

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 19, 2023

6:30 PM

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**CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 PM**

**ROLL CALL:** Supervisor Jim Stoneburner Present Clerk Rod Goebel Present  
Treasurer Judy Pence Present  
Trustee Ted DeVries Present Trustee Mark D. Doster Present  
All Present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR TROOPS**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made to accept the agenda as amended by Trustee Ted DeVries, second by Trustee Mark D. Doster Motion Carried**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 21, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Trustee Ted DeVries second by Supervisor Jim Stoneburner Motion Carried**

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Presented by**

Neither Commissioner is present. Trustee Ted DeVries voiced concern that neither Commissioner has been present at our last few meetings. As Trustee Ted DeVries either attends or views the Meeting of the Whole, he has noticed that the Commissioners state **they have attended their township’s meetings.**

**Supervisor Jim Stoneburner will contact both the Commissioners and ask for their attendance.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: [3 MINUTES PER PERSON. Please state name and address for the Recording Clerk]**

None

**FIRE REPORT: ON FILE**

The Chief reports June as their busiest month, 36 calls. The safety net responded to ten calls with eight transports. 141 total calls for service.

Taylor Stewart passed her EMT exam. Congratulations Taylor! Casey Flick will be taking her exam tomorrow, & Michaela will take her exam in August, and 1 member to start her MMRF course.

50 yr. old concrete has been replaced! And it looks good.

**POLICE REPORT: ON FILE Chief Reizin**

50 calls for service. 2 false alarms, 2 domestic violence, 7 mutual aide calls, 8 assist fire & EMS, 1 narcotics complaint, 1 sex assault, 1 child abuse, 1 felony arrest, 3 civil matters, 4 larcenies, 1 disorderly conduct.

Merlau Ave. now has 3 additional speed signs, three facing east and 1 facing west.

A speed study will be conducted on M43 near the launch site. Supervisor Jim Stoneburner will check as to the actual start date.

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A discussion was held concerning the appointment of Brandon Robertson as a candidate for the Police Academy in the State Program, which will pay \$24,000 for his education and his salary as he completes his education. The candidate will stay in Prairieville for 3 years after his training.

We need to check the budget to see if we can afford this.

The candidate is willing to meet with the board and sign a 3-year contract to stay in Prairieville for 3 years. As a reserve officer he would be responsible for his equipment.

Further discussion will continue after the Police & Fire Protection resolution discussion.

**PARKS REPORT: Scott Kuebler**

Treasures Report: \$214,000

Lower Crooked Lake has the kayak ramp in place.

Mulch in the Municipal Park will be redistributed. Supervisor Jim Stoneburner asked the mulch in the grassy area next to the road be blown into the play area so Burdo Lawn Care might mow.

Last Monday Wake the World was at Gull Lake taking under-privileged children out on the lake, on the wake boards. On Tuesday, they took the handicapped children out with skiers on either side. The children had such fun!

Supervisor Jim Stoneburner asked about the incident at the Pine Lake Launch. Scott says it was to be discussed at the Parks Commission Meeting. Supervisor Jim Stoneburner said he was there to observe one day. The contractors were there to do their job and did it well. Supervisor Jim Stoneburner and Chief Reizin will be attending the meeting.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Supervisor Jim Stoneburner**

Last month we discussed charging other townships for our services for mutual aid. We decided to not charge for services. Barry Bowers from Barry Township found a resolution stating the charges per man per hour, charges for use of equipment, etc. Barry Township has rescinded the schedule. Prairieville and Hickory Corners are also not charging for mutual aid.

**TREASURES' REPORT: ON FILE Treasurer Judy Pence**

Pooled Cash \$2,085,365.22

We received \$58,000 in revenue sharing.

CD's The Auditors suggested Michigan Class, investors for townships. A call has been made for a discussion.

New accounts have been set up with more contractors.

A fund, 402, will be set up for the fire & police for capital purchases. These will not reflect in the fire & police budgets.

A discussion was held on project finances as to repayment.

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Trustee Mark D. Doster**

1. Planning & Zoning

Good discussions were held regarding Lot Sizes in AG & R2 and the ordinance will remain the same except lot coverage will be decreased from 30% to 25% referring to cement driveways, walkways, roof coverage.

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- 68 2. Since the public hearing wasn't posted correctly, we will be having the hearing on fencing standards will  
69 be next month.  
70 3. A discussion regarding distance from the water to build was held. There are wetland concerns.  
71

72 **Trustee Ted DeVries**

- 73 1. The discussion for bids on the cemetery roads. More names have been collected.  
74 2. Pine Lake water levels are still a concern. The COW met and declined the dollars asked for by the Drain  
75 Commissioner. Crooked Lake has funds up to \$6million, Pine Lake is already at \$300,000. There needs to  
76 be a range set for expenditures and not just an open check.  
77 3. The ZBA denied the applicant's request. Suggestions were made and were rejected.  
78 4. I asked the Attorney for a way to get the minutes in a timely manner. Sometimes we don't get the  
79 minutes till the day before. There is no time to prepare for the next meeting. Minutes are to be available  
80 within 5 days and 8 days after approval. May need to have a minute taker for prompt recording of the  
81 minutes. 2 hours are the standard meeting times. Minute taker fees were discussed.

82 **CLERK'S REPORT:**

- 83 1. Bids for repairing the roads in the Cemetery are being sought. Bids will be requested for main road  
84 repairs and separately for repair of all the roads. It may be less expensive to do all the roads because of  
85 the size of the job. Supervisor Jim Stoneburner Thanked Rod for all the work that has been done on the  
86 cemetery and the updating of the records.  
87 2. Petitions have been received from the residents on Sunshine & Highland Drives to set up an assessment  
88 area for paving the road. The estimated cost is \$100,000. To assess the area and have public hearings will  
89 delay the repairs till September or October when the asphalt companies are closing.  
90 3. Barry County has received funds for Blight Housing repairs. Does Prairieville have any homes to qualify?  
91 We need to submit addresses for the County to assess and decide.  
92 4. The Solid Waste Committee is looking for a supervisor to sit on the committee.

93 **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS \$**

94 **A motion was made to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 19,913.55 by Trustee Ted DeVries and seconded**  
95 **by Supervisor Jim Stoneburner 4[four] yeas; 1[one] nay Motion Carried**

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97 **Resolution 2023-15**

98 **A motion was made by Clerk Rod Goebel and seconded by Supervisor Jim Stoneburner to approve**

99 **Resolution 2023-15, naming Clerk Rod Goebel as the current Clerk.**

100 **Roll call Vote:** Trustee Ted DeVries, yea Trustee Mark D. Doster yea Clerk Rod Goebel yea

101 Treasurer Judy Pence yea Supervisor Jim Stoneburner yea

102 **Resolution 2023-15 is duly accepted on this date.**  
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**Speed Signs Chief Reizin**

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1. Residents over the Township have complaints about speeding in certain areas.

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2. We have an option to purchase 2 Radar Speed signs to be rotated to different areas, attach to any pole [Supervisor Jim Stoneburner will check with Consumers as to using their power poles],

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3. The two signs include 4G Network, sim cards, 2-year period for \$400, and a 2-year warranty.

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4. How much will it cost for insurance to cover destruction of property of the signs?

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**A motion was made by Clerk Rod Goebel, seconded by Trustee Mark D. Doster to purchase a Twin Pack Evolis Radar Speed Signs without connection options and the 4G subscription. Yeas carried.**

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**Police and Fire Protection- Trustee Ted DeVries**

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Attorney Kaufman, Supervisor Jim Stoneburner, and I discussed how to get a millage to meet the needs of the Township.

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1. We pay for our Police and Fire Protection through millage collected December through February.

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The current millage for Police and Fire is not adequate to cover the Township. Two attempts to pass a millage have failed. Residents have been strapped by assessments, Pine Lake, Upper Crooked Lake, Watson Drain costs.

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2. Currently we have coverage of 80 hours per week out of 168 hours. Of those 168 hours there is no one on the road.

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Chief Reizin, Barry County only has 2 officers on the road at a time. The State Police only have 2 for the County. A third officer would increase coverage.

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3. As for Fire, new people are needed, expenses, equipment, and classes.

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A millage renewal and millage increase could be replaced by a Resolution of intent to:

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A. Create a Special assessment area across the township to replace the millage for Fire & Police.

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B. Every year, the Board would institute a new assessment, either higher or lower than the last.

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C. The assessment is based on the Taxable Value of the Property

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D. The current budget covers 2 police officers, we need three.

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E. There is increasing use of this method because voters are not passing millages.

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F. A Resolution of Intent needs special hearings, notices sent to individual residents for Special Public Hearings

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- Sending a notice to each resident, having a public hearing would cost the Township \$14,000

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- A second public hearing would cost \$7,000. Clerk Rod Goebel

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- Clerk Rod Goebel feels the residents would pass a single millage. Let the people decide.

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- A yearly public hearing would require a line budget item.

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➤ **Clerk Rod Goebel moves Resolution for Police & Fire Protection be tabled until a special meeting can be scheduled with Attorney Kaufman. Seconded by Treasurer Judy Pence. Yeas carried.**

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➤ **A motion was made by Supervisor Jim Stoneburner to table the discussion for accepting Brandon Robertson as a Cadet for the Police Academy in January 2024, until after the meeting with Attorney Kaufman, seconded by Treasurer Judy Pence Years carried.**

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- 147 ➤ **A motion was made by Trustee Doster to allow Chief Reizin to bring Brandon Robertson as a**  
148 **Reserve Officer until he is accepted to the Academy in January 2024, Seconded by Supervisor**  
149 **Jim Stoneburner Yeas carried.**

150 Discussion What is our liability for these reserve officers? Chief Reizin, they sign a waiver.

151 **PUBLIC COMMENT: [3 MINUTES PER PERSON. Please state name and address for the Recording Clerk]**

152 Richard Van Niman, 12710 Merlau Ave, I hope you don't compare the Watson Drain Project to the Pine  
153 Lake Water Level issue. The Watson Drain is a drain issue not a water level with the level set by the court.  
154 Keep in mind trees do not grow in water. The water levels are going down.

155  
156 Scott Kuebler, 9775 Ford Road, Are there ARPA funds for the Reserve Officer? Chief Reizin, this is State  
157 Funding. Trustee Ted DeVries, The ARPA funds are for the speed signs.

158 Have we heard anything about spraying for the Gypsy Moths? Supervisor Jim Stoneburner, no,  
159 we have not heard anything yet.

160 **BOARD COMMENTS:**

161 **Supervisor Jim Stoneburner** Thank you Rod for all the work you're doing for the cemetery and for updating  
162 the records. Thank you Chief Reizin, you have arranged the best coverage we ever  
163 had. Mike has been working at officer retention. Keep up the good work, you & your reserve officers.

164 **Clerk Rod Goebel** Thank you for making me a special representative.

165 **Treasurer Judy Pence** I'm happy!

166 **Trustee Ted DeVries** Thanks!

167 **Trustee Mark D. Doster** Thank you for coming.

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171 **A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Ted DeVries, seconded by Clerk Rod Goebel yeas carried.**

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173 **ADJOURN: 8:45 PM**

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175 **Respectfully Submitted:**

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177 **Lorraine Brown**

178 **Minute-Taker**