

1 MINUTES - PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP Regular Meeting

2 May 18, 2022

3 6:30 PM at Prairieville Township Hall

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6 CALL TO ORDER

7 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Supervisor Stoneburner.

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9 ROLL CALL

10 Members present: Supervisor Stoneburner, Clerk Goebel, Trustee DeVries and Trustee
11 Doster

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13 Members absent: Treasurer Pence

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15 There were also 17 members of the public present.

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17 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR TROOPS

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

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21 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

22 Review of the agenda.

- 23 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries, support by Trustee Doster, to approve the**
- 24 **agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried.**

25
26 CONSENT AGENDA

27 *All items listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine by the board and will be*
28 *enacted by one motion. If discussion is required, it will be removed from the Consent*
29 *Agenda and considered separately.*

- 30 a. Approval of April 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting minutes.
- 31 b. Reports received: Revenue/Expenditure Report; Building Report; Civil Fines;
- 32 and Financial Report

- 33 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries, support by Trustee Doster, to approve the**
- 34 **consent agenda as presented; all ayes, motion carried.**

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36 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

37 Commissioner Conner was unable to attend.

38
39 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per person) (Please state your name and address for
40 the Recording Clerk.)

41 William Riley

42 11298 Long Point Dr.

43 Mr. Riley's parents live 11186 Long Pt. where the road was paved. There are problems
44 that people are parking on the pavement and blocking driveways and mailboxes. He
45 wants something to be done to avoid this. Why is one property affected?

47 James Parker
48 11228 Long Pt.
49 Mr. Parker validated what Mr. Riley talked about. The new roundabout is the issue.
50 Large vehicle events will block the Riley's. What is the process for amending the
51 potential egregious or harsh ordinances that have been passed? Decimating previous
52 meetings notes, the notes do not show what was discussed. Minutes are being
53 approved without feedback from public. How do citizens get on boards? Supervisor
54 Stoneburner said that Mr. Parker should talk to him if he is interested in a board. They
55 are always looking for people to fill the positions

56
57 FIRE REPORT

58 Deputy Chief Haneckow gave the report. A copy of it will be put on file.

59
60 POLICE REPORT

61 Chief Callahan gave the report. A copy of his report will be put on file.

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63 PARKS' REPORT

64 Chairperson MaryAnn DeVries gave the report. A copy will be put on file.

65
66 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

67 Supervisor Stoneburner worked with PCI on a junk car blight issue. There was a joint
68 meeting between Prairieville and Barry Townships for the Crooked Lake weed
69 assessment. He has requested the Planning and Zoning look at the current fence
70 ordinance.

71
72 TREASURER'S REPORT

73 Treasurer Pence was absent. Report went on file.

74
75 TRUSTEES' REPORTS

76 Trustee Doster: working with the Parks on North Country Trail

77
78 Trustee DeVries: There were 3 public hearings at the ZBA and all were variance requests.
79 In the first, the request was approved; in the second 1 was approved and 1 was denied;
80 in the 3rd hearing 1 approved, 1 denied and 1 tabled. Trustee DeVries attended The Barry
81 County Commission meeting in Hastings. He asked about an update on Watson Drain
82 District and Pine Lake high water issue and was told they are not completed. Trustee
83 DeVries tried to answer some of the audience questions: Contact Supervisor Stoneburner
84 if you want an ordinance looked at and he will talk to the Planning Commission.
85 Ordinances can be found on the website. ZBA and PC minutes are taken by Rebecca
86 Harvey for those meetings. As soon as we get them, they go on the website as draft
87 minutes. We are working on getting these out earlier.

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89 CLERK'S REPORT

90 The tree has been cleaned up in the cemetery and an arborist has been chosen to take
91 5 large white pines. The Memorial Day Parade will start at 1.

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PAYMENT OF BILLS

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, support from Trustee Doster, to pay bills in the amount of \$38,248.85. All ayes, motion carried.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT HIRE

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, support from Clerk Goebel, to start the hiring process for Taylor Stewart for PTFD pending background check; all ayes, motion carried.**

CHIEF OF POLICE RESIGNATION

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner to reluctantly accept Chief Callahan’s resignation, Trustee DeVries reluctantly supported; all ayes, motion carried.**

SEXTON: JOSH WICKHAM

Background: Our current sexton had his contract expire two years ago. He has taken on other work and designated cemetery work to an employee. It has not worked out as there were complaints. Josh Wickham and Wickham Cemetery Care LLC has been recommended by several people. They work at other cemeteries and Clerk Goebel visited some of these. He was impressed with their work. Mr. Wickham was invited to the meeting tonight, but he was unable to make it as he is preparing for two burials tomorrow. Wayne Bourdo also recommended him and his work. Wayne also mentioned how Josh has plenty of help. Wickham Cemetery Care LLC is more expensive than what is being paid now. Prices will have to be raised to cover it.

- **Motion by Trustee DeVries, support from Clerk Goebel, to hire Wickham Cemetery Care LLC replacing Adams and Sons as the new sexton for the cemetery; all ayes, motion carried.**

PINE LAKE FIREWORKS APPLICATION

- **Clerk Goebel moved to approve the annual application for Pine Lake Fireworks on July 3, 2022, supported by Trustee DeVries; all ayes, motion carried.**

AMBULANCE CONTRACT

Background: Ambulance services have become less reliable for residents of Prairieville. This is because of variety of issues but the bottom line, there is slower service for Prairieville residents. The township worked with Barry Township to develop a plan for services in the two townships. There has been a Safety Net Agreement developed with LifeCare Ambulance. There will be an ambulance stationed at Hickory Corners and one at Prairieville Fire Department. This plan has been approved by the attorney for both townships.

There was discussion about this plan and there were a few minor changes made to it. This plan is a trial and will last for 4 months. The start date is June 1, 2022. Deputy Fire Chief Haneckow is in favor of the contract with the minor clarifications of language that were discussed. Mark Flick has been the PTFD representative working on this plan with

139 Hickory Corners. He asked the board to support the plan. Mark explained to the meeting
140 what this will do for the residents of the township. Mr. Flick's feeling is there is no downside
141 to the plan but only benefits.

- 142
- 143 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, support from Clerk Goebel, to sign the**
144 **Safety Net Agreement with changes which will go live June 1; all ayes, motion**
145 **carried.**

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147 FIRE TRUCK SALE

148 Background: Prairieville Township Fire Department is selling a truck that no longer meets
149 our needs. It is sitting where the ambulance is going to be housed at the Fire Station. They
150 received a bid for \$7500.00 from Etowah, AR to purchase it. Etowah will come and pick it
151 up Saturday, May 21, 2022 if everything is ready. It is recommended by the fire
152 department to approve this deal.

- 153 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel and support by Trustee Doster to approve the sale**
154 **of the obsolete truck for the negotiated price; roll call vote, all ayes except**
155 **Treasurer Pence who was absent, motion carried.**

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157 ROAD COMMISSION CONTRACT

- 158 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, support by Trustee DeVries, to designate Barry**
159 **County Road Commission as the contractor for Southgate Road project at**
160 **\$150,000.00 and Merlau/Long Point project at \$315,000.00; all ayes, motion**
161 **carried.**

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164 PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS:

165 Background: There were two recommendations from the Planning Commission during
166 their previous meeting. The board reviewed each of these.

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168 Petro – There were concerns from neighbors about safety, traffic and the kind of business
169 that could go in there. Supervisor Stoneburner does not have an issue with the Petro
170 change as these will be addressed in next steps by appropriate organizations.
171 Representatives of the Planning Commission have no problem with approving the first
172 hurdle.

- 173 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, support Clerk Goebel, to approve the**
174 **recommended request for rezoning of the Petro property; roll call vote, all**
175 **ayes except Treasurer Pence was absent, motion carried. The zoning request**
176 **has been approved.**

177

178 Woodhouse- The attorney, supervisor and neighbors had concerns about this request.
179 This is a dangerous situation. There needs to be proper environmental measures taken
180 with any type of chemicals that go into the ground. The attorney is concerned that the
181 owner does not reside at the address. about home occupancy of the owner. The request
182 was signed by the tenant of the building. Neighbors are concerned about speed issues
183 and possible chemical leakage.

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- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, support by Trustee Doster, to deny this rezoning request for Woodhouse based on the fact the attorney was concerned and the application was filled out by a renter and not Mr. Woodhouse. Discussion ensued. Roll call vote, Clerk Goebel and Trustee DeVries voted no; Trustee Doster and Supervisor Stoneburner voted yes.**
- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, support by Trustee DeVries, to table this until there is a full board; all ayes, motion carried.**

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

Jason Peterson
15849 Kane Rd.

Mr. Woodhouse hasn't done what he is supposed to do. Chemicals are running into our well system. I appreciate you getting all the information to get things right.

Kurt Shea
15841 Kane Road

The property discussed is currently used as a business. How long can that continue? Supervisor Stoneburner said that is a question for the attorney. He will ask.

Richard Glassman
15760 Kane Road

Previously I received a notice when there was a rezoning hearing for this address. I did not this time. What is the range for zoning notices? Answer - 300 feet is the range. I urge you to consider reverting the property in question back to the original A1 since I believe the variance that was given in the past, is no longer correct.

Kurt Shea
15841 Kane Road

Could a property revert back to agricultural? Would that be a conflict in the master plan?

Lorraine Brown
12710 Merla Ave.

As a retired nurse, I want to thank all of you for all the work you have done on the ambulance situation.

Wayne Bourdo

Fence is done at Cressey. Mr. Bourdo asked about cemetery clean up. There are a lot of rule breakers. There are things scattered on the facility. Website will have rules about decorations for Memorial Day. Flags will be placed on May 26th.

230 Jim Parker
231 11228 Long Point
232 Mr. Parker asked about the Watson Drain.
233
234 Rick Walter
235 15828 Kane Road
236 Since there has been a discovery about oil and chemical issue on the Woodhouse
237 property, who will investigate? The answer is PCI.
238
239 Barry Bower
240 5200 Osborne Rd.
241 Delton, MI
242 Supervisor Bower thanked everyone from Prairieville for working on the ambulance
243 service agreement. He stated he was glad that we worked together. Supervisor
244 Stoneburner agreed and added that it was nice to be working on something that would
245 help everyone.
246
247 Don Haneckow
248 11597 Breezy Pt. Dr.
249 Deputy Chief Haneckow thanked Supervisor Bower and Supervisor Stoneburner for all
250 the time they put into the ambulance agreement.
251
252 BOARD COMMENTS
253 Supervisor Stoneburner: Thank you for being here. Thanks to Chief Callahan for all he
254 has done. This is the first time since 2006 that we have attempted to change what the
255 Planning and Zoning Board recommended.
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257 Treasurer Pence: not in attendance
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259 Clerk Goebel: Thanks for: working on the ambulance agreement, to Wayne for
260 shoveling stones and to Chief Calahan for his service. I wish him the best of luck.
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262 Trustee DeVries: Ditto to what Clerk Goebel said.
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264 Trustee Doster: none
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267 Adjourned 8:20 pm
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269 Respectfully submitted,
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272 MaryAnn Bliss DeVries
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