

1 MINUTES - PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP Regular Board Meeting
2 November 8, 2023; 6:30 PM at Prairieville Township Hall

3
4 CALL TO ORDER

5 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Stoneburner.

6
7 ROLL CALL

8 Members present: Supervisor Stoneburner, Clerk Goebel, Treasurer Pence,
9 Trustee DeVries and Trustee Doster

10
11 Members absent: none

12
13 There were also 5 members of the public present.

14
15 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR TROOPS

16 All who were present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States
17 of America and a moment of silence for our troops.

18
19 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 20 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Trustee Doster, to approve the**
21 **agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried.**

22
23 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 24 • **Motion by Trustee Doster, supported by Trustee DeVries, to approve the**
25 **minutes of October 18, 2023 regular board meeting as presented; all ayes,**
26 **motion carried.**

27
28 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

29 There was no commissioner present.

30
31 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per person) (Please state your name and address for
32 the Recording Clerk.)

33
34 MaryAnn Bliss DeVries
35 12712 Merlau Ave.

36 Mrs. DeVries addressed the agenda item about the 2nd amendment and Prairieville
37 Township being a Sanctuary Township. She cited a constitutional principle where all
38 persons, institutions and entities are accountable to laws. Mrs. DeVries is not personally
39 in favor of Prairieville Township becoming a Sanctuary Township. She encouraged the
40 board to get input from as many constituents as possible before making their decision.

41
42 Cindy Twichell
43 12650 Pine Lake Rd.

44 Mrs. Twichell shared from the constitution and stated what forefathers said. She also
45 talked about the war. She feels that if someone was trained and had been in the schools,
46 the issues with mass shootings would not have happened. This is about the rights of the

47 people. The constitution is the supreme law of the land. Citizens have the right to bear
48 arms to defend themselves against a tyrannical government. I am in favor of the Sanctuary
49 Township because I am not afraid; I trust my neighbor and those around me. The gun
50 laws are infringing on our rights.

51
52 Rod Francisco
53 15737 Enzian Rd.

54 Mr. Francisco reaffirmed his support for Prairieville being a Sanctuary Township.
55 Countries that abuse their people first take their guns away. Our rights are given to us by
56 God and cannot be taken away.

57
58 FIRE REPORT

59 The report will be put on file.

60
61 POLICE REPORT

62 The report was given by Chief Mike Reizin, and it will be put on file.

63
64 PARKS REPORT

65 Judy Risdon reported for the Parks Board.

- 66 ○ There is an Eagle Scout who wants to work on the pathway going to the handicap
67 dock at Gull Lake. They are excited about this possibility.
- 68 ○ Parks Manager TK Pence has been using a borrowed skid loader. It is a 2007
69 vehicle and they are asking \$24,000 for it. TK feels it is a good deal. In the past
70 they have used it for dock installation, mulch at Municipal, cleaned gravel from
71 ramps, Upper Crooked Lake wash station install, and removing the walkway at Gull
72 Lake. There is also a list of future uses. It would be kept at the Township and could
73 be used by other township departments as needed.
- 74 ○ The Parks Board is asking for ARPA funds to help with the purchase of the skid
75 loader. Clerk Goebel said that funds won't be committed right now but the board
76 will think about it. The bathrooms must be done yet. There was discussion about
77 the web page and parks requests about purchasing season passes online.

78
79 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

80 Supervisor Stoneburner discussed a USDA committee and the need for a candidate to be
81 on it. Kenny Osborne wants to serve on the committee for the USDA. Supervisor
82 Stoneburner appreciates all the Osborne's do and would like to recommend Kenny for this
83 committee.

- 84 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to fill out the USDA**
85 **ballot to support the candidacy of Kenneth George Osborne to serve on the**
86 **USDA committee; all ayes, motion carried.**

87
88 John Hoek resigned as the Ordinance Enforcement Officer effective December 31, 2023.
89 If requested, he will be available to share information with and help a new officer.
90 Supervisor Stoneburner stated that John has done a remarkable job serving the parks
91 board and as Ordinance Enforcement Officer. He will be missed.

92

- 93 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner to accept John Hoek’s resignation with**
94 **regrets, supported by Trustee DeVries; all ayes, motion carried.**
95

96 TREASURER’S REPORT

97 Treasurer Pence said there was nothing extraordinary to report. Winter tax bills will be in
98 the mail soon. They are due Feb. 14. There was some discussion about lake weed control
99 for Upper Crooked Lake and Pine Lake.

100
101 TRUSTEES’ REPORTS

102 Trustee Doster:

103 The Planning Commission is November 9, 2023, with 3 public hearings. There is nothing
104 else to report.

105
106 Trustee DeVries:

107 The ZBA will meet in December. Trustee DeVries mentioned concerns about the Planning
108 Commission members not getting materials in time to visit sites before the meeting. This
109 has been an ongoing problem. Supervisor Stoneburner will call Rebecca and see if this
110 can be worked out.

111
112 CLERK’S REPORT

113 There was \$100 in fines last month.

114 The Michigan Legislature has two weeks to adjourn.

115 The Clerks’ meeting is November 16.

116 There will be recertification training soon for election workers. The election workers will
117 be notified as soon as he gets the schedule.

118 Thank you to Mr. Francisco for getting the well working at Cressey.

119
120 PAYMENT OF BILLS

- 121 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to approve**
122 **payment of the bills in the amount of \$17,106.30; all ayes, motion carried.**
123

124 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTMENT

- 125 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel and supported by Trustee DeVries, to appoint Dale**
126 **Grimes and Jaci Dalke for regular ZBA positions and Glenn Stoneburner as**
127 **the alternate ZBA member. These terms start on 1/1/2024 and will expire on**
128 **12/31/2026; all ayes, motion carried.**
129

130 PLANNING COMMISSION

131 Mark A. Doster has resigned from the Planning Commission due to family issues.

- 132 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Clerk Goebel, to accept**
133 **the resignation of Mark A. Doster from the Planning Commission with**
134 **regrets; all ayes, motion carried.**
135

- 136 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Trustee DeVries, to**
137 **appoint Tammy McGuire to fill the empty position on the Planning**
138 **Commission until 12/31/2026; all ayes, motion carried.**

139 RESOLUTION 2023-19 SECOND AMENDMENT SUPPORT

140 Background

141 At the Prairieville Township meeting on October 18, 2023, John Lake spoke about a
142 resolution the Barry County Republican Party had adopted. It was sent to Barry County
143 Commissioners, but the commissioners did not adopt it. Member of the public, Cindy
144 Twichell, said the commissioners did not bring the resolution to the table for a vote. Mr.
145 Lake sent a sample resolution to Prairieville Township asking the township board to
146 adopt this. The next step would be to send it to the county commissioners urging them
147 to adopt the resolution supporting the 2nd amendment.

148
149 Clerk Goebel read Resolution 2023. It was followed by discussion.

- 150
- 151 ○ Member of the public, Cindy Twichell, gave her explanation of a Sanctuary
- 152 Township. She stated that a Sanctuary Township will not enforce unconstitutional
- 153 laws of Barry County. This is anything that infringes on the constitution.
- 154 ○ There was discussion of red flag laws. Chief Reizin stated there are two sides to
- 155 every story when discussing red flag laws. He added that he doesn't want
- 156 Prairieville Township to become the wild, wild west.
- 157 ○ Trustee DeVries pointed out the parts of the resolution he was not comfortable
- 158 with. He also asked about a couple of other points.
- 159 ○ Treasurer Pence is concerned about what is next.
- 160 ○ Clerk Goebel explained you are affirming your rights.
- 161 ○ Member of the public, Cindy Twichell, said that unconstitutional laws will not be
- 162 allowed in our township.
- 163 ○ Trustee DeVries asked if the board knew what the residents of Prairieville
- 164 Township think about being a sanctuary township?
- 165 ○ Clerk Goebel answered that we were voted in to make these decisions.
- 166 ○ Member of the public, Cindy Twichell, said that we need to stand behind the
- 167 people.
- 168 ○ Trustee DeVries asked if we know what our constituents want.
- 169 ○ Clerk Goebel stated that he does not want open season on our rights. When they
- 170 are infringing on common sense gun laws, things are dangerous and unhealthy.
- 171 ○ Supervisor Stoneburner stated that passing this would let the county know our
- 172 opinion, but Barry County Commissioners would make their own decision.

173

- 174 ● **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee Doster, to adopt Resolution**
- 175 **2023-19. There was further discussion including Chief Reizen explaining**
- 176 **the red flag law process.**

177 **Roll call vote:**

178 **Clerk Goebel, yes**

179 **Trustee Doster, yes**

180 **Trustee DeVries, no**

181 **Treasurer Pence, yes**

182 **Supervisor Stoneburner, yes**

183 **This resolution is duly adopted on this date.**

184

185 RESOLUTION 2023-20 SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY

186 Resolution 2023-20 is independent of the county's decision.

187 Clerk Goebel read the resolution.

188

- 189 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee Doster, to adopt resolution**
- 190 **2023-20; discussion, Trustee DeVries is against whereas statements 2, 5,**
- 191 **and 6 in the resolution.**

192 **Roll call vote:**

193 **Trustee Doster, yes**

194 **Trustee DeVries, no**

195 **Treasurer Pence, yes**

196 **Supervisor Stoneburner, yes**

197 **Clerk Goebel, yes**

198 **Resolution 2023-20 is duly adopted on this date.**

199

200 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per person) (Please state your name and address for
201 the Recording Clerk.)

202

203 CindyTwichell

204 I spent all day in Lansing and craziness is happening in Lansing. I appreciate the
205 support of the township and standing up for your oath to the constitution. God gave us
206 rights, people have so many rights, I am afraid of government but not criminals. There is
207 a town In Georgia where everyone must own a gun. Their crime rate is 97% below the
208 national crime rate.

209

210 BOARD COMMENTS

211 Supervisor Stoneburner:

212 Thank you for being here. Thanks for your comments and concerns. Trustee Doster did
213 an awesome job on the cemetery. Once again, I want to thank John Hoek and Mark A.
214 Doster for their work for the township.

215

216 Treasurer Pence:

217 Thanks for coming and sharing your opinions.

218

219 Trustee DeVries:

220 Thank you, Trustee Doster, for doing such a nice job on the sign at Cressey and thank
221 you Rod Francisco for getting the pump working. The Senate passed the energy bills.
222 I am concerned that we are stuck with a 2-party political system and there is not room to
223 think in the middle. It is hard to have a conversation and disagree but now fear is
224 involved. It is a shame and getting worse. It frustrates me that the 2020 election is still
225 questioned. It is a slap in the face to those of us who work elections. There are
226 accuracy tests that help make sure the machines are performing correctly.

227 Thank you for coming tonight.

228

229 Clerk Goebel:

230 Parks Board on November 9, 2023.

231 The laptop purchased will not be workable for early voting. The copier is being
232 assembled and the sign is being manufactured. Thank you for coming tonight.

233

234 Trustee Doster:

235 Nothing

236

237 Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

238

239 Respectfully submitted,

240

241

242 MaryAnn Bliss DeVries

243