

1 MINUTES - PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP Regular Meeting
2 October 18, 2023; 6:30 PM at Prairieville Township Hall

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4 CALL TO ORDER

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

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7 ROLL CALL

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

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11 Members absent: none

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13 There were also 14 members of the public present.

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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.

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19 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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23 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 24 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner,**
25 **to approve the minutes of September 20, 2023, regular board meeting as**
26 **presented; all ayes, motion carried.**

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28 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

29 No commissioner was in attendance.

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31 COUNTY CLERK INTRODUCTION

32 Cindy White will be the new clerk for Barry County. She was welcomed by the
33 Prairieville Township Board, and they look forward to working with her.

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

37 Cindy Twichell

38 12650 Pine Lake Rd.

39 Last week Mrs. Twichell attended the Energy Commission Meeting. The bills being
40 discussed will give full authority to the state in some areas. Two examples are gravel pits
41 and alternative energy which will need farmlands. This authority over gravel pits and
42 alternative energy are currently held by townships and other municipalities. She is
43 concerned that it is stated in the bill that it will regulate our township. The members said
44 they would never use eminent domain to take farmlands. This is not what has happened
45 in the past. She is also concerned that public comment at the meeting left very little time
46 for the public to comment.

47 John Lake
48 Irving Township
49 There are currently 20 bills that are gun related. More of these are coming about. Mr.
50 Lake's concern is these bills will go against the 2nd amendment. He shared other history
51 of this issue. Mr. Lake is requesting the Prairieville Township Board ask Barry County
52 Commissioners to make Barry County a 2nd Amendment sanctuary county. He also asked
53 Prairieville Township to enact Prairieville as a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Township. He is
54 concerned that Barry County Commissioners are not representing the people.

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56 FIRE REPORT

57 Chief Brian Uridge gave the report, and it will be put on file. Mary Herzog announced her
58 retirement after 30 years of dedicated service to the Prairieville Township Fire
59 Department.

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61 POLICE REPORT

62 The report was given by Chief Mike Reizin, and it will be put on file. They are setting up a
63 civilian Search and Rescue and asking for volunteers to help. These people can be from
64 any township just as the Search and Rescue will help other townships. Chief Reizin also
65 said there have been uncomfortable and possible dangerous conditions that are
66 increasing. He stressed that people should not hesitate to call 911 if you are concerned
67 about a situation.

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69 PARKS REPORT

70 Gary Baumgardner reported for the Parks Board. The report included a new automatic lift
71 gate at Gull Lake with a proximity sensor. The current one has broken down several times.
72 There has been approval from EGLE to put a passive drain system at Upper Crooked
73 Lake. They are getting quotes to resurface the pickle ball courts and looking at putting a
74 storage building at Pine Lake Recreation. Ordinance 175 is about annual passes, and
75 they are currently investigating making it more user friendly.

76
77 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

78 Supervisor Stoneburner:

- 79 ○ Parks have a new attendant hired to work with TK. They are getting a lot of things
80 accomplished. Supervisor Stoneburner is proud of what has been done so far. It is
81 making a difference.
- 82 ○ There are no delinquent charges for Gull Lake Sewer and Water as well as
83 Southwest Barry County Sewer Authority.
- 84 ○ They are looking at an Access Point Study. This is for a half mile stretch of M43 at
85 Gull Lake. The purpose of this is to have the speed limit lowered. It was turned
86 down once, but it is a very dangerous area that needs to be relooked at. Speed
87 signs are being put up and data is being collected. They will be providing this data
88 as well as getting signatures of support. This will be shared with State Police and
89 MDOT.

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92 TREASURER'S REPORT

- 93 ○ Treasurer Pence reported as of October 1 the pooled cash which includes general
- 94 fund, ARPA balance, road, fire, police, parks, weed assessments for Pine Lake and
- 95 Crooked Lake and all individual road assessments is **\$1,899,257.20.**
- 96 ○ In addition, she went to Hastings and checked on CD's.
- 97 ○ Her reports will be put on file.

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99 TRUSTEES' REPORTS

100 Trustee Doster:

- 101 ○ Planning Commission – There were 3 hearings. The residents at 15505 M43 had
- 102 dimensions that did not fit with their request. They will update and return. The
- 103 residents at 12831 M89 had a hearing that will be addressed further down on the
- 104 agenda. The other scheduled family did not show up.
- 105 ○ The Planning Commission agreed on verbiage for a permit to use for fencing. Then
- 106 they discovered there was an ordinance that addressed this. The fencing permit
- 107 will be pulled from that verbiage. This will come back to the board in December.

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109 Trustee DeVries:

- 110 ○ At the ZBA meeting last month there was one hearing. It was a residence on Upper
- 111 Crooked Lake. The front setback was denied. The back set back was tabled. They
- 112 will return on November 1 to address this with a different plan for the back setback.
- 113 ○ We are currently looking for an alternate for ZBA.
- 114 ○ Trustee DeVries told Cindy that he hopes she had a chance to look at the website.
- 115 He informed her Prairieville Township budget was on the website.
- 116 ○ Trustee DeVries addressed the concerns with the state taking over current
- 117 township responsibilities. This may also affect money that goes to the township as
- 118 the state could take over a part of it.
- 119 ○ The lake level issue at Pine Lake has been put on hold. The County Commission
- 120 approved the 5-year permit for Drain Commissioner Jim Dull but it has stipulations.
- 121 Trustee DeVries stated that the stipulations may put the issue to bed. He also
- 122 explained who will be paying for the \$300,000.00 plus money that has been spent
- 123 on the Pine Lake Level issue to this point. The current owners in the current
- 124 assessment district will pay this money.
- 125 ○ He had two questions about the revenue and expenditure report. The answer to
- 126 one was because a bill has not been received. This may create a situation where
- 127 a large amount is paid out in one month. The second question will be investigated.

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129 CLERK'S REPORT

- 130 ○ Clerk Rod Goebel welcomed Ms. White and invited her to the Clerk's meeting.
- 131 ○ There is \$1500 year to date in civil fines at the parks.
- 132 ○ Payments for the Watson Drain District continue.
- 133 ○ February election starts in earnest in the middle of December.

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135 PAYMENT OF BILLS

- 136 ● **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Treasurer Pence, to approve**
- 137 **payment of the bills in the amount of \$110,313.35; all ayes, motion carried.**
- 138 This amount includes two quarterly library payments.

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RESOLUTION 2023-17 MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

This is about the joint agreement to conduct early voting for even year elections. Barry Township and Prairieville Township will be working together. Essentially it will share costs and responsibilities during the 9 days of early voting.

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner, to adopt resolution 2023-17, discussion; roll call vote, all voted aye and motion carried. It is duly adopted on this date.**

APPRAISALS PLUS PROPOSAL

Supervisor Stoneburner gave the background of the move 9 years ago. This is the first increase in 9 years. Working with Appraisals Plus has worked out well. The board feels it is a good value.

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to renew the contract for Appraisals Plus for 5 years; all ayes, motion carried.**

AQUATIC WEED CONTROL STATEMENTS

After looking at fund balances and paying outstanding invoices, Trustee DeVries and Clerk Goebel agreed both lakes should be charged a full assessment for weed control.

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to adopt the recommended assessments and include them on the winter tax bills for Pine Lake and Crooked Lake. There was discussion; all ayes, motion carried.**

APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The auditors sent an audit report. If it is approved by the board, it can be adopted.

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Treasurer Pence, to adopt the financial statement from Siegfried and Crandall and accept the audit report for fiscal year 2022-2023; all ayes, motion carried.**

PLANNING COMMISSISON RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Commission approved this request for property at 12831 M89 HWY. It is Trustee Doster's hope the board will also approve this.

- **Motion by Trustee Doster, supported by Trustee Goebel, to adopt the zoning request to change from A to R1 for property at 12831 M89 HWY; roll call vote; all ayes, motion carried. Motion is duly adopted on this date.**

RESOLUTION 2023-18 PERSONNEL PAY AMENDMENT

There have been modifications made to the current pay scale. There is a pay increase for the police chief and officer which was approved by the board in September. Requested in this is an increase for the clerk and deputy clerk. Clerk Goebel explained this need, including the reasons for the request. He mentioned all the services we provide and the time consuming elections that are ahead.

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Trustee Doster, to approve the amended personnel schedule resolution 2023-18; roll call vote,**

185 **all ayes, motion carried. This resolution is duly adopted.**

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BAY VIEW S.A.D.

This was agreed to at the last meeting. Attorney Kaufmann said the township must have a copy of the road commission plan. Barry County Road Commission will not do private roads which Highland Drive is. Due to this, Barry Township lost interest in participation. Now there are 5 people from Barry Township who will not be a part. Clerk Goebel got an estimate from Jake at the Barry County Road Commission. He then came up with two estimates of cost with one adding a 5% contingency and one adding a 10% contingency. There were questions and this was discussed. It was a consensus to go with the 5% contingency.

Clerk Goebel will talk to Attorney Kaufmann about dates for the meetings. He is looking forward to the first meeting being in January.

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

Shelley Lake
Irving Township

Mrs. Lake said she is impressed with Prairieville Township Board. She had put together a matrix of township costs and will share the matrix. Irving Township will be hiring an election specialist to help ease the huge amount of work the clerk and deputy clerk will have. The service that picked up deer carcasses is no longer providing this provision. You are directed to call the sheriff's number if there is a dead deer that needs to be removed. They do not come out. She offered to help with access point study and has others who will volunteer.

Rod Francisco
15737 Enzian Rd.

Mr. Francisco wanted to show his appreciation to those who are hoping for a resolution regarding the second amendment. He offered to help with the pump at Cressey Cemetery.

Cindy Twichell

Thanks for standing up against the Energy Bills and being for the farmland. The government is here to protect the welfare of the people. We the people can stop the bill.

John Lake
Irving Township

If solar farms are built, it will affect our food source. Our food is grown on prime farmland that will be used for alternative energy. He is very concerned about alternative energy.

BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Stoneburner: thank you for your comments.

231 Treasurer Pence: Thanks everyone for coming. Congratulations to Ms. White.
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233 Trustee DeVries: I also want to thank everyone for coming. Where do we stand on the
234 copy machine? Clerk Goebel answered that it is being put together at this point and
235 they are waiting. There is an informational meeting by the COA at Delton Library on Oct.
236 19.
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238 Clerk Goebel: Thank you all for coming and I look forward to working with Cindy. Search
239 and Rescue gives me a great excuse to get outside. Rod, I will take you up on the well
240 repair.
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242 Trustee Doster: Thank you for attending tonight. Next month's meeting is on Nov. 8 due
243 to the November 15th national holiday!
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245 Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
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247 Respectfully submitted,
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250 MaryAnn Bliss DeVries
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