

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP
24725 Jefferson Center Street
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2024

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

Additional attendees: Bill Stohler, Dallas Austin, Jeff Locke, Mary Howie, Gerry Bundle

Pledge to the flag: Led by Supervisor Hass

Correspondence: Letter from the VanBuren/Cass District Health Department outlining specific Requirements for permits and/or plans prior to the issuance of building permits.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Bundle, supported by Brunner to approve the agenda as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Brunner, supported by Bundle to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023, BOT meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: No treasurer's report offered as Treasurer Mendenhall is absent.

Payment of Bills: Moved by Hass, supported by Gillam to approve the payment of bills from the General Fund and Emergency Services Fund as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Consideration of approving resolution in support of the Cass County Public Transit (CCPT). Brunner verified that it would be appropriate to ask the board to consider the resolution with County Clerk, Monica McMichael and Township Attorney, Sara Senica. Both felt the resolution was appropriate to consider. The BOT reviewed the resolution and asked Gerry Bundle of the CCPT to give share why they are asking for Stop Gap funding. He expressed that they are facing a decrease in federal funding and need public support to continue to operate. There is a millage proposal on the February 27, 2024, ballot to increase funding but will need additional funding until that millage can be levied if the proposal passes. The CCPT is requesting the County to provide Stop Gap funding. Moved by Brunner, supported by Hass to sign resolution in support of Stop Gap funding. Roll Call Vote: Brunner-yes, Bundle-yes, Gillam-yes, Hass-yes, Mendenhall-absent. Motion approved.
2. Supervisor Hass is waiting to hear from Brown Tree Service for a date for the removal of the two trees in front of the township hall.

New Business:

1. Clerk Brunner gave an update on the upcoming Presidential Primary. The Primary has been moved from March to the last Tuesday in February. There will be 9 consecutive days of early voting. All local clerks contracted with the county to administer early voting. EV will take place at the Cass County Road Commission for all State and Federal Elections. Postcards with important

information regarding early voting will be mailed to voters in January. Jefferson Township will be processing Absentee Ballots through an AVCB on Monday, February 26th. We will be posting the hours for processing ballots on the website, in QVF and at the township hall for the public.

Inspectors Reports:

1. **Zoning/Code Enforcement:** Steve Allen, code enforcement officer, submitted his monthly report.
2. **Building:** No report submitted.
3. **Plumbing/Mechanical:** No report submitted.
4. **Electrical:** No report submitted.

Emergency Services/Utilities Reports:

1. **Cass Ambulance:** Next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2024, at 5:30 pm at the Wayne Township Hall. Supervisor Hass shared that at the January 4, 2024, meeting, SMCAS gave an update on the 2nd ALS ambulance. They expect to have it in service March 1st. SMCAS will be holding a meeting of its board to discuss amending their bylaws to allow for a long-term permanent contract with Cass Ambulance Authority and the Cass Van Buren Emergency Authority. The Pokagon Band of Indians is considering joining in the contract with SMCAS.
2. **Central Cass Fire Department:** Next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2024. Chief Locke shared there had been 202 calls in 2023.
3. **Edwardsburg Fire Department:** Next meeting is in February. Trustee Gillam had no other business to share.
4. **CAUA:** Next meeting is January 15, 2024. Supervisor Hass reported that at the last meeting it was reported that the financial audit was completed with positive results. There will be no rate increases for the year.

Township Board Reports:

1. **Planning & Zoning Commission:** The public hearing for the updated Zoning Ordinance was held January 10th. There were no public comments. The board approved a couple of amendments and voted to recommend the updated ordinance to the Township Board of Trustees for Adoption. It will first go to the County Commissioners for review. Next regular meeting is January 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm.
2. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** Organizational meeting and Variance hearings scheduled for February 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm and 6:30 pm respectively.
3. **Construction Board of Appeals:** No business.
4. **Board of Review:** The board met for a short meeting in December. Hearings are set for March 5th and March 12 for appeals.

Public Comment:

1. Dallas Austin asked for clarification as to whether the millage proposal on the February 27, 2024, ballot would be a county wide or township millage. It is a countywide millage proposal.
2. Commissioner Mary Howie expressed support for the Public Transportation in Cass County and the need to fund it.
3. Dallas Austin requested that a copy of the draft BOT minutes from the current meeting be posted to the website before the next meeting as there is information regarding upcoming meetings that

residents may want to have before the posted approved minutes. Clerk Brunner agreed that she could have the draft minutes ready within a week to post to the website.

Next regular Board of Trustees meeting: February 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

With no other business before the Board at 6:56 p.m. Moved by Bundle, supported by Gillam to adjourn. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Brunner, Clerk

APPROVED