

MINUTES - PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP Regular Meeting
April 19, 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 14 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 Treasurer Pence, to approve the agenda as amended; all ayes, motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Trustee Doster, to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented; all ayes, motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

No one was in attendance.

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

Janine Decker

8421 Delton Road

Mrs. Decker stated her support of the library in Delton. She is representing her entire family. It is helpful to all of them in so many ways. The library is a valuable resource.

Joe Tobin

11775 Lindsey Rd.

The library is one of the biggest assets the community has. You should not consider leaving the library.

Sharon Flick

9500 Bever Rd.

I support the library fully. They do so much for the community.

Marsha Bassett
Crooked Lake

They have all said it eloquently. I also support the library. The community that values education should fund what they value. We need a strong library.

Vi Thompson
Pine Lake

Friends of Pine Lake are still moving forward in our quest to have justice prevail about the lake level. We continue to go to the meetings of the Barry County Commissioners.

FIRE REPORT

Chief Uridge gave the report and it will be put on file. Three staff members are in final stages of EMT certification. They will complete this certification in June. Four people are going to vehicle extrication class.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Reizin gave the report. Officer Green completed accident investigator training and will be attending firearms instructor certification training in June. Chief Reizin also talked about fraud as elderly people are being targeted. If you have questions, call the police, and only answer solicitors after talking to the police.

PARKS' REPORT

Dave Haas gave the Parks' Report updating the many things they are working on. He shared that they are looking at a kayak launch at Lower Crooked Lake.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Stoneburner is working with Michigan DNR about an agreement with Gull Lake Park. The current one goes until June 2023. It should be completed on time. After the recent rains, there were properties on Doster Road concerned about the higher water level. There isn't anything the township can do about this, but Supervisor Stoneburner worked with them to help them figure out what to do. Gravel Roads, specifically Hickory Road, Bendere Road and Warner Road, were discussed with Jake from Barry County Road Commission. These are being addressed. Southwest Barry Sewer is making improvements that are needed. There was money saved in the budget this past year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There is \$2,083,539.31 in the Pooled Cash Account and Fund Balances are up to date.

There is nothing extraordinary happening.

There is \$206,095.77 left in ARPA funds.

Treasurer Pence is working with the bank to get better rates for the CD's.

Payoffs for Merlau Avenue and Southgate Road are being accepted.

She is helping the new Deputy Clerk, Ingrid Pagano, with payroll processes.

Treasurer Pence assured everyone that Prairieville is not trying to get out of the library.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS

Trustee Doster: Planning Commission – There was a public hearing and the special permit was approved. We are up to date about gravel mining. There will be a fencing ordinance and there was agreement on the verbiage.

Trustee DeVries: He received a call from a resident on Breezy Point who asked about their road being repaved. He looked at the information he had and shared it with them. If they start the process, Trustee DeVries is hoping that the township can support them.

He appreciated all the comments regarding the library. Supervisor Stoneburner and Trustee DeVries had a meeting with Marsha Bassett. Trustee DeVries stated, "We never wanted to pull out of supporting the library." He shared some history of his involvement with the library when he was on the library board. He said that there have been many good improvements at the library. At one point he discussed additional monies that had been given to the library and suggested to the library board to give the townships a break in how much was being paid by each township. He had contacted the state to find out what monies would be counted toward the 3 tenths of a mill that is charged to townships each year. All income could be counted. This idea was not well received. Currently the library fund balance is in very good shape. There was hope that the 3 townships could be beneficiaries, in some way, of some of the money. These are the facts. Trustee DeVries clearly stated, "We support the library, and we are just looking for a little help with expenses at each of the 3 townships."

CLERK'S REPORT Green Gables thanked them for the contribution. He shared comments about the library. There is also information for Chief Garrison's funeral services. Clerk Goebel said, "I wish Brenda Beasley, my former deputy clerk, all the best and welcome Ingrid Pagano, as the new deputy clerk. I am confident she will work out well."

PAYMENT OF BILLS

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Treasurer Pence, to pay bills in the amount of \$60,660.92; all ayes, motion carried.**

AMEND RESOLUTION 2023-8; Personnel Pay Schedule to add Recycle Coordinator

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Treasurer Pence, to pay recycling coordinator \$100 per event; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.**

ORDINANCE #177 Zoning Amendment

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Clerk Goebel, to adopt ordinance #177 pertaining to open air businesses; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.**

ORDINANCE #178 Michigan Gas Utilities Franchise

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner to approve ordinance #178, supported by Clerk Goebel; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.**

AV CART

Trustee DeVries has donated a movie screen/TV to the township. Clerk Goebel is suggesting that an AV cart be purchased so this can be used in either meeting room.

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to purchase AV cart H5003 in black for \$229.00; all ayes, motion carried.**

FIREWORKS

This is for the Pine Lake fireworks scheduled for July 2, 2023, with a rain date of July 3, 2023.

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to approve the permit for the Pine Lake fireworks application; all ayes, motion carried.**

SPEED STUDY

The goal is to limit the speed of vehicles on the north side of Gull Lake.

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Trustee Doster, to adopt Resolution 2023-12 to have a speed study conducted looking at a part of M43 on the north side of Gull Lake; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.**

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

Mary Collier
14315 Enzian Rd.

Mrs. Collier shared the benefits the library has had for her including activities and opportunities for kids. She is very supportive of the library.

Barry Bower

Supervisor of Barry Township

Supervisor Bower talked about his experience with Mark Doster, the Barry Township Police Chief. He was in attendance to say thank you as Mark retires from his career on April 28, 2023. He has worked as a Policeman for 40 years and his career is ending with the Barry Township Police Department. There was an ovation to thank Mark for his service.

BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Stoneburner: Former Fire Chief Richard Garrison passed away. April 28 there is visitation from 4-7 and Celebration of Life on April 29. More details will be posted online. Chief Garrison will be missed. Thank you all for being here.

Treasurer Pence: Thanks for attending tonight. I apologize for any wrong information that got out about the library. It was nice to hear from people.

Trustee DeVries: Thank you for our comments. We are ready for our pickle ball match with Barry Township. It is nice to see the support the library gets. It was good for us to hear that.

Clerk Goebel: Thanks for participating in the survey. We did it to gain information and I

learned that the internet spread the word. I too think the library is a great place for us. I am also a supporter of the library. Thank you, Mark, for serving our community.

Trustee Doster: I need a handkerchief. Thank you for your kind words. I have been in Prairieville and Barry Township for 24 years. My next step...my wife is getting her "honey do" list ready!

Adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Bliss DeVries