

Mason Township Board Meeting
Regular Meeting
February 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Clerk Dull and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Roll was answered by Trustee Allen, Trustee, Arnold, Treasurer Chew, and Clerk Dull.

Supervisor Brandt absent – bad cold.

Clerk Dull welcomed the public, and asked for comments. Sheriff Behnke said the 325' tower project is ahead of schedule. This is joint project between St. Joe and Cass Counties. The tower will improve communication with all the emergency agencies in our area. He also commented if anyone has information on Bonnie Holtz (deceased) from Bellows Road, please call the sheriff dept. There were 32 car/deer accidents in the last week in Cass County.

Jonathan Levan commented he was discontent with township and county personal from July 2021, not doing their jobs.

Trustee Arnold made the motion, seconded by Treasurer Chew, to approve tonight's agenda. Motion carried.

Trustee Allen made the motion to approve January minutes, seconded by Trustee Arnold. Motion carried.

Trustee Arnold made the motion to approve the treasurer's report, and payables for approval for \$16,653.26, seconded by Trustee Allen. Roll call vote – Chew-yes, Arnold-yes, Allen-yes, Dull-yes. Motion carried.

Reports:

Cass County Commissioner Marchetti reported at the Feb. 2, Cass County was presented with a plaque from SWMPA for the improvements to the Village of Cassopolis. The Village of Cassopolis was awarded a \$1 million grant to continue the improvements. Free water testing on Feb. 15 in Dowagiac. Clerk McMichael reported there are 5 precincts being audited from the last November election. These are routine audits.

Commissioner Lee reported you can get dog rabies vaccinations on Feb. 25, 9am-2pm at Bergman Vets in Cassopolis. Contact the humane shelter for an appointment. He attended a Cass County FFA meeting in regarding parliamentary procedures. It was very impressive.

Zoning Dept. – Very slow now except in the Sunset Gardens addition. Houses being built very rapidly.

SEPSA – They are still making mutual aid calls but had 24 calls in Mason township last month.

Planning Commission – New chairperson John Hanson reported their first meeting was to elect chairperson and Deb Cloud is the secretary. Next meeting is March 21, 6:30pm.

Building Dept. – 2 building permits, 5 electrical permits, 3 mechanical permits.

Unfinished Business:

1. Trustee Allen made the motion Clean-up day vouchers will be issued in May and September for any Mason Twp. resident. The resident will need one voucher for each trip to American Waste. But the resident may dump 3 times in each month just a new voucher each time. Also, for this year clean up day is May 13th, 8am – noon at American Waste. Trustee Arnold seconded this motion. Motion carried.
2. Trustee Arnold made the motion to sell 11' along the west property line of the township to the neighboring property at \$400. The township is selling the 11' to correct an ongoing mistake in the property line. Seconded by Trustee Allen. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer Chew made the motion, seconded by Trustee Arnold, for the improvements to the park of \$175,000. This includes an all-purpose court for tennis, pickleball, basketball and a walking track. Roll call vote – Allen-yes, Arnold-yes, Chew-yes, and Dull-yes. Motion carried
4. Purchasing land adjacent to Kessington East cemetery – tabled until next month

New Business:

1. Trustee Arnold made the motion, seconded by Trustee Allen, to approve resolution 2-14-23-01 salary for supervisor of \$19,000 for 2023-24. Roll call vote – Allen-yes, Chew-yes, Arnold-yes, and Dull-yes. 4 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.
2. Trustee Arnold made the motion, seconded by Clerk Dull, to approve resolution 2-14-23-02, salary for treasurer of \$21,000 for 2023-24. Roll call vote – Arnold-yes, Allen-yes, Dull-yes. 3 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstain. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer Chew made the motion, seconded by Trustee Allen, to approve resolution 2-14-23-03, salary for clerk of \$21,000 for 2023-24. Roll call vote – Arnold-yes, Chew-yes, Allen-yes. 3 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstain. Motion carried.
4. Trustee Arnold made the motion, seconded by Treasurer Chew, to approve resolution 2-14-23-04, salary for a trustee of \$4900 for 2023-24. Roll call vote – Chew-yes, Arnold-yes, Dull-yes. 3 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstain. Motion carried.
5. Trustee Allen made the motion, seconded by Treasurer Chew, to approve resolution 2-14-23-05, salary for a trustee of \$4900 for 2023-24. Roll call vote – Chew-yes, Allen-yes, Dull-yes. 3 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstain. Motion carried.
6. Trustee Arnold made the motion, seconded by Treasurer Chew, to approve resolution 2-14-23-06, Poverty exemption, Income guidelines & Asset test. Motion carried.
7. Trustee Arnold made the motion, seconded by Trustee Allen, to approve the motion to pay Cass County Road Commission \$3085.60 for dust control on Mason Township 4.06 miles of gravel roads. This is 50% shared cost. Roll call vote – Allen-yes, Arnold-yes, Chew-yes, and Dull-yes. 4 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.
8. Resolution from SEPSA requested \$90,000 from APRA funds – tabled.

Correspondence: Notice from Ontwa Twp. & Village of Edwardsburg concerning their Master Plan.

Dates: Mason Township Board – March 14, 7pm
Board of Review – March 7, 7 pm Organizational Mtg.
March 13, 3-9pm
March 17, 9am-3pm
Planning Commission - March 21, 6:30pm

Adjourn: Trustee Allen made the motion, seconded by Trustee Arnold, to adjourn at 8:17pm. Motion carried.
Respectfully submitted,

Janet Dull
Township Clerk