

MINUTES - PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP Regular Meeting  
March 15, 2023; 6:30 PM at Prairieville Township Hall

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

Members absent: none

There were also 18 members of the public present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR TROOPS

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Trustee Doster, to approve the agenda with additions; all ayes, motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to approve the minutes of the February 15 Regular Board Meeting as amended; all ayes, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner, to approve the budget workshop minutes with Prairieville Parks and Recreation; all ayes, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Clerk Goebel, to approve budget workshop minutes with the Prairieville Police and Fire Departments; all ayes, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Clerk Goebel, to approve the budget workshop minutes regarding the roads and general budget; all ayes, motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Jackson gave his report.

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

Richard VanNiman  
12710 Merlau Ave.

Mr. VanNiman thanked the first responders and including Safety Net for saving his life. If it wasn't for their prompt and efficient skills, he would not be here today. Thank you!

Richard Glassman  
15760 Kane Rd.

Mr. Glassman talked about a concern about junk vehicles and information that was received. Supervisor Stoneburner will check on this and make sure VIN numbers matched the documents. Another issue was the Woodhouse property. Mr. Woodhouse does not live there and his approval to work out of the home does not apply. This needs to be handled. Supervisor Stoneburner is working on that issue also.

Sue Hanley  
Pine Lake

Mrs. Hanley was in attendance to give copies of a signed petition against the drain project from Friends of Pine Lake. Over half of the households on Pine Lake are in opposition of the drain.

Seth Drake  
1096 Shelp Lk. Rd.

Mr. Drake talked about a fee put on the recent tax bill. He had questions and concerns about this. In his opinion, it is not legal. The township was not aware of this. It came from the county and/or drain commission. Mr. Drake wanted the township to be aware. He will talk with Mr. Dull, the Barry County Drain Commissioner.

Rick Walter  
15828 Kane Road

Mr. Walter expressed concerns about the petro project going on. He asked questions and was told there is no plan for the property and the owner has received no permit at this time. He suggested another concern is the need for a traffic study of the area. Supervisor Stoneburner will give him a contact with MDOT to find out more.

#### BARRY COUNTY RECYCLING – RACHEL FRANZ, COORDINATOR

Ms. Franz gave out summaries of the latest in recycling at the county. She reported on the plan to move forward by updating the Waste Management Plan. There will also be a Material Management Planning Committee at the county. Each township will have an elected representative on the board. There will be a grant involved with this. June 3, 2023 and September 23, 2023 will be solid waste recycling days at the county. Ms. Franz answered questions from the board.

#### Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority

GLSWA is asking for a rate increase. Mr. Crum talked to the board and explained more

details focusing on reasons for the needed increase. These include: there are much larger treatment costs to Kalamazoo, there were over \$500,000.00 in unexpected costs this past year, the board decided there needs to be more preventative maintenance to avoid large emergency expenses and GLSWA would prefer to pay as they go. All these reasons mean a rate increase. He asked for approval from the board to increase to \$55 per month for users of the GLSWA. This is a \$15 increase each month.

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Clerk Goebel, to approve a rate increase to \$55 per month or \$165 per quarter for GLSWA users, there was discussion; roll call vote, all ayes, motion passed.**

#### BARRY COUNTY DRAIN - JIM DULL, COMMISSIONER

Mr. Dull reported on the 40-45% return on the survey of Pine Lake residents. He also discussed Watson Drain Project which is making progress toward completion. The pumps should be up and running by spring. There were questions asked by the board and discussion ensued.

#### FIRE REPORT

Chief Uridge gave the report.

#### POLICE REPORT

Chief Reizin gave the report. He also gave an update about a traffic study for Gull Lake. They will be doing a speed study. Another resolution will have to be approved for a speed study.

#### PARKS' REPORT

Judy Risdon gave the Parks' Report.

#### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

We just completed Board of Review and he thanked the board for the work they did. He is working at getting renewal of Gull Lake lease with the State of Michigan. PCI is going to get out of the enforcement business and Supervisor Stoneburner will be looking at other alternatives.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

There is 1.8 million dollars in the pooled account.

Currently \$215,000 is left in ARPA.

Delinquent taxes have been turned over to the county.

#### TRUSTEES' REPORTS

Trustee Doster: Planning commission had their yearly planning workshop. Fences are first on the agenda.

Trustee DeVries: He expressed his surprise and disappointment about the change in recycling. This has bothered him as it is something we can do to help all people. Trustee DeVries talked about how the program has improved over the years. He hopes in the future we can get back to providing this without cost to residents.

## CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Goebel needs a Deputy Clerk.

## PAYMENT OF BILLS

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, support by Trustee DeVries, to pay bills in the amount of \$42,805.31; all ayes, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner, to open the budget hearing; all ayes, motion carried.**

## BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

### Resolution

2023-2 General Appropriations Act  
2023-3 Investment Policy  
2023-4 Supervisor Salary  
2022-5 Clerk Salary  
2023-6 Treasurer Salary  
2023-7 Trustee Pay  
2023-8 Personnel Pay Schedule  
2022-9 Office Calendar  
2023-10 Meeting Schedule  
2023-11 Budget Amendments

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Treasurer Pence, to adopt resolution 2023-2 the General Appropriations Act; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried and duly adopted on March 15, 2023.**
- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Treasurer Pence, to adopt resolution 2023-3 the Prairieville Township Investment Policy; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried and duly adopted on March 15, 2023.**
- **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Trustee Doster, to adopt resolution 2023-4 the Supervisor Salary at \$29,000.00 per annum; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried and duly adopted on March 15, 2023.**
- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, support by Trustee DeVries, to adopt resolution 2023-5 Clerk Salary at \$34,000.00 per annum; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried and duly adopted on March 15, 2023.**
- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee Doster, to adopt resolution 2023-6, Treasurer Salary at \$34,000.00 per annum; roll call vote: all ayes, motion carried and duly adopted on March 15, 2023.**
- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner, to adopt resolution 2023-7 Trustee Pay at \$150.00 per meeting; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried and duly adopted on March 15, 2023.**

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to adopt resolution 2023-8, Personnel Pay Schedule; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried and duly adopted on March 15, 2023.**
- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner, to adopt the resolution 2023-9 Office Calendar with Holiday Schedule for Prairieville Township April 2023 - March 2024; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried and duly adopted on March 15, 2023.**
- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner, to adopt Resolution 2023-10, Meeting Schedule for Prairieville Township for April 2023 to March 2024; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried and duly adopted on March 15, 2023.**
- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Trustee Doster, to adopt budget amendments 2023-11 as presented; all ayes, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Trustee Doster, to close the budget public hearing; all ayes, motion carried.**
- **Motion by Trustee DeVries, support by Clerk Goebel, to return to the regular meeting session; all ayes, motion carried.**

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

Richard Glassman  
15760 Kane Rd.  
The board is doing a great job and it is appreciated.

John Crum  
GLSWA  
Last night they were celebrating Safety Net at Barry Township and Prairieville was tonight. Safety Net is something to be very proud of.

BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Stoneburner: Thank you for being involved with the township. We have a great board who work for our residents.

Treasurer Pence: It is good to see you, Richard. John, thank you for your explanation and to everyone thank you for coming. Treasurer Pence also expressed concerns about the lack of enforcement of possible illegal marijuana growing.

Trustee DeVries: Thank you for staying this long.

Clerk Goebel: Thanks for coming everyone. A possible issue for a special meeting is workers' compensation. We may need to look for better service with another agent.

Trustee Doster: Thank you for attending.

Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Bliss DeVries