approved.
3. Renewal of Trustee Bundle's notary commission. Bundle shared that her commission renewal bond premium costs \$55.00 for 6 years and that there is a \$10.00 fee to the county clerk and \$10.00 fee to the state to renew her commission. The board discussed the township paying for her renewal and to provide notary services to our residents through the township office at a cost of \$10.00. Moved by Hass, seconded by Brunner to approve the township covering the notary renewal costs and to provide this service to residents for a \$10.00 fee. Motion approved.
4. Bundle shared that she had taken down the Flag from the outdoor flagpole as it had been shredded by tree branches. She will get the flag to the VFW for disposal. We have replaced several flags because of the proximity of tree branches catching the flag. Discussion as to whether we replace the flag. Hass recommends we purchase a new flag. Moved by Hass, seconded by Gillam to purchase a new flag. Motion approved.

Inspectors Reports:

1. **Zoning/Code Enforcement:** No report submitted.
2. **Building:** No report submitted.
3. **Plumbing/Mechanical:** No report submitted.
4. **Electrical:** No report submitted.

Emergency Services/Utilities Reports:

1. **Cass Ambulance:** August 28th meeting there was discussion about a County Millage for emergency services and getting proposals from area ambulance services for providing long term service to our area. There is a shortage of EMT's and paramedics which makes staffing additional ambulances a challenge. A temporary contract was signed for one ALS ambulance to cover Central Cass Ambulance Authority and Cass/VanBuren Emergency Services Authority. Next meeting to be held October 2, 2023, to review long term proposals from SMCAS, Life Care and Edwardsburg Ambulance.
2. **Central Cass Fire Department:** Chief Locke announced that the fire department received a fire grant through the state for the purchase of new equipment. Funds will be distributed through LaGrange Township as they filed the grant application.
3. **Edwardsburg Fire Department:** Next meeting will be in October. Still have staffing concerns.
4. **CAUA:** CAUA voted not to increase rates. Next meeting is October 16th.

Township Board Reports:

1. **Planning & Zoning Commission:** They met August 16th with Mark Eidelson and are working on final details for the revised zoning ordinance. Next meeting is October 18th.
2. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** No business.
3. **Construction Board of Appeals:** No business.

Public Comment:

Mary Howie, County Commissioner, expressed her concern about “15 minute cities” and potential eminent domain.

Jeff Locke asked about the status of the Gemstone Solar project. The board informed him that they are still within the yearlong extension for the Special Land Use Permit that was granted in April 2023 for construction to begin. As to date, no construction has begun.

Next regular Board of Trustees meeting: October 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

With no other business before the Board at 7:25 p.m. Moved by Bundle, supported by Brunner to adjourn. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Brunner".

Jennifer Brunner, Clerk