

1 MINUTES - PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP Regular Meeting
2 September 20, 2023; 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, Trustee DeVries and Trustee
9 Doster

10
11 Members absent: Treasurer Pence

12
13 There were also 14 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, supported by Trustee Doster,**
21 **to approve the agenda as amended adding Representative Rachel Smit**
22 **after the Commissioner’s Report; all ayes, motion carried.**

23
24 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 25 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Trustee Doster,**
26 **to approve the minutes of August 16, 2023 regular board meeting as**
27 **presented. All ayes, motion carried.**

28
29 COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:

30 Commissioner David Jackson reported. He provided updates from the county meetings
31 including an update on the Pine Lake drain issue.

32
33 REPRESENTATIVE RACHEL SMIT

- 34 ○ Representative Smit provided a legislative update. She discussed the
35 committees that she is on which include elections. Representative Smit is
36 concerned about the elections and the issues the change entails. There is a push
37 to do national popular vote, she explained this and is not supportive of this
38 change. Representative Smit also talked about green energy and how it could
39 affect the farmland. The gravel issue could be taken up this fall. She is
40 supporting local control of both. Representative Smit thanked Prairieville
41 Township for the time to share during the meeting.

42
43 Questions from the audience:

- 44 ○ Is partial birth abortion going forward? No, it was pulled.
45 ○ When is the vote for the proposals? As soon as it comes out of committee there
46 is a five-day waiting period before it goes to the floor.

- 47
48 ○ How can we as a community get involved? There is no organization, but she
49 suggested they reach out to their representative's office.

50
51 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per person) (Please state your name and address for
52 the Recording Clerk.)

53 Cyndi Twichell

54 12650 Pine Lake Rd.

55 Mrs. Twichell read her concerns about the government and quotes from the founding
56 fathers. She brought up Commissioner Doster asking that the chair has the discretion to
57 call on people as he sees fit. The majority of the members feel the people should speak.
58 The people have elected representatives as they wish. She thanked this board for not
59 encroaching on individual rights.

60

61 FIRE REPORT

62 No one from the Fire Department was here but the report will be put on file.

63

64 POLICE REPORT

65 The report was given by Chief Mike Reizin. His report included complaints and other
66 issues they dealt with in August. They also took part in Delton Founder's Festival in
67 August. There was training for police that included mass casualty training for the schools
68 before schools started, training with law enforcement, and training with medical first
69 responders. All local areas are working together. Status on speed signs – should have
70 only been 2–4 weeks for shipping. It has been 4 weeks and it should be here soon. He is
71 also looking at how to get Norris Road and Pine Lake Road as a four way stop. His report
72 will be put on file.

73

74 PARKS REPORT

75 David Haas reported for the Parks Board. There are 25 fishing tournaments left on the
76 lakes. There construction for the boat wash drain. They are getting quotes for replacing
77 lift gates and pay stations. The job descriptions for parks employees are being rewritten.
78 They are looking at replacing all signs at all parks. The Parks Board has been asked about
79 a Scout project to replace handicap access for the dock at Gull Lake. It has been a good
80 summer.

81

82 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

83 Supervisor Stoneburner:

84 Working with PCI about enforcement officer. It might be advantageous to us to have our
85 own enforcement officer. There are blight issues, especially on Norris Road. He has been
86 working on a contract with Trustee DeVries and Chief Reizin.

87

88 TREASURER'S REPORT

89 Treasurer Judy Pence was not in attendance but left her reports.

- 90 ○ As of 9-1-2023 the pooled cash which includes general fund, ARPA balance, road,
91 fire, police, parks, weed assessments for Pine Lake and Crooked Lake and all
92 individual road assessments is **\$1,810,183.12.**

93 TRUSTEES' REPORTS

94 Trustee Doster:

- 95 ○ The Planning Commission had three public hearings at their last meeting. Two
- 96 requests were approved, and one was approved with conditions. There is a public
- 97 hearing in October.

98

99 Trustee DeVries:

- 100 ○ He received an email regarding the road project on Sunset Drive and Division Dr.
- 101 When Division Drive transitions to Highland Drive that part becomes a private road.
- 102 ○ Once again, effective Oct. 1 all plastic needs to be removed from the cemeteries.
- 103 ○ ZBA will be October 4 with a variance requested on Upper Crooked Lake.
- 104 ○ There are positions on ZBA and Planning Commission that expire at the end of the
- 105 year. We need to check with the people who currently have these positions, to see
- 106 if they are interested in continuing.
- 107 ○ Pine Lake was addressed by the County Commissioners about an upcoming EGLE
- 108 permit. In Trustee DeVries' opinion, the established legal lake level is too low.
- 109 ○ The county commissioners had a closed session to discuss Pine Lake. Since then,
- 110 we have heard nothing.
- 111 ○ There was a question about putting the budget on the website. He sent a question
- 112 out to MTA (Michigan Township Association) members about what their township
- 113 did. Trustee DeVries got back quite a few responses from other townships all over
- 114 the state. All of them post their budget on their website. Posting is from minimal
- 115 information to the entire budget. He put the Prairieville budget in a summary form
- 116 by departments and suggested this would be helpful to the public. If anyone wants
- 117 more details, that is available at the township office just as it has always been.
- 118 There is support from the board to be more transparent and there was a consensus
- 119 that the summary report would do just that.
- 120 ○ Annual weed assessments need to be addressed in October. Will the treasurer
- 121 have enough time? There is hope that the residents will be given a break in costs.
- 122 ○ Trustee DeVries talked with State Representative Angela Rigas in Hastings about
- 123 the issue with the permit through EGLE for Pine Lake. She suggested talking to
- 124 Representative Rachel Smit which has been done.

125

126 CLERK'S REPORT

127 Clerk Rod Goebel

- 128 ○ Clerk's meeting: The early voting required by the state will be a massive headache
- 129 and huge expense. They are trying to find an equitable way to service all equipment
- 130 over the 10 days of voting. There is required staffing with each day run as a
- 131 separate election. Barry County is working on a collaborative plan and currently
- 132 Barry Township and Prairieville Township will be working together and alternating
- 133 the site for early voting. The Presidential Primary date is in question, but planning
- 134 is based on the February 27 date.

135

136

137 PAYMENT OF BILLS

- 138 ● **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee Doster, to approve payment**

139 **of the bills in the amount of \$40,390.28; all ayes, motion carried.**

140

141 PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

142 Request was submitted by McBrides for partial rezoning of property for the Deb Young
143 Trust. The request involves deeding off a small section of the property. She is requesting
144 a change from Ag to R2. This was passed unanimously by the Planning Commission.

145

- 146 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner, to**
147 **approve the zoning change of parcel #12-008-018-36; from Ag to R2; roll call**
148 **vote, all ayes except Treasurer Pence was absent, motion carried.**

149

150 WEBSITE PROPOSAL

151 Background presented by Clerk Goebel:

- 152 ○ We are looking at updating the website. We are aware it is old technology and
153 needs updating. The Parks Board also wrote a proposal to update the website.
154 Bids received included:
 - 155 ○ Shumaker Technology Group sent a proposal. Clerk Goebel liked the
156 Schumaker Technology proposal and other board members agreed. They
157 have a nice product, and they are currently supporting our website. They
158 have 3 price plans.
 - 159 ○ There were 2 other companies also investigated.

160

- 161 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries to accept Schumaker’s bid for the platinum**
162 **package at \$3995.00 plus \$850 for the fully managed option funded through**
163 **ARPA funds, supported by Clerk Goebel. There was a discussion. The vote**
164 **was all ayes and the motion carried.**

165

166 COPIER PROPOSAL

167 Background presented by Clerk Goebel:

- 168 ○ The copier has reached its expiration date. Clerk Goebel investigated two
169 companies.
- 170 ○ Adams Remco services other copiers around here. They gave 2 bids for high
171 tech copiers and one for a basic copier.
- 172 ○ He also contacted Cornerstone that made a proposal for a 2-year-old refurbished
173 copier and a new copier, model MX 3071.
- 174 ○ He recommends purchasing model MX 3071 from Cornerstone as it is the most
175 cost effective and will more than meet our needs. They do not have a
176 maintenance agreement but charge for copies and provide maintenance, toner,
177 labor and parts without additional costs.

178

- 179 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Trustee Doster, to purchase copier**
180 **model M-3071 from Cornerstone Technologies for the price of \$3800.00**
181 **using ARPA funds, discussion; all ayes, motion carried.**

182

183 ELECTRONIC SIGN PROPOSAL

184 Background presented by Clerk Goebel:

185

- 185 ○ The township has wanted an electronic sign to better communicate with
186 residents.
187 ○ Clerk Goebel received quotes from two businesses. They both suggested putting
188 the sign in the island as you enter the parking lot. This can be done by moving
189 electricity to the island. It will be most visible there to oncoming traffic.

190 Bids were:

- 191 ○ Remco \$21,000 for sign and installation
192 ○ Sign Crafters, which provides a larger sign but is not as heavy duty by one
193 hundredth of an inch, \$9700.00 for sign and installation. Clerk Goebel
194 recommends going with Sign Crafters knowing the price is subject to
195 modifications with electrical.
196
197 ● **Motion by Clerk Goebel , supported by Trustee DeVries, to approve**
198 **purchase of an electronic sign for \$9700 from Sign Crafters understanding**
199 **the price is subject to modifications with electrical hook up. This purchase**
200 **is using ARPA funds. There was discussion. The vote was all ayes, motion**
201 **carried.**
202

203 CONTRACT PROPOSAL

204 Background presented by Supervisor Stoneburner and Trustee DeVries:

205 Supervisor Stoneburner:

- 206 ○ There are new contracts for Officer Green and Chief of Police Mike Reizin.

207 Trustee DeVries further explanation:

- 208 ○ To determine a fair contract they worked from old contracts and looked at current
209 salaries of other similar size police departments.
210 ○ One change was moving the Prairieville Chief of Police to a salaried position with
211 no hourly pay. To do this the salary was increased.
212 ○ Insurance: the township kept the family health plan if an employee requests it.
213 Right now, the employees of the police department each have a single plan.
214 They currently pay 10% of the cost of insurance monthly. If any full-time
215 employee declines health coverage, a \$4000.00 stipend toward alternative
216 medical coverage will be offered yearly.
217 ○ There was an Increase to 10% for MERS retirement plan for Chief.
218 ○ It is fairly standard but the contract allows the police chief to take the police
219 vehicle home if they live within the township. This will be good for the entire
220 township.
221 ○ The hourly contract for Paul Green increases his wages \$2.00 per hour. He
222 works 80 hours a week. Officer Green is eligible for overtime if it is needed. He is
223 also to receive holiday pay, and pay for sick time, etc.
224 ○ The Township gives 5% to MERS on Officer Green's behalf.
225 ○ Officer Green is required to come here to get a vehicle.
226 ○ Both contracts have an expiration date of March 31, 2025. They will then have
227 yearly contracts in line with the fiscal year.
228

229 Supervisor Stoneburner talked about issues that the police help residents with. Chief
230 Reizin gave examples of issues. The Chief said he likes his job and is invested in the

231 community. Officer Paul Green also likes his job and the community. Supervisor
232 Stoneburner added that we need to be competitive if we want to keep these guys around
233 a long time. He commented, "This is the best policing we have had. We have lost officers
234 because we didn't pay enough money. Training has made our department very prepared."
235

236 Audience comments:

- 237 ○ Deb Young said that Chief Mike Reizin is the best and we should try and keep
238 him.
- 239 ○ Another member of the audience suggested that if the board and township are
240 wanting to keep them, approve the contracts with the evaluation due in next 30
241 days.
- 242
- 243 ● **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Trustee DeVries, to**
244 **accept the new contract agreements for Chief Mike Reizin, and Officer Paul**
245 **Green with the stipulation there will be a board evaluation within the next**
246 **30 days. Discussion ensued. Clerk Goebel stated that the contract should**
247 **happen after employees' evaluations by the board. Supervisor Stoneburner**
248 **wants to approve contracts tonight and if an evaluation isn't satisfactory,**
249 **we need to address that. There was a roll call vote; 3 ayes (Supervisor**
250 **Stoneburner, Trustee DeVries and Trustee Doster) and 1 opposed (Clerk**
251 **Goebel), motion carries.**

252

253 SUNSHINE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

254 Clerk Goebel asked Jake from the County Road Commission to get a copy of a work
255 plan for the Sunshine Division Road. _Highland is private_ and can't be included in the
256 plan. Barry Township is reluctant to participate. Barry Township did agree that the plan
257 could be done without those 5 parcels on Highland. This will be pursued. Clerk Goebel
258 will talk to Barry Township and get it clarified. Percentages of resident approval need to
259 be relooked at. If it is set, the next step would be talking to Attorney Catherine Kaufman
260 and setting up meetings.

261

262 LONGPOINT PARCEL

263 There is a parcel on Long Point that when created, it did not have an owner. Upon
264 investigation we found that the people originally on the title had passed away. Now 5
265 owners share co-ownership as a right of way to the lake. After checking with Attorney
266 Catherine Kaufman about legality, they will move to the next step.

267

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

270

271

272 Cyndi Twichell
273 12650 Pine Lake Rd.
274 269-270-7039

275 Mrs. Twichell commented about the early Primary Election and cuts. She stated, "If this
276 is done, we will lose 95% of voting delegates to vote at the national convention. This is

277 a Michigan issue. We need a strong voice.” To get involved she suggested you contact
278 her. She has two nonpartisan groups that you can get involved in.

279
280 David Jackson
281 Barry County Commissioner
282 Next Tuesday there will be an election plan at the meeting as well as COA update.

283
284 David Haas
285 What does ARPA stand for? The answer was American Rescue Plan Act.

286
287 BOARD COMMENTS

288 Supervisor Stoneburner: Thanks Dave for being here and to everyone else.

289
290 Treasurer Pence: Absent

291
292 Trustee DeVries:
293 Thanks for coming tonight. I appreciate all who stayed for the entire meeting.

294
295 Clerk Goebel:
296 Nothing to add.

297
298 Trustee Doster:
299 Excavators will be here next week to start work on cemetery driveways.

300
301 Adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

302
303
304 Respectfully submitted,

305
306
307 MaryAnn Bliss DeVries

308