

1 MINUTES - PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP Regular Board Meeting
2 December 20, 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 8 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 DeVries, supported by Clerk Goebel, to approve the**
25 **minutes of November 8, 2023, regular board meeting as presented; all ayes,**
26 **motion carried.**

27
28 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

29 There was no commissioner in attendance.

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

33
34 Dan Jeska

35 14315 Enzian Rd

36 Mr. Jeska shared his educational background as well as his background with guns. His
37 father collected guns and Mr. Jeska was proud of that. He has used guns all his life. Mr.
38 Jeska said he supports responsible use of firearms. Mr. Jeska does not support the 2nd
39 amendment sanctuary township that was adopted by Prairieville Township Board. He
40 was especially offended when Governor Whitmer was described as anti-democratic.
41 The township board should represent all the citizens not just those who agree with
42 them.

43
44 Cindy Twichell

45 12650 Pine Lake Rd.

46 Mrs. Twichell wants to clarify that the Michigan Constitution says everyone has the right

47 to keep arms and to use them. She is concerned that government has sovereign power
48 over people when people should have sovereign power over the government. Mrs.
49 Twichell wanted to clarify a comment she made in the last meeting. In regard to mass
50 shootings in schools, she would like to see if lives can be saved if there is someone with
51 a gun defending the school. She didn't mean that lives would be saved. God's holy
52 word, the state constitution and the federal constitution are what guides us to how we
53 make our decisions.

54

55 FIRE REPORT

56 The report was given by Deputy Chief Mark Flick. A copy will be put on file. Treasurer
57 Pence said she is still waiting for job descriptions from Chief Uridge. Deputy Chief Flick
58 will have Chief Uridge get back with Supervisor Stoneburner. This includes clarification
59 with proper documentation and backup.

60

61 POLICE REPORT

62 The report was given by Chief Mike Reizin, and it will be put on file. He explained two
63 serious situations that happened in Prairieville and Delton. From the first the suspects
64 have been arrested and are in custody. The other has been handled. It brought up
65 communication issues and there will be a meeting to address this and set better plans.
66 Clerk Goebel would like to attend the meeting. There is always room to improve
67 communication.

68

69 Chief Reizin, for safety reasons, requested two more additional handguns, one more
70 patrol rifle and 2-night vision thermal binoculars. More guns are needed in case a gun is
71 taken by police for evidence. The Chief provided a quote for these items which was
72 \$7,794.00. To save money Chief Reizin suggested deleting the IR thermal night vision
73 binoculars.

74

75 It is a board issue where to get the money. Trustee DeVries shared cost issues and
76 where the money could come from in the budget. A line item was discussed by Trustee
77 DeVries and Treasurer Pence. Clerk Goebel would like to see budget projections. He is
78 anxious to see a multi-year plan from the Police Department so a new millage rate can
79 be established.

- 80 • **Motion by Trustee Doster, supported by Clerk Goebel, to table this until the**
81 **budget meeting; all ayes, motion carried.**

82

83 Traffic signs were received at the end of October. They are good quality signs, but
84 customer service has been an issue. After 2 months, we can now access them remotely.
85 They will be up after the holiday.

86

87 A Par Plan Risk Reduction Grant was approved for the Prairieville Township Police
88 Department.

89

90 PARKS REPORT

91 Parks Manager TK Pence reported for the Parks Board. They are getting quotes to
92 replace ramps at lake parks. John Hoek's retirement has left an opening for an

93 enforcement officer. Rick Vandeweg may be interested and will check into it. They have
94 applied for a grant for attendants at Upper Crooked Lake. The hope is to get personnel
95 there to manage the park. He requested an update for the new website. It is currently in
96 a mockup form and the hope is after the first of the year it will be available for use. There
97 was a question from Clerk Goebel about garbage management at Municipal Park. Parks
98 Manager TK Pence explained that they do not have garbage collection at Municipal Park
99 right now. The meeting date in February will be Feb. 12 with Prairieville Parks Board and
100 the Prairieville Township Board to look at the parks budget.

101
102 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- 103 A couple of things:
- 104 ○ The parks board has sent a letter to allow access through the UCL Park to
105 homes.
 - 106 ○ BOR training will be coming up.
 - 107 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Clerk Goebel, to**
108 **send Carl Goy to BOR training if needed. The fee is \$100. The vote**
109 **was all ayes and motion carried.**
 - 110 ○ Supervisor Stoneburner did an overview of all the parks and listed areas that
111 needed attention. The list was provided to the parks board.
 - 112 ○ Gull Lake Water Quality met to talk about lease renewal with the State of MI.
113 They are working on writing communications guidelines. As has been the case
114 they will continue to split the cost of major repairs.
 - 115 ○ There have been calls about short term rentals. We do not have an ordinance
116 about short term rentals. Trustee Doster said he would bring it up to the Planning
117 Commission.
 - 118 ○ Supervisor Stoneburner talked with Jake about gravel roads near water. When
119 roads are grated the dirt filters into waterways. They will do a better job, so
120 waterways do not take on that dirt.

121
122 TREASURER'S REPORT

123 Treasurer Pence reported there is a combined pool fund of \$1.6 million. She also
124 reported on the individual funds which make up this amount.

- 125 Other items:
- 126 ○ Taxes are coming in now.
 - 127 ○ She is working on transactions for account payable vendors.
 - 128 ○ She made a formal request for the PTPD to visit 6 properties. Treasurer Pence
129 will give the addresses to Chief Reizin.

130
131 TRUSTEES' REPORTS

- 132 Trustee Doster:
- 133 There were several public hearings for the last 3 Planning Commission Meetings.
134 November 9, 2023
- 135 ○ There was a special land use permit for an accessory building requested at
136 15505 M43 Highway. This was approved.
 - 137 ○ A special land use permit for construction of a residential accessory building was
138 requested. This is at 12624 Merlau and it fails to meet the setback requirement.

139 This was tabled.
140 ○ A special land use permit/site review was requested to allow construction of a
141 residential accessory building on an otherwise vacant waterfront lot. It is located
142 at the southern portion of Lower Crooked Lake on Milo Road. This was approved.

143
144 November 27, 2023

145 ○ A special land use permit/site plan review was requested to allow construction of
146 a residential accessory building that fails to meet the building height requirement.
147 This property is at 15429 S. M43 Highway. It was approved.

148
149 December 14, 2023

150 ○ A request at 12624 Merlau Ave. was tabled in November. The request was to
151 allow a residential accessory building that failed to meet setback requirements.
152 This was granted.
153 ○ There was a request to rezone a portion of property from Ag to R-2. It is located
154 at 10850 Lindsey Road. This was tabled until January.

155
156 Trustee DeVries: ZBA had 2 public hearings this month. Both requests were approved.
157 He let everyone know about Revitalize Delton Community Project. It is the 2nd Thursday
158 of each odd month, at 6:30, in the LGI room at DKHS.

159
160 CLERK'S REPORT

161 No news is good news!

162
163 PAYMENT OF BILLS

- 164 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Treasurer Pence, to approve**
165 **payment of the bills in the amount of \$73,343.01; all ayes, motion carried.**

166
167 ORDINANCE 175 AMENDMENT

168 Prairieville Township Parks have been working on Ordinance 175 to change existing
169 language which caused enforcement headaches. The Parks Board has approved new
170 language. If approved by this board it will be sent to attorney Catherine Kaufman and
171 then posted.

- 172 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Treasurer Pence, to approve the**
173 **Parks Board change to Ordinance 175; roll call vote, all ayes, motion**
174 **carried, and it was duly adopted on this date.**

175
176 AED

177 Clerk Goebel was recertified in CPR and AED last week. He feels we need an AED and
178 would like to get one for the township hall. He made calls to United Way, and they were
179 glad we were considering that. It was suggested that our biggest priority is to have
180 AEDs in patrol vehicles. With a county wide price, the AED's will be \$1811.00 each with
181 a \$300 credit toward purchase. Clerk Goebel also suggested we get CPR kits, which
182 are \$25 a kit. He would like to use ARPA money if possible. He will get back with United
183 Way to clarify. PTFD might also be interested in getting these and keeping AED's
184 consistent within the township.

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Treasurer Pence, to table this until next month's meeting. All ayes, motion carried.**

MIDeal Renewal

Last year the township joined MIDeal. This year we can rejoin it for \$180. If we can use MIDeal, it will save that money. We can get discounts from many vendors. Do we want to renew? Supervisor Stoneburner felt it would be an advantage. Trustee DeVries pointed out that it is not due until Jan. 31.

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Clerk Goebel to table MIDeal renewal until the January meeting; all ayes, motion carried.**

FEBRUARY MEETING DATE

Clerk Goebel explained that the regular February meeting is during early voting. He suggested it can be moved up a week to February 14. This is a conflict for Treasurer Pence as that date is the last day for paying taxes. There was further discussion.

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, seconded by Clerk Goebel to change February meeting to Thursday, February 15; all ayes, motion carried.**

ELECTION INSPECTOR PAY

Good news about elections from the state. The state has decided to reimburse election inspectors \$15 per hour.

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Treasurer Pence, to raise election inspector pay from \$13 to \$15 per hour; all ayes, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to increase pay for the chairperson of elections from \$17 to \$19 per hour; all ayes, motion carried.**

BAYVIEW SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Residents want to get Highland paved. Jake, from Barry County Road Commission, has talked to the contractor and they can do all the work since part of it is private. Some of the parcels are in Barry Townships. Barry Township will have to approve this also. If approved there will be notification and publication. Catherine Kaufman will also be involved.

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to accept new figures for the Bayview Assessment District that now includes Highland Dr. and parcels in Barry Township. This can only happen with Barry Township's participation. There was discussion; all ayes, motion carried.**

RICH LANE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Rich Lane is still looking to get that project done. The price has gone up. They want to establish a special assessment district which would be 2023-2.

- **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Clerk Goebel, to establish Rich Lane Special Assessment District 2023-2 and schedule a public hearing; all ayes, motion carried.**

231 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per person) (Please state your name and address for
232 the Recording Clerk.)
233 Cindy Twichell
234 12650 Pine Lake Rd.
235 First thank you all for the job you have done. I appreciate that you listen to the people.
236 Having said that, I want you to listen to me. Please find money to supply the police
237 department with necessary weaponry that PTPD needs. That is a necessity. Please look
238 at the budget. Merry Christmas

239
240 BOARD COMMENTS

241 Supervisor Stoneburner:
242 Thank you, John Hoek, for all your service to the township. Thank you to all that were
243 here tonight. I am proud to be on a board that works so well together. Merry Christmas.
244

245 Treasurer Pence:
246 I appreciate everyone being here tonight. Have a safe holiday and thank you to John
247 Hoek for his service.
248

249 Trustee DeVries:
250 Clerk Goebel, we want to keep you safe. Thank you everyone for being here. Merry
251 Christmas.
252

253 Clerk Goebel:
254 First, thank you Chief Reizin for your service. Thank you all for coming. Thank you to
255 John Hoek for his years of service. Merry Christmas
256

257 Trustee Doster:
258 Thanks to everyone for being here. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
259

260 Adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

261 Respectfully submitted,

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263
264
265 MaryAnn Bliss DeVries
266