

1 MINUTES - PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP Regular Board Meeting
2 March 20, 2024; 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 to approve the agenda as presented, supported**
21 **by Trustee Doster; all ayes, motion carried.**

22
23 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 24 • **Motion by Trustee Doster to approve the minutes of February 15, 2024,**
25 **regular board meeting as presented, supported by Clerk Goebel; all ayes,**
26 **motion carried.**
- 27
- 28 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries, to approve minutes for March 7, 2024, Budget**
29 **Workshop for roads and general budget including \$8000 for the**
30 **Enforcement Officer, supported by Trustee Doster; all ayes, motion carried.**
- 31
- 32 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries, to approve minutes from the March 6, 2024,**
33 **Budget Workshop for Fire Department and Police Department, supported**
34 **by Trustee Doster; all ayes, motion carried.**
- 35
- 36 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel to approve meeting minutes from February 12,**
37 **2024, Budget Workshop with the Parks Board, supported by Trustee**
38 **Doster; all ayes, motion carried.**

39
40 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

41 No commissioner was in attendance.

42
43 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per person) (Please state your name and address for
44 the Recording Clerk.)

47 Stan Vandrey
48 Burr Oak St.
49 Plainwell

50 Mr. Vandrey wanted to give public appreciation to Chief Reizin and Supervisor
51 Stoneburner. He had a situation at his home which no one had addressed. Within a
52 few hours these men had taken care of the problem. They were so helpful, and he was
53 impressed with their professionalism. Mr. Vandrey stated that he appreciated that.

54
55 Cindy Twichell
56 12650 Pine Lake Rd

57 Mrs. Twichell talked about the resolution about becoming a sanctuary township. Currently
58 8 out of 13 townships in Barry County have passed this. For another 3, it will be brought
59 to the table by the end of March or beginning of April. She is looking forward to being here
60 next month. I want to help.

61
62 FIRE REPORT

63 The report was given by Captain Tyler Brownell and a copy will be put on file. Report
64 included calls for service.

65
66 POLICE REPORT

67 The report was given by Chief Reizin. He also gave a list of calls for service. February
68 was quiet. The third officer for the township is currently in training. Brandon is one of the
69 top in his class. In reference to the state's new laws, police will meet with the prosecutor's
70 office to iron the details out. Speed signs data is informative. The data helps to deter
71 speeding. Data collected is from all the speed signs. This data, from all locations, shows
72 a deterrence in speed. Clerk Goebel asked if it could record data without showing the
73 speed. This will be tried. They had to move a sign from M 43 but did it temporarily and
74 willingly.

75
76 PARKS REPORT

77 Judy Risdon reported on the Parks and thanked the board for a smooth budget hearing.
78 They are currently doing park visits. The list of needs is growing. An Eagle Scout is
79 working on the handicap dock at Gull Lake. Trustee DeVries asked about current board
80 members who will run again. Gary Baumgardner got petitions for the parks members who
81 want to run for reelection. These will be signed at their next meeting. After signed,
82 Treasurer Pence said she will notarize them. There is a Pine Lake Rec account at Big C
83 Lumber in Delton. This can be used when building the new storage barn at Pine Lake
84 Rec. Park Manager TK Pence has a card with colors to choose from. One color needs to
85 be chosen. Supervisor Stoneburner asked about an accident in front of Judy Risdon's
86 house. He requested the cross be taken down as it was not a fatal accident.

87
88 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

89 Supervisor Stoneburner

- 90 ○ The Barry County Road Commission gravel road tour will be April 2-5. Prairieville
91 needs to sign up for this. The board chose April 3 at 10:30 as the first choice for
92 this tour.

- 93 ○ Supervisor Stoneburner talked to the builder about a barn and living quarters on
94 the 30 acres on Rich Lane. There is a demo permit for the old barn on this property.
95 The gentleman who lives on Gull Lake and owns the property will not be building
96 19 homes on this property as had been heard. There will be only one newly
97 constructed barn with a greenhouse overlooking the lake. This shouldn't interfere
98 with reconstruction of the road on Rich Lane. They will proceed with the process to
99 reconstruct the road. Clerk Goebel will re-start the process with new notifications
100 and postings.
- 101 ○ The Board of Review went well, and Supervisor Stoneburner wants to compliment
102 all of the Board of Review members. He thanks everyone for their hard work, well
103 done!

104
105 TREASURER'S REPORT

106 Treasurer Pence

- 107 ○ We have \$2.4 million in our pooled account.
- 108 ○ We are earning interest from our money market.
- 109 ○ The CD amount increased \$2000.
- 110 ○ The cost to support the library increased this year from \$60,000 to a total of
111 \$69,000.
- 112 ○ The library is currently looking at purchasing the land behind them.
- 113 ○ Delinquent taxes for 2023 are around \$225,000.00.

114 Treasurer Pence said if anyone has questions, to ask her.

115 Trustee DeVries asked some questions:

- 116 ○ There was a question about the road fund balance. Treasurer Pence will delve into
117 it as she agrees it seems high.
- 118 ○ Trustee DeVries wants to make sure the Oakridge Road account is correct.
119 Treasurer Pence will be looking at it.

120
121 TRUSTEES' REPORTS

122 Trustee Doster: Planning Commission meeting last week was requested by Jeff Brown to
123 rezone property. The area was R1 and the request is it be changed to C1. At the meeting
124 there were Ideas that came up and Mr. Brown will return to request rezoning in May. The
125 rest of the meeting was about solar and wind ordinances. The state is now controlling
126 large areas of land. There are petitions to bring back ordinance control to the townships
127 for solar and wind power.

128
129 Trustee DeVries: At the Planning Commission meeting I learned a lot about signs and
130 rezoning. The Zoning Board of Appeals met about a variance request on Shelp Lake. It
131 was denied. Dan, our auditor, is doing the ARPA report in April. I have a copy of what we
132 have done so far. This report will be fiscal year to fiscal year. I am handing this to Clerk
133 Goebel and Treasurer Pence to pass it on to Dan. I got ahold of Andy from PLM. He will
134 be attending the April meeting to discuss Pine Lake weed assessment projects. He will
135 explain what is being done, what a continued program will look like and allow for questions
136 from members of the audience. I requested both 5-year and 7-year quotes. A question to
137 think about: are we comfortable starting the process for a continued assessment or should
138 we have Pine Lake collect signatures?

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CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Goebel

- There is a pile of bills to pay this boring month.
- There was talk about the election. Trustee DeVries said, "Nice job, with elections Clerk Goebel. Prairieville was one of the few who had things set up well and it made a difference. The credit for that goes to Clerk Goebel." Clerk Goebel said that he appreciated the crew who worked.
- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$171,716.55, which includes Watson Drain, PCI and road payoff for Merlau, supported by Treasurer Pence; all ayes, motion carried.**

AED Quote

Background

Clerk Goebel explained that this came up a while back. He has done some research and wants to thank Tyler Brownell for his help. Clerk Goebel recommends the Heart Start unit. It is automatic and will guide you through the process. There is a storage cabinet for it. The recommended unit is \$1572, pads are \$40-60, and the cabinet is \$249. Clerk Goebel would also like to get them in police vehicles. Chief Reizin complimented our MMRs who are at the scene so quickly.

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel to get a Phillips Head Start unit for the township hall with pads and a storage unit at no more than \$1820.00, supported by Trustee DeVries; all ayes, motion carried.**

Par-Plan Grant

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel to approve a \$5000 Par-Plan application, support Supervisor Stoneburner; all ayes, motion carried.**

2023-2024 Budget Adjustments

The full list of these proposed adjustments can be found at the end of these minutes.

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel to adopt budget adjustments for fiscal year 2023-2024, Trustee DeVries supported, there was discussion as the adjustments were investigated. Several questions came up. It was decided how these would be corrected, and there was a vote; all ayes, motion carried.**

Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner, to go into the Prairieville Township Public Budget Hearing; all ayes, motion carried.

Resolution 2024-4

Supervisor Salary

- **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee DeVries, to adopt Supervisor's salary for fiscal year 2024/2025 at \$29,000.00 per annum; roll**

181 **call vote, all ayes, motion carried.**

182

183 Resolution 2024-5

184 Clerk Salary

- 185 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Treasurer Pence, to adopt Clerk's**
- 186 **salary for fiscal year 2024/2025 at \$38,080.00 per annum; roll call vote, all**
- 187 **ayes, motion carried.**

188

189 Resolution 2024-6

190 Treasurer Salary

- 191 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner to adopt**
- 192 **Treasurer's salary for fiscal year 2024/2025 at \$34,000.00 per annum; roll**
- 193 **call vote, all ayes, motion carried.**

194

195 Resolution 2024-7

196 Trustee Salary

- 197 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner, to adopt**
- 198 **Trustees' salary for fiscal year 2024/2025 at \$150.00 per meeting; roll call**
- 199 **vote, all ayes, motion carried.**

200

201 Resolution 2024-8

202 Personnel Pay Schedule 2024-2025

203 There was discussion and agreement to change per diem to per meeting for those

204 areas applicable.

- 205 • **Motion by Supervisor to adopt amended pay scale effective April 1, 2024 to**
- 206 **March 31, 2025 for personnel, supported by Trustee DeVries; roll call vote,**
- 207 **all ayes, motion carried.**

208

209 Resolution 2024-9

210 Investment Policy

- 211 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Clerk Goebel, to approve**
- 212 **Prairieville Township Investment Policy resolution 2024-9: all ayes, motion**
- 213 **carried.**

214

215 Resolution 2024-10

216 General Appropriations Act

217 The budget summary can be found at the end of these minutes.

- 218 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Clerk Goebel, to adopt**
- 219 **2024-10 with the budget summary, roll call vote; all ayes motion carried.**

220

221 2024-11

222 Road Fund Appropriation Act

- 223 • **Clerk Goebel moves to adopt 2024-11 Road Fund Appropriations Act,**
- 224 **supported by Supervisor Stoneburner; roll call vote, all ayes, motion**

225 carried.

226

227 2024-12

228 Fire Fund Appropriations

- 229 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner to approve the Fire Fund Appropriations**
230 **2024-12, supported by Clerk Goebel; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.**

231

232 2024-13

233 Police Fund Appropriations

- 234 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner to adopt 2024-13 Police Fund**
235 **Appropriations, supported by Clerk DeVries; roll call vote,**
236 **Supervisor Stoneburner-yes**
237 **Trustee DeVries-yes**
238 **Clerk Goebel-no**
239 **Treasurer Pence-no**
240 **Trustee Doster-no**
241 **The motion does not carry.**

242

243 Clerk Goebel said if there was a change in the resolution by removing the new vehicle,
244 he could support it. There was a discussion.

- 245 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee Doster, to have the Explorer**
246 **police cruiser looked at by the dealer where it is under warranty. This will**
247 **decide if a new vehicle is needed or if repairs are needed. If it is necessary,**
248 **the township board will pay for any repairs and if a replacement vehicle is**
249 **needed it will be purchased. If a new vehicle is not purchased the cell**
250 **tower money will be returned to the parks. Discussion, roll call vote:**
251 **Clerk Goebel – yes**
252 **Treasurer Pence – yes**
253 **Trustee DeVries – yes**
254 **Supervisor Stoneburner – no**
255 **Trustee Doster – yes**
256 **The motion carries and is duly adopted on this date.**

257

258 2014-14

259 Park Fund Appropriations

- 260 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel to adopt 2024-14 Park Fund Appropriations,**
261 **supported by Supervisor Stoneburner; roll call vote, all ayes, motion**
262 **carried.**

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265

266 2024-15

267 Meeting Schedule

268 There was discussion and agreement to move the Planning Commission to the second
269 Tuesday in November.

- 270 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel to adopt 2024-15 the meeting schedule as**

271 **amended, supported by Treasurer Pence; roll call vote, all ayes, motion**
272 **carried.**

273
274 2024-16
275 Office Calendar
276 Clerk Gobel went over changes in the calendar and December 26 was added as a day
277 off.

278 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries to adopt 2024-16 as amended, supported by**
279 **Trustee Doster; roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.**

280
281
282 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel to close the public budget hearing, supported by**
283 **Trustee DeVries; all ayes, motion carried.**

284
285 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per person) (Please state your name and address for
286 the Recording Clerk.)

287 Stan Vandrey

288 Burr Oak

289 Plainwell

290 He observed that Chief Reizin was not allowed to speak when he requested. Supervisor
291 Stoneburner explained that they had talked about it.

292
293 BOARD COMMENTS

294 Supervisor Stoneburner: I was disappointed in the way the budget hearing for the police
295 budget was conducted.

296
297 Treasurer Pence: Looking forward to a new year.

298
299 Trustee Reports:

300 Trustee Doster nothing

301
302 Trustee DeVries Thank you for staying for this meeting.

303
304 Clerk Goebel: Glad that is over.

305
306 Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

307
308 Respectfully submitted,

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310
311 MaryAnn Bliss DeVries