

Approved as amended, 2-16/09

Casco Township Trustees
Regular Meeting of January 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and led in the pledge of allegiance. Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, Cowie and approximately 9 from the public.

Overhiser rearranged the agenda due to peoples' schedules.

County Commissioner: Tom Jessup reported; his newsletter wasn't ready.

- The board of commissioners may have fewer meetings.
- The County is not required to do policing for any communities; they're only required to have a jail. A study group is looking at staffing and costs for policing.
- In May, there will be an intergovernmental meeting for all local units of government.
- The County Parks is updating their master plan which expires in 2010; local input is desired.
- Judge Sheridan retired; a replacement will be appointed by Gov. Granholm in next couple months.
- Transportation meetings: for info, contact Catherine Gillen, 616 396 5326
- Casey Jones is the new chair and Mark DeYoung is vice chair.
- Tammy Griggs is interim director of ACCOA (ALLEGAN COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING).
- Remodeling downtown jail is once again being considered

Graff commented that no Township representatives are on the Policing Study Team; Jessup responded that it was focused on finances and public would have opportunity to respond when report is completed.

Fennville District Library: Bob VandeVusse presented highlights from the annual report (Oct 1 2007 to Sept 30 2008):

- new youth librarian focused on meeting needs of students in schools for information (as schools experience cutbacks in library staffing)
- announced an agreement with South Haven library; Casco residents can get a michcard sticker on their Fennville library card and use it in SH; Bob will confirm that the SH Board has approved this.

Casco Senior Care Program: Marcy Formigoni reported that about 50 gifts had been distributed for holiday cheer to area seniors. Judy Graff shared an article about the benefit of seniors staying in their own homes.

ACCOA: No report.

Parks & Recreation: Bruce Brandon reported that the P&R Committee meets tomorrow.

ZBA: Met January 8; David Bentley's request for a variance to construct a covered porch addition to a single family residence was granted.

Planning Commission:

- Meets this Wednesday at 6 pm for final review of PUD ordinance;
- meeting at 7 pm is a special meeting to review site plan for fire house on 66th;
- will schedule public hearing for PUD after Wednesday.
- joint meeting on Saturday Feb 7 will address what we need, what we can afford regarding Master Plan updating; the PUD ordinance needs to get done.

SHAES: Ron Wise reported that SHAES (with Casco as Fiduciary) is applying for a grant for construction of Fire station:

- entitled to be reimbursed 10-15% of land purchase (\$30,000);
- proposal is that Casco purchase the property from the Bodfish family;

Cowie moved that Casco Township purchase the property from the Bodfish family, to be reimbursed by SHAES, at a purchase price of \$30,000, with property being deeded to Casco Township, seconded by Winfrey; Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, and Graff all voted yes in a roll call vote. The deed will go to SHAES when the loan is paid off (in a few years).

It was noted that SHAES has some bills to pay—for the acquisition of the land and 1st quarter services. Cowie moved that we pay SHAES bills prior to the next meeting, along with the LSL bill, 2nd by Winfrey; MSC.

Minutes: Cowie moved to approve the minutes of December 15, 2008, seconded by Graff; MSC.

Cowie also noted correspondence received from Mike Boler, Dan McCormack, and Judy McCormack about the PUD process; their emails were forwarded to the PC where they were read. A letter of resignation was received from Jeanne Hallgren. Lake Michigan College requests us to collect taxes on their behalf; consensus was that the contract will be renewed.

Balances:

General fund balance	407,265.76
Parks fund,	56,143.22
senior services,	21,927.51
Fire department,	429,878.66
Road fund	1,150.25
Cemetery care fund	26,433.71
chemflex,	50,489.13
15 month cd,	51,714.90
Collected tax account:	1,078,022.07

Winfrey moved and Ridley seconded payment of the following: General fund orders 19204-19254 in amount of \$32,473.71; collected tax orders, #2379-2392 in amount of \$110,618.08; Road fund, #1050, in amount of \$112,047.60. MSC.

Old Business

Stefan parcel: Paperwork was turned in and we are waiting for release of year 2 funding.

Casco Community hall gift: The Andrus family seeks to gift the Community Hall to the Township. The appraised value is \$65,000. Correspondence from Glenn Sperry was reviewed. Consensus was to receive the Community Hall as a gift. Overhiser suggested that the Parks & Recreation Committee meet with the Community Hall Board and the Band to figure out ideas on what to do with the building. Overhiser will call on insurance now that the Township owns the building. Cowie will send a thank you to Glenn Sperry and the Andrus family.

Hanenburg property: A meeting was held on December 23 with Jeanne Van Zoeren, Julie Cowie, Kevin Ricco from County Parks, and Allan Overhiser to explore county resources about acquiring the Hanenburg parcel. Ed Hanenburg will send a letter about gifting and tax valuation.

Roads: Overhiser said the question is what to pave: Adams Road, Washington St quotes are in hand. Gravel roads are showing wear; with another thaw, the gravel roads need to be checked out; culverts and ditches need attention. (Norm Fouts suggested that Mt. Pleasant roads need repair).

Moran lawsuit: Allan Overhiser has met with the attorney; our insurance carrier is covering attorney fees; the attorney is preparing a response to the complaints.

New Business:

Overhiser appointed Bruce Barker, to a 3 year term on the Planning Commission (through December 2011), seconded by Graff; MSC.

Overhiser moved to appoint Dutkowski to the Planning Commission for a short while, to finish the PUD ordinance and until another member can be named, seconded by Cowie; MSC.

Board of Review dates: Overhiser suggested setting the organizational meeting date for March 2 at 2pm. Overhiser moved this date and time, seconded by Cowie; MSC.

Additional Meeting dates are as follows:

Tuesday, March 10, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 pm

Thursday March 12, 1 to 4 and 6 to 9 pm

In discussion, it was noted that the taxable value normally increases by the CPI (consumer price index).

The Board of Trustees, the Planning Commission, and the ZBA will hold a joint meeting on Saturday, February 7 from 9 to 1 pm. Parks & Recreation should be included also. The agenda will include shoreline protection; overlay zones; and updating the master plan.

Question asked about when the notices of assessment will be sent out; the County equalization sends them out.

Overhiser announced a joint Trustee and Water/Sewer meeting on Wednesday, February 25 at 7 pm at the Township. This will give the public and both boards information on finances and the opportunity to examine options available to water/sewer authority such as reassessing, refinancing, and/or expanding service into other areas. The WS/A is probably going to refinance to extend time (for cash flow purposes). The actual financial crunch comes in 2011.

There will be handouts provided at the meeting; questions or suggestions should be turned in to Allan in the next couple of weeks so that they can be adequately addressed.

Technisand submitted a letter dated January 8, 2009, stating that there was no mining; this was received as the annual report.

Winfrey inquired if the roof has been checked out for missing shingles and snow; some shingles have been repaired.

Overhiser invited public comment:

Bob Sherwood provided information that the term of library representative is 4 years. Marilyn Jessup has probably served 2 years.

Eldon Ridley confirmed the upcoming road commission meeting, 1/21 at 7 pm.

Ridley moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Winfrey; adjourned.

Respectfully,

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk

Approved as amended

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Special Meeting of January 29, 2009

Agenda: To review and potentially approve Casco Senior Care Program grant application to Entergy Corporation

Supervisor Overhiser called the Special meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Present: Overhiser, ~~Graff~~, Winfrey, Ridley, and Marcy Formigoni, Casco Senior Care Coordinator. Absent: Julie Cowie, Clerk AND GRAFF.

Marcy presented details for an application of \$4744.00 in grant funds for senior wellness, which is half of a total budget of \$9070 for the program. Formigoni seeks to apply to Entergy Corporation for a grant.

The program is for exercise and includes two weekly programs for homebound seniors.

The grant application is due February 1, 2009.

Winfrey moved to apply for a grant of \$4744 from Entergy Corporation, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

Ridley moved to adjourn at 3:45 pm, seconded by Lu.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan W. Overhiser, Clerk pro tem

Approved 3/16/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting of February 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance. Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, and Cowie and approximately 7 interested persons.

Clerk presented the minutes of 1/12/09 for approval. Graff moved to approve, amending ACCOA to be spelled out as the Allegan County Commission on Aging, seconded by Winfrey, MSC. Cowie presented the Special meeting Minutes of 1/29/09, amended to show Graff as absent. Graff moved approval with Winfrey seconding, MSC.

Cowie distributed information from the recent MTA conference, including "The Six Pillars for Michigan's Prosperity" from People and Land (peopleandland.org); and a brochure on public participation from McKenna Associates. She expressed interested in having an ice cream social the day before Father's Day to engage the community in visioning for the Township Hall site and informing them of many services provided by the Township.

Cowie has sent correspondence to the donors of the Casco Community Hall and Glenn Sperry.

Winfrey presented the treasurer's report:

General Fund	\$409,025.75
Parks	55,895.76
Seniors	17,944.59
Fire Department Fund	336,259.41
Road Fund	1,163.51
Cemetery Care Fund	26,458.27
Chemflex	50,514.00
15 month CD	51,876.84
Collected Tax Account	645,824.79

Winfrey moved payment of General Fund orders #19255-19316 in amount of \$74,227.82; Fire Fund #3826-3828 in amount of \$93,984.35 and Collected Tax Orders #2393-2410 in amount of \$765,355.65, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

Questions were asked about the Bodfish purchase. Three checks of \$10,000 were issued for purchase of property for Fire Station, made by Casco Township.

Discussion ensued about changing internet service to improve speed throughout the building. Graff moved to authorize the Clerk to spend up to \$500 to make the change; Winfrey 2nd; MSC.

Winfrey reminded all that taxes are due tomorrow.

Overhiser reported on the State revenue sharing situation with the decrease in sales tax receipts due to the slumping economy; revenue is tight.

ZBA: No meeting.

Planning commission: will hold a public hearing on revisions to PUD ordinance on Wednesday at 7 pm; there are two openings for the Planning Commission. Overhiser announced that Matt Hamlin has offered his resignation and moved to receive it, Graff seconded; MSC. The Planning Commission has 6 members (including Rich Dutkowski, who is serving for a short time).

Casco Senior Care Program: Lisa Ross-Miller and Marcy Formigoni will attend a training on a "balance" program so they can lead that in the future, along with another exercise program,

the "heartsaver" program. Work continues on the data base, tax preparation services, and the Spring luncheon. The emphasis on wellness and balance is to help seniors not fall (because falls put them at risk of needing to move from independent living in their own homes).

Allegan County Commission on Aging: Graff presented a map of services showing where the Commission serves individuals throughout the County. Their current priorities are to hire a director and fill two positions: secretary and "gatekeeper." At present there is just one part time person.

Fennville district library: Marilyn Jessup announced the establishment of an endowment fund for the FDL through the Allegan County Community Foundation.

SHAES: The annual report is available.

Water/Sewer Authority: An upcoming special meeting scheduled for February 25 will be devoted to a financial update, with presentations being made by Ross Stein and Attorney Ron Bultje. Graff requested an agenda for this meeting be emailed to her.

County Commission: Tom Jessup distributed his monthly newsletter. The taxable values will be \$86 million off this year in Allegan. Five townships face water/sewer issues from developers who have gone bankrupt and left Townships with unpaid infrastructure. Shovel ready projects have been submitted to the State government to tap into federal money. Jessup continues to serve on same committees as last year except one.

Graff commented that the policing meeting government reps were invited to on short notice was not a good attempt to involve local leaders and was disrespectful of their schedules.

Old Business

Casco Community Hall: board voted to disband and turn over their funds to the Township, estimated at \$3800. The only function that needs to continue is band practice on Monday nights beginning in April. The Hall has been added to our insurance carrier at no additional cost. Overhiser proposed forming a community committee and figure out what to do with this gift.

Hanenburg property: Overhiser read a letter from Ed Hanenburg in which he expressed willingness to make available his lakefront parcel of 12 acres, 400' of frontage for acquisition by the Township. Assuming an appraised value of \$4 million, he would gift \$1 mil; we would contribute \$500,000 through the sale of our Lakeview parcel, and pursue a grant for the balance, with \$100,000 left unpaid (to be covered by other funds raised locally).

Next steps: secure appraisals for Hanenburg's parcel and the Lakeview (Miami Park) property; Winfey moved to authorize appraisals to be conducted by John Shea (who conducted the Stefan appraisal) at a cost of \$5000 or less; seconded by Ridley; MSC.

The MNRTF grant process has changed and acquisition requests need to be submitted by April 1. Cowie moved to authorize the Clerk to send a letter of intent on the Township's behalf, seconded by Graff; MSC.

Moran lawsuit: PUD public hearing is Wednesday; otherwise, no news.

Beatty lawsuit seeks vacation of roads and lots in Hollywood by the Lake, near Glenn Haven Shores. The Township has little interest in this matter and likely will not respond.

Roads: Ridley reported on the January 21 meeting of the Road Commission. Casco is in area 4 of the County. We will be paying \$30,000 for shoulders on the 1 mile of road to be paved on 60th. In further discussion, gravel roads are bad throughout the Township, along with 74th and Lake Ridge road (per Fred Kick, public attendee). Overhiser will review the 1997 and 1998

Water/Sewer bonds for an update on the Lake Ridge Road paving contract. He will also provide a more accurate plan at the next board meeting.

Fire Station: Overhiser presented a Legal Services Agreement, naming a local attorney to look at contracts related to the Township's pursuit of a USDA loan/grant to construct the fire station on 66th Street. Cowie moved approval, 2nd by Graff; MSC.

Overhiser stated that there is also an Architectural services contract; Winfrey moved to approve the Architectural Services contract, and have Overhiser sign it, seconded by Cowie; MSC.

Overhiser requested that the board set a hearing date to notify the public of the Township's intention to go forward with this construction project and enter into a debt obligation with the USDA. The public has a right of referendum, 45 days in which to initiate a vote on this proposed indebtedness. Decision made to set the meeting date for Wednesday February 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Review appointments: Due to the need to swear in BOR members within ten days of appointment, Overhiser appointed the following members: Will Hart, Eileen Mead and Ken DeWitte; with Ruth Hewitt and Cherie Brenner as alternates; Winfrey seconded. MSC with Cowie abstaining.

Cemetery rates—the following rate increases are proposed: resident burial from \$100 to \$125; nonresident from \$550 to \$600. Grave openings: resident, from \$300 to \$350; non-resident from \$550 to \$600; and disinterment, \$550 to \$600. Cowie moved to approve these rates proposed by Emil Wessling, effective July 1, 2009, seconded by Winfrey; MSC. Wessling will also provide an idea of needed cemetery-related capital expenditures to the Board.

Allegan County Aerial Imagery mapping: The County requests our participation; this was last done in 2004 at a cost of \$2000; the cost for 2009 is \$2110. Graff moved approval of mapping purchase, seconded by Winfrey; MSC.

Overhiser will see Patrick Hudson and will tell him we have no issues with the master plan for land use from South Haven Charter Township.

Overhiser opened public comment: there was brief discussion of the cost of roads

Ridley moved to adjourn at 9:11 pm, seconded by Winfrey.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk

Approved 4/20/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Special meeting of February 25, 2009, 6:30 pm

Present: Overhiser, Cowie, Ridley, Graff, and Winfrey.

Supervisor Allan Overhiser called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm, stating that the agenda of the properly noticed special meeting is to consider a resolution (see below) where the Township will enter into debt to construct a fire hall.

Overhiser explained that the Township, through USDA Rural Development funds, has the opportunity for a low interest loan and up to a 15% grant to construct a Fire Station on 66th just north of 109th Avenue for SHAES.

The resolution was read and discussion followed.

The \$700,000 figure is high, actual costs are projected to be lower.

This resolution is one document of many related to the project. SHAES is responsible for managing the construction aspect of the project, while Casco Township is the fiduciary.

Ridley moved and Cowie seconded support of the resolution.

In a roll call vote, Overhiser, Cowie, Ridley, Graff, and Winfrey all voted yes. There were no absences and no abstentions. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Graff moved to adjourn at 6:45 pm, Winfrey seconded; adjourned.

Submitted by

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk

RESOLUTION DECLARING OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE PROJECT
EXPENDITURES WITH BOND PROCEEDS AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS, #022509

At a special meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Casco, Allegan
County, Michigan, held on February 25, 2009.

PRESENT: Graff, Winfrey, Ridley, Overhiser, Cowie

ABSENT: none

The following resolution was offered by Ridley and seconded by Cowie:

WHEREAS, the Township of Casco (the "Township") proposes to issue its tax-exempt bonds (the "Bonds") under Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended ("Act 34"), to finance the hereinafter described capital improvement in the Township (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Township will advance a portion of the costs of the Project prior to the issuance of the Bonds, such advance to be repaid from proceeds of the Bonds upon the issuance thereof; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations on Income Tax (the "Reimbursement Regulations") specifies conditions under which a reimbursement allocation may be treated as an expenditure of bond proceeds, and the Township intends by this resolution to qualify amounts advanced by the Township to the Project for reimbursement from proceeds of the Bonds in accordance with the requirements of the Reimbursement Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of the Township of Casco, Allegan County, Michigan, as follows:

1. The Project shall consist of acquiring and constructing a new fire station and acquiring the site therefor.
2. The maximum principal amount of Bonds expected to be issued for the Project is \$700,000.
3. The Township hereby declares its official intent to issue the Bonds to finance the costs of the Project, and hereby declares that it reasonably expects to reimburse the Township's advances to the Project as anticipated by this resolution.
4. The Bonds shall be authorized by proper proceedings subsequent to this resolution.
5. The Clerk is hereby instructed to publish the notice attached hereto as Exhibit A once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township of Casco, which notice shall not be less than ¼ page in size in such newspaper, with such changes as the Clerk shall deem necessary or appropriate, upon the advice of bond counsel.

6. All prior resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they may be in conflict with this resolution are hereby rescinded.

YEAS: Overhiser, Cowie, Ridley, Graff, Winfrey

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Casco, Allegan County, Michigan, at a special meeting held on February 25, 2009, the original of which resolution is on file in my office. I further certify that notice of said meeting was given in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk, Township of Casco

Approved 3/16/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees Special Meeting
with the Water/Sewer Authority and the South Haven Township Trustees

7:00 p.m. Wednesday February 25, 2009

Present: all Casco trustees, members of the Water/Sewer authority, the South Haven Township trustees, Ron Bultje (of law firm Scholten Fant), and approximately 25 interested persons.

Overhiser reviewed the agenda, discussing the transition in management of the authority since Don Maxwell's passing about a year and a half ago.

A set of handouts (made part of these minutes) was reviewed by Allan Overhiser, Ross Stein, and Ron Bultje, with time for questions and answers until approximately 8:15 p.m.

Stein noted that Louis Adamson and Ron Hartgerink from the Authority were also present. Ron Hartgerink asked Stein to review Authority policy about mandatory hookups.

Stein explained that the policy was, after 18 months of the system being constructed, people would be notified that they would/should hook up to the sewer, but there was no legal structure to enforce this.

Connection charges have been paid by most homes in place. If homes were added, those residents would contribute to the monthly debt retirement. Hartgerink stated that the authority did a survey, and approximately 4% of customers who live in the district have not connected--4% of maybe 1500 people. This represents some potential funds for debt retirement (maybe 60 REUs), but it will not solve the projected windfall.

Townships would enforce the move to mandatory hookups. The Townships have uniform enforcements; they do require mandatory hookup when sewer is available (less than 200' between the structure and the connection), timed from issuance of notice; the resident has 18 months to connect; this is pretty uniform throughout State.

It has not been deemed an option to require hookup to water system, but it can be required by bank when home is sold.

Townships would need to amend the ordinance to require water hookups and that would help debt retirement.

So one option is to a) pull trigger for mandatory sewer hookups, and b) pull trigger for mandatory water hookups.

In public comment, Bob Baker, of Washington Street, asked if the few people couldn't afford the system with the water, and if people actually requested the system, or was it related to real estate development? He does not want to see an increased bill.

The response was that it is illegal for Townships to sell bonds for real estate speculation by developers; it can only be done for residents who have requested it by petition. The original petition was for sewer only; then it became water only; then petitions were for water and sewer; Covert Township has a bond for water only.

A resident what consequences if any face a homeowner who refuses to comply; the answer is the Township can sue, and the Township can ask the Court to force the resident to reimburse the Township for court expenses.

Joan Pioch expressed that she doesn't like the idea that someone could be forced to hook up who didn't ask for the system.

It was clarified that the Authority has not sent out the notice to trigger the 18 month period where people must connect.

Judy Graff asked what payment plan the bond schedule was based on; Stein responded that it was based on special assessments of \$16,000.

Bruce Barker stated that it would be helpful to know the total number of people who would hook up if required.

Attorney Ron Bultje spoke to the reassessing option raised in a letter received from John Bauckham. He said the option is listed in Section 12 of Public Act 188, the ability of a local unit to increase assessments if necessary to pay bonds.

Bultje stated that there are some questions as to whether this will apply to our case; cost overruns have not been the issue; the "lack of growth" may not justify a reassessment. The Township would do the reassessments, but the County did the bonding, so it is not legally clear if the Township has the authority. Currently, bond counsel is reviewing this option; it is not an option without legal complications.

The reassessment would address the question, *what is the house worth now with water and sewer, vs what would it be worth without water/sewer?*

A question was raised about the proposed new water plant to be constructed in the City of South Haven; estimates are coming in over budget, by about \$2 million.

A question was raised if it is in the Township's interest to extend the payment for hookup? Currently a three year payment is allowed, a \$21,000 payment all at once is not required.

Another option: while standard refinancing probably isn't going to work, there may be a municipal finance option.

Public Comment: Don Sappanos: Could we create a renaissance zone to help catch up, allowing connections not at \$21,000 a piece, but discounted, to help us get back on track?
A/ Ron Bultje said we must be uniform; the government cannot do that.

Q/ Where does this go from here? The board gets together and decides? A/People need to digest the numbers; the Authority is still exploring options.

Q/ Cowie asked if anyone is actively pursuing development, such as inviting a residential facility to locate within the authority bounds; A/ No one is particularly doing that; Casco has little zoning for commercial.

There being no further comments or question, public comment concluded.

Cowie moved to adjourn; with Winfrey seconding; adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk

Approved 5/18/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Special Meeting of March 16, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the properly noticed meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, & Cowie and approximately 20 interested persons.

Overhiser explained that he has been in discussion with the owner of the Maple Grove parcel, Ed Hanenburg, about the Township acquiring the land. The site is a 12 acre parcel; the idea would be to swap the parcel Casco Township owns in Miami Park for this site, with a land donation by Mr. Hanenburg, plus a grant, to acquire 400' of additional Lake Michigan lakefront adjacent to the Stefan parcel.

Cowie gave a brief overview of the MNRTF process; we have been approved for funding to purchase the Stefan parcel and create a nature preserve. We are awaiting the decision of the legislature to release funding to complete the deal. This opportunity has come up recently and the application deadline is April 1. Cowie introduced Bill Martinus, Environmental Consultant.

Mr. Martinus introduced himself; he lives in Grand Haven, by Kirk Park. He has been involved in consulting for 15 years, taking natural feature inventories of places such as Wau Ken Ah in Glenn. He conducted a full natural features inventory there to identify what to be steward over and to note what threats exist to that land.

He spoke about the clay banks present on the Maple Grove parcel. The rest of the State doesn't know about these banks; they are not written about in geological surveys. The DNR does not have a listing for them in the Michigan Natural Features Inventory group. There are 75 different types of natural areas (in a booklet published last year), but a wet clay bank is not among them. It is a unique area, like a fen. There are 6 to 8 miles of shoreline with this type of bank; the water table weeps over it constantly. The clay banks slump over. They are unusual and offer a microclimate type of area. This area also shows up in Wisconsin where they are called "fen bluffs," and designated as natural areas.

Bill spoke about the classic maple grove on the site; the only other example is on MSU properties. The maples were planted 80-90 years ago; it would be a wonderful demonstration site for a sugarbush operation. He cited Rob Venner of Van Raalte Nature Center as a resource. The site offers a beautiful Lakeshore view; there is a ravine between the Stefan parcel and Maple Grove. He plans to return in late August or early September to study the vegetation growing on the bluff. He invited the public to attend a September 19 field trip at Wau Ken Ah.

The floor was opened for questions and discussion.

Will Hart asked, since the vertical fen has been relatively untouched for a long time, is it more prone to have indigenous plants? WM/the seed source is around; it will come back; colleague Gerard Wilhelm invented a system to score any given piece of property for the value of the vegetation type present.

Bruce Barker stated he would be happy to provide a letter of support and asked about the process. George Sipes expressed his support for this and appreciated Bill Martinus' knowledge about the natural areas and clay banks.

Deniece Barker stated this is a jewel for the Township; there is nothing about it that isn't good; she was excited about possibilities for education; and to tap what's good about the clay bluffs. The maple trees are a boon to the schools, to have a sugarbush around here.

Kathy Steffler supports anything we can do to preserve natural areas and have it open to the public. She expressed concern about the "Maple Grove" name, suggesting it would be confused with the elementary school in South Haven.

Will Hart expressed support for the demonstration of maple syrup-making and talking about the history of making maple syrup in this area. The lake side of the parcel is more open and natural; he stated the single residence could be a caretaker's house to provide security for the site.

Bill Martinus stated that he lives 300' away from Kirk Park. Rarely are there problems; when GVSU graduates, some kids will build a fire on the beach. They close the gate at 10 pm. It has worked out very well, and it is a large park.

Bob Leneway complimented the Board for pursuing this wonderful opportunity.

Eleanor Jordan asked what the tax burden would be to Casco Township. Overhiser responded that the current .25 Parks & Recreation millage is probably sufficient to staff and operate the park; if that doesn't happen (if the millage doesn't pass), we would have to structure something to use volunteers.

Trustee Judy Graff said it is important to remember that the cost of Park & Recreation activities needs to come out of the millage.

Overhiser called for a show of hands, and there were 23 persons in support of the park; none were opposed.

Diane Schlanser said she would love to see the property in our hands. She said the Parks & Recreation committee had some concerns about applying on April 1, and concerns how we would maintain the park.

Judy Graff read comments she had received by email:

Jeanne VanZoeren felt there was a lack of parks committee involvement and public input; there was no design to comment on; she questioned why the township was in a rush to submit the grant application by April 1; she said the Parks committee is trying to get something done with Sunset Park; this continues to stall progress.

Chuck Stennett said this is a very rare opportunity to find this much property adjacent to an existing park site; we need to appreciate our summer guests. They pay more taxes; the way the community is filling up, we'll never have an opportunity like this again. To see the sunset, he has to go to Allegan County West Shore Park or South Haven, but he doesn't have a license, so he has to pay for parking. Casco is losing its identity and we should preserve this for our children and grandchildren. With the Kal-Haven trail getting \$900,000, he felt we should pursue funding for this.

George Sipes noted that Jeanne VanZoeren is a property owner in Miami Park and wondered if a conflict of interest existed.

Judy Graff read several emails she received:

Robert Goldberg, a property owner in Miami Park, said he was in full support of the shift away from developing the Maple Grove parcel.

Maureen Moravec

Dan in Miami Park expressed support for the Park but thought the cost for appraisals seemed high. (It was explained that the appraisals were \$1200 each).

Abigail MacKenzie: opposes pursuit of Maple Grove and questioned if the Township is getting into illegal negotiations with a real estate developer; she wondered if Board members were operating from self interest. She thought it was appalling that the Township hasn't followed through on proposals.

Sam Rovit opposes further acquisition of Casco park land. He questioned why the Township needs to double the nature preserve; he wondered about the tax implications; he wondered if it would be a public park; he wondered if there were personal connections to members of the Board; he wondered why we were pursuing this in the worst economy in 85 years.

Deniece Barker said that Mr. Hanenburg is not giving it to us but he is surely cooperating with us. She couldn't think of any more shortsightedness than to not act at this opportunity.

Supervisor Overhiser concluded the opportunity for public comment, given the time devoted to discussion.

Bill Martinus said that in these economic times, there can be opportunity to acquire land that isn't selling, and that can be a blessing.

Ridley moved to adjourn the special meeting at 7:18 pm, seconded by Winfrey.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk

Approved 4/20/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting of March 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, Cowie, and approximately 20 interested persons. Overhiser led in the pledge of allegiance.

Overhiser invited Bill Nelson of the Allegan County Road Commission to make a presentation.

Mr. Nelson talked about the intersection of Blue Star Highway and North Shore Drive and the crash history there. He is proposing a roundabout to decrease the number of serious injury accidents, and introduced two traffic specialists from Wade Trim.

The Wade Trim consultants talked about their research on this corner, identified as a site for possible safety improvements. On a weekday, approximately 610 cars travel through the intersection, well within the range of a single lane roundabout.

They reviewed the 5 year crash history at that corner: 11 crashes, and 7 were angle crashes. 73% involved injuries, including 5 incapacitation ("A") injuries, 1 "B" injury and 5 "C" injuries.

Bill Nelson said the plan he was displaying was conceptual at this point. There will be an evaluation of costs; drainage improvements will be necessary; the roundabout will accommodate trucks. The goal is to reduce injuries.

Overhiser asked if Trustees had questions. Cowie wondered how long it takes the public to get used to a roundabout. Nelson responded that it depends on the type of driver and the educational process. There will be a large merging action at this site. Graff asked how we got to this point. Nelson responded that the corner is problematic by its layout; there is a reasonable crash history that involves injury. This application fits well with this intersection.

Graff wondered why a roundabout wasn't being pursued for 109th & Blue Star. Nelson replied that there hasn't been a similar crash history there, though there has been a problem of people not stopping at the stop sign on west bound 109th.

Nelson is applying for grants to cover the cost (\$731,000) to construct a roundabout. The next step is to submit this to MDOT for a federal safety grant for 2010 and/or 2011. If a grant is awarded, an engineering firm would be involved in final design. Citizens would be involved in that. The grant would have a cap of 80%, \$500,000. There are other grant sources Bill Nelson will pursue, including one for clean MI air quality, since the roundabout reduces the amount of stopped vehicle time (and decreases pollution).

Does the proximity of the schools play into this decision? Roundabouts allow traffic to get out of the parking lots; all traffic handles a roundabout well, even semis; videos have been studied; roundabouts use less fuel as drivers are not stopping and starting.

Mary from Cousins said they had petitioned for a stoplight. She asked about a driveway to the parking lot. Nelson responded that this illustration was just conceptual. More information is needed about how

a roundabout works in heavy traffic with tourists. The grant for construction will be submitted by April 1.

Overhiser asked if there are statistics about decreased accidents when moving from a signaled intersection to a roundabout. The consultants were not aware of any.

The construction proposed for Blue Star Highway will be conducted in stages.

Overhiser opened the floor to public comment:

Fred Kick asked about the move from two lanes to one lane and snow removal.

Larry Brown of the Road Commission projected a 3 year payback for removing Type "A" injuries from this intersection (as serious injuries are costly).

George Sipes, Miami Park, stated this seems like a nice thing; he described himself as not an advocate for change, but he could support this.

Diane Schlanser said she has witnessed 3 near misses at that intersection in the 4 years she's lived here.

Kathy Steffler concurred that it is such a dangerous intersection.

Judy Graff asked what the noticing process was for getting input on design; Nelson responded that publishing in a paper is a normal process. The South Haven Tribune was recommended to him.

Eleanor Jordan asked if money is available for this, is money available for a stoplight? Nelson responded that a stoplight wouldn't be funded; a stoplight was not approved for this intersection due to low traffic.

Chuck Stennett said he attends church at the M-43 roundabout, and he was against that when it first went in, but he has seen how it has worked very well.

Bill Nelson was thanked for his information and will keep us posted on the process.

Overhiser invited Bob Black, Superintendent of South Haven Public Schools, to make a presentation.

Mr. Black had an informative DVD about SHPS that he made available to attendees but did not show due to the long agenda and late meeting start. He was interested in opening up lines of communication with Townships, especially in light of the failed millage last year which did not pass in any Townships. He acknowledged working with Julie Cowie and Lakeshore Harvest Country for a grant for a fruits and vegetables project within the schools. He thanked Judy Graff for serving on the school district-wide school improvement team.

Enrollment has been pretty level for the past 3 years. The gain in students is from the Hispanic population. SHPS has a retention rate of 95% and a drop out rate of 4%. The opportunity to dually enroll at LMC is a big benefit to area students.

Mr. Black distributed the annual report and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Regular business:

Cowie presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 16; Winfrey moved approval, amending cemetery fees as clarified by Emil Wessling; seconded by Ridley, MSC.

Special meeting minutes of the joint meeting with the Water/Sewer Authority 2/25/09 were presented (no decisions were made at that meeting), with Winfrey moving approval and Ridley seconding; carried.

Winfrey presented the Treasurer's report:

General Fund	\$416,461.89
Parks	53,144.43

Seniors	14,103.39
Fire Department	\$283,888.85
Road Fund	1,164.26
Cemetery Care	21,306.25
Chemflex	50,535.45
15-month CD	52,039.42
Collected Tax Account	\$1,025,499.45

Winfrey moved to approve the following:

General Fund orders #19317-19373 in amount of \$39,092.79;

Collected tax orders #2411-2428 in amount of \$702,647.74;

Cemetery orders #1009-1010 in amount of \$5172.68;

Fire orders #3829-3832 in amount of \$52,626.20, seconded by Ridley; carried.

Planning Commission: the PC finished off the PUD chapter 16 and corresponding Lake frontage definition; it is now going to the Allegan County Planning Commission. The conducted a hearing on the SHAES fire station planned for 66th north of 109th Ave. and approved that.

Casco Senior Care Program: Marcy reported that the CSC met this morning and scheduled a luncheon for April 17, a Friday, at noon. This time they will need people to RSVP.

A brief discussion ensued about the balance in the senior care program based on carryover balances that are shown in each annual audit (at June 30). The low point of \$14,103.39 is a “surplus” ahead of the infusion of the .25 millage which will be coming back to the township after settlement of collected taxes.

Someone has been hired for the ACCOA (Allegan County Commission on Aging) coordinator position.

ZBA: Ridley reported on 4 requests addressed at their March 5 meeting.

- The Olson brothers, acting on behalf of Sleepy Hollow, requested a variance to add on to a non-conforming storage building; granted.
- Nick Ivanovich requested variances for a house & garage setback for Dominic Verbelle in Sunset Shores subdivision on a corner lot; this was granted.
- Kirk Laskowski of Unity Lane wanted to divide a 2.5 acre parcel on 62nd Street from his 17 acres, leaving the public road frontage for the remainder of the parent parcel would be only 113 feet in width; granted.
- Jarzembowski builders, acting for Sara Frederickson, wish to add a second floor onto an existing non-conforming residence on 7276 Lincoln; granted.

Old Business:

Hanenburg Property: The maple grove and Township-owned parcels in Miami Park have been appraised. The Maple Grove parcel came in at \$3.5 million; the Miami Park parcel came in at \$665,000. Overhiser is waiting to hear back from Mr. Hanenburg. The appraisal for the Maple Grove parcel came in less than what he had conceptually talked about. Overhiser stated that while the Parks & Recreation committee may think we are moving quickly, sometimes the Township must react to deadlines thrown at us.

Thomas Storr, the neighbor across the street, is supportive of us proceeding with the grant application.

Graff proposed that if we pass this resolution to support the grant application, activities related to the matter should move back to the Parks & Recreation Committee after April 1. She expressed interest in getting more “meat on the bones” of the design, and getting neighbors involved. She also expressed that the goal is not to spend general fund dollars on the park, but rather to spend local parks & millage funds to operate the park. Overhiser stated that when the Parks & Recreation millage passed a few years ago, the community expressed support for parks by that vote.

Discussion turned to review of the site plan. Diane Schlanser is willing to be involved but is scheduled to travel next week. Samuel Fleming expressed willingness to take over when Schlanser leaves. Bruce Barker expressed that we may not get the grant, but if we don't submit an application, we certainly won't get it.

The hope was that the park would someday connect to other linear trails to be developed north and south between the Kal-Haven Trail and points northward.

Cowie will get the exact number from Overhiser regarding the amount requested from Mr. Hanenburg for the purchase of the Maple Grove parcel.

Cowie moved approval of Resolution 090316 (attached to these minutes); seconded by Winfrey; MSC in a roll call vote.

Overhiser presented the Road bid (included with these minutes). Gravel is estimated at \$10,000 per mile. Discussion ensued about the nature of the roads and the need for gravel throughout the Township. Cowie moved approval of the road budget as presented, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

SHAES Capital Equipment Replacement Plan: Overhiser presented information about the funding of the proposed fire station. The station will be financed by Casco Township over a 15 year period. The Joint Emergency Services Agreement (made part of these minutes) shows that the Station will be built without raising any taxes, and SHAES will repay the full cost. Overhiser explained how the obligation will last 15 years. The USDA loan terms are based on 30 years; SHAES wants to pay it back in 15 years. There is no payment for early payment of the loan.

The next deadline is the 45 day deadline for “right of referendum.” Taking action on this loan at our next regularly scheduled meeting should be timely enough. A question was asked if the bonding will go through Allegan or Van Buren Counties? Overhiser responded that the bond is through the USDA.

Planning Commission Appointments:

Overhiser moved to appoint Fred Kick to the Planning Commission; Richard Dutkowski wishes to step down. Kick would serve a three year term, through December 31, 2011; seconded by Cowie; MSC. Overhiser moved to appoint Dian Liepe to complete Matt Hamlin's term. She represents the East side of Casco; Cowie seconded; MSC.

Overhiser reported that he had had a conversation with the Chair of the Planning Commission, Bruce Barker, about the Planning Commission activities and budget. He urged the PC to use regular meetings for scheduling hearings, and get back to one meeting a month. Overhiser said, in a spirit of “watching

the dollars,” that it wouldn’t hurt to have the PC sit out a year on activity, since the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance have both been redone.

COPS Grant: Overhiser presented information about this grant program (Community Oriented Policing Services—COPS), which involves a 3-year grant to cover costs for law enforcement. The grant declines and the Township would be responsible for full costs at the end of the fourth year. Ridley expressed reluctance to move forward with this type of program given two failed votes by the Township for a police protection millage.

Blight Ordinance: Overhiser suggested we revisit a blight ordinance, including how it fits with the master plan. Sample ordinances were distributed a couple of years ago. It would be good to have an officer address blight; MTA has a sample ordinance which we could add or subtract from. A civil infraction for blight would be a good starting place.

Kathy Steffler encouraged the board to move forward to address blight, describing an area near her home that is blighted and, in her estimation, decreases her property values. Overhiser volunteered to work with our attorney along MTA Blight Ordinance lines.

Water/Sewer Authority: Overhiser stated that a special meeting had been held on February 25, and the authority continues to consider mandatory hookups, the ability to force people to hook up to water, and the need to make all NEW homeowners hook up to water.

Fred Kick expressed concern over sewer seepage running over banks near his home on 74th Street.

Graff asked what the reasoning was for holding off on implementing any of these ideas. Overhiser said it was related to finding out who to notice, and establish poverty guidelines.

Bruce Barker asked how much difference there was between the number of residents in Casco versus South Haven Township who were not hooked up. Overhiser supposed there was not much difference.

Kathy Steffler remarked that some years ago, we were considering the same issues, and questioned why we don’t know who will hook up.

Overhiser stated that we won’t have to subsidize Water/Sewer this year due to a city windfall based on the water plant buyout. But he also stated rates will not be going down.

Being no further public comment, Ridley moved to adjourn at 9:55 p.m., seconded by Winfrey.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

Attachments:

Resolution 090316, MNRTF Grant Application

Roads Budget, 2009

Joint Emergency Services Agreement (from SHAES)

Resolution 090316
Supporting Casco Township's Application to the MNRTF
For grant funds to acquire land to expand the Casco Township Nature Preserve

WHEREAS, expansion of the Casco Township Nature Preserve is consistent with the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Nature Preserve will feature activities oriented to nature, such as wildlife observation, nature trails with interpretive signs, viewing Lake Michigan, bird watching, swimming, fishing from the beach, kayaking, and maple sugaring; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees wishes to take advantage of opportunities to acquire Lake Michigan lake frontage for public use as a park when they arise; and

WHEREAS, a willing donor in Mr. Edward Hanenburg makes this transaction a possibility; and

WHEREAS, the Township has as a priority in its Recreation Plan to create public Lake Michigan access points; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees acknowledge that members of the community and civic groups are interested in contributing "in-kind" assistance to develop and maintain the park; and

WHEREAS, the proposed transaction includes a donation from Mr. Hanenburg of approximately \$600,000, and the trade of Township-owned land in Miami Park to Mr. Hanenburg (valued at approximately \$665,000), and the purchase of the balance of the parcel using grant funds, for an acquisition valued at approximately \$3.6 million in total; and

WHEREAS, pursuit of this acquisition serves the long term interests of this community, preserving Lake Michigan lakefront for future generations; and

WHEREAS, this proposed site provides important and unique educational opportunities focused on Michigan's natural resources, including study of the clay bluff and the maple sugaring process; and

WHEREAS, we desire to create accessible opportunities for residents and tourists to enjoy and observe Michigan's natural resources, including a maple grove forest and Lake Michigan; and

WHEREAS, a current, voted-in Parks & Recreation millage provides means to pursue this opportunity and maintain a park;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Casco Township Board of Trustees authorizes Clerk Julie Cowie to submit a grant request of approximately \$2.5 million to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund by April 1, 2009 to acquire the parcel known as "Maple Grove," owned by Mr. Edward Hanenburg, expanding the Casco Township Nature Preserve from approximately 8 acres to approximately 20 acres.

Moved by Cowie, seconded by Winfrey

Ayes: Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff
Nays: None
Absent: None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Approved 4/20/09

Special meeting, Casco Township Board of Trustees
Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 12:30 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the properly noticed special meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, Cowie.

The sole agenda item is to discuss and make decisions pertaining to a \$28,000 requested loan to the Water/Sewer Authority from the general fund.

Overhiser explained that though he had stated they would be covered for the April bond payment, the Authority is a short of funds due to:

- a) An error in a bank statement
- b) Engineering costs to prepare a request for stimulus funds—engineering costs have run close to \$30,000 in the last three months related to 2 projects in Miami Park and a water loop on 74th Street

Discussion followed. Would this be a short term loan? Unlikely.

Work is in progress, including people who have not hooked up; there could be as many as 300 customers. They could sign a contract for a delayed payment, but the WS/A would like to build incentive for people to sign up early.

Overhiser stated that he is also exploring having the Water/Sewer Authority change financial advisors from Bendzinski. Terry Donnelly, Bond Counsel, of Dickerson Wright, is a resource. Overhiser will talk with State Treasury department about who other municipalities use.

Winfrey moved to approve payment of the \$28,000 loan to the Water/Sewer Authority; seconded by Cowie; MSC.

The payment will come from the “other expenses” line item from the general fund, which has a healthy balance at this time, despite the cost of the Brousseau Reappraisal process.

Cowie moved to adjourn at 12:45 pm, seconded by Graff.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk

Approved 5/18/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting of April 20, 2009

Supervisor Allan Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance. All Trustees were present and about 15 interested persons.

Cowie presented the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 25, 2009, at 6:30 pm, focused on entering into a loan to construct the Fire Station with the USDA Rural Development Fund. Cowie moved approval of these minutes, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

Winfrey moved approval of the March 16, 2009 minutes as presented, seconded by Ridley, MSC.

Graff moved approval of the April 1 Special meeting (held to decide on a loan to the Water/Sewer Authority), seconded by Winfrey, MSC.

Cowie neglected to bring the special meetings held in late March regarding the Casco Nature Preserve Expansion MNRTF Grant application/site development. Those minutes will be approved next meeting.

Cowie moved to accept the audit as presented by Siegfried Crandall PC for FY ending June 30, 2008; seconded by Ridley; MSC.

Cowie expressed concern about the heavy entry door. Overhiser stated that the Township Hall site is in compliance with ADA standards. Perhaps when the second part of the building is renovated the entry way will be reconfigured to address this issue.

Winfrey presented the following balances as of March 31, 2009:

General Fund	\$509,494.36
Parks	85,036.04
Senior services	45,606.48
Fire Department Fund	\$628,381.49
Road Fund	\$212,270.44
Cemetery Care Fund	21,191.36
Chemflex	50,554.83
15 month CD	52,186.73
Collected Tax Account	8,716.94

Winfrey moved to approve payment of General Fund orders #19374-19450 in amount of \$71,825.95; Collected Tax orders #2433-2443 in amount of \$247,112.41; Cemetery order

#1011 in amount of \$128.53; and Fire order #3833 in amount of \$1625.00, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

The 15 month CD matures this week. Winfrey moved to combine both CDs into a 12 month Add on CD, seconded by Graff; MSC.

Winfrey has a BS&A training event in summer that surpasses the budgeted amount. The budget was examined and costs can be covered by department. Cowie moved to approve the training event for the Treasurer, seconded by Graff; MSC.

The budget was discussed and the need to amend the budget in a few areas. Winfrey moved to amend the Zoning-Consulting by \$13,000 to \$25,000 (to cover LSL fees for amending the Zoning Ordinance); the Other Activities-MISC by \$28,000 to \$31,000 (to cover the purchase of the Fire Station land); and Other Activities-Water/Sewer by \$28,000 from 0 to \$28,000 (to cover the Water/Sewer shortfall for the April 2009 bond payment). Cowie seconded; MSC.

ZBA Report: one variance was considered and granted, to provide a variance for Adkin Blueberry to add to their building.

Planning Commission: The PUD Zoning amendment has been approved by the Allegan County Planning Commission and will be considered by the Board tonight; the May Regular meeting includes a special land use permit for a day care center on 109th Ave.

Casco Senior Care Committee: 95 seniors attended the Senior Appreciation Luncheon. A report from the new database was presented. Questions were asked about whether a new van will be coming per a grant. Formigoni has been told that a van is coming.

Parks & Recreation: the MNRTF application and site plan for Maple Grove were reviewed at the last meeting. Future goals include getting some good press about the accomplishments of the P&R committee, get funding for bike trails and Township Hall renovation. Expressed concern about brush being left near/under First Street Beach stairs.

Fennville District Library: FDL was one of 4,000 libraries to receive a grant to receive history books. Library is getting new carpeting this week.

County Commissioner: Tom Jessup distributed his newsletter. Sheriff wants a millage, maybe in November or February. Cowie expressed concern that holding a February election for one item will be costly. Jessup discussed budget numbers and the status of the jail.

Emil Wessling complimented the Road Commission on their good work around the Township.

Old Business:

Moran lawsuit: Moran agreed to dismiss the complaint without prejudice.

Fire Station: Overhiser distributed an addendum to a lease agreement that states that the loan will be paid back in 15 years. This will be approved with the lease agreement at a future meeting.

New Business:

PUD Zoning Ordinance Amendment: Graff provided an overview. This amendment adds a chapter regarding Planned Unit Developments to the Zoning Ordinance. The PUD ordinance includes benefits to the Township for granting a PUD (entering into a contract with a developer). If a PUD is established, there can be no variances; there is no audience with the ZBA. Developers do not have a right to a PUD. The PUD ordinance is not a way for the developer to avoid zoning.

Overhiser thanked the Planning Commission for their work on this zoning ordinance amendment and invited public comment. There was none.

Cowie moved approval of the PUD Amendment and the definitions of frontage and shoreline frontage, seconded by Ridley; Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, Graff, and Winfrey all voted yes.

Blight Ordinance: Overhiser distributed a model ordinance (draft) designed to address the condition of properties. This would be a Township ordinance rather than a zoning ordinance. Brief discussion ensued about the desire to keep the ordinance simple and focused on what we oppose. Need to clarify what the Civil Infraction Ordinance states (Cowie will look this up).

Outdoor Gathering Ordinance: Brief discussion ensued about the purpose of this ordinance, which is to provide guidance to the Township when people want to hold large public events. Cowie moved approval, supported by Graff; Graff, Winfrey, Overhiser, Cowie, and Ridley voted yes in a roll call vote.

Planning Commission Pre-Meeting: Overhiser explained that recently a need came up for Roger Smith to meet with the Planning Commission in an expedited way. Overhiser suggested a more economical way to handle these things is to establish a Planning Commission Pre-Meeting involving a couple of PC members, to find out what kind of documentation is required. Pre-Meeting members would be compensated at their regular rate for the pre-meeting. There would be no minutes and any decisions would not be binding; it is not considered a public meeting for noticing purposes. It would allow developers opportunity to encounter more than one viewpoint from the Township. Alfred would decide when a pre-meeting is appropriate. Question raised if this would cost the Township more? It would save the Township by streamlining the PC process. Cowie moved approval of the Pre-Meeting format as presented, seconded by Winfrey; MSC.

Public Comment:

Judy Graff read comments from the following residents about the February 25 Special meeting: Dale Morgan, Lois Schwartz, Maureen Moravec, Norma Cohen, and Mary Lou Clark.

Bob Baker raised the issue of the Water Plant projected costs going from \$11 million to \$20 million and wondered what it would mean for Casco. He expressed concern over Marv Hinga's management of the water system and questioned why 1% growth prompts the need for a new plant.

Graff expressed her fear over the increase in construction costs.

Overhiser said the Water/Sewer authority is developing a list of people who are not hooked up. They will likely push forward to a mandatory hookup to sewer. A mandatory hookup to water is another option.

George Sipes read a letter outlining concerns about tree removal and destruction caused when the sewer line was run from Boardwalk to Miami Park, especially around the Township-owned property. He said there is an 80 foot wide swath between Boardwalk and Lakeview Avenue with many dirt piles left on the lot. He requested a buffer consistent with the area to be replanted. Overhiser will look into it.

No further public comment, Ridley moved to adjourn, seconded by Winfrey.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk

Attachment:
Ordinance 090420 Planned Unit Development Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 16 and definitions
Ordinance 090420B Outdoor Gathering Ordinance

Approved as amended, 6/15/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Meeting of May 18, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, Cowie and approximately 4 interested persons.

Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:01 and led in the pledge of allegiance.

A presentation was made about Wings of Hope Hospice in Allegan, serving Allegan County residents.

Cowie presented minutes of April 20 Regular meeting; Graff moved approval, seconded by Cowie; MSC. Graff moved approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2009 (at 6:30 p.m.), seconded by Ridley; MSC. Cowie moved to acknowledge minutes of Parks & Recreation special meeting of Tuesday March 24, 2009, in which no quorum was present and no decisions were made; this was a meeting to get public input on the sketch site plan for the Casco Township Nature Preserve Expansion; seconded by Winfrey; MSC.

Cowie announced the Fennville schools election and the recount pending.

Winfrey presented the following account balances:

General Fund balance	\$481,244.51;
Parks fund	\$84,789.38;
Senior services	\$45,047.28;
Fire Department Fund,	\$625,028.45;
Road Fund,	\$211,476.72;
Cemetery Care Fund,	\$21,704.94;
12 month add on	\$102,926.58;
Collected tax account	\$9,560.90.

Winfrey moved to approved general fund order #19451-19525 in amount of \$45,218.62 and Fire Fund order #3834 in amount of \$312.50.

Parks & Recreation:

- Work on the Township Community Center is underway; the committee has been surveying various representatives of agencies including ladies aid, band, girl scouts, boy scouts; want to hire a contractor for floor plan design. Jeanne Van Zoeren asked for and was given names to pursue to find a contractor.
- Non-motorized paths: the City of South Haven is calling a meeting on May 28 including South Haven Township and representatives from Allegan County about bike trails. Cowie offered to get information about the West Michigan Strategic Alliance Greenways committee to Jeanne.
- The P&R committee would like to be proactive in terms of Lakeshore parks, generating a newspaper article about the merits of lakeshore parks. Van Zoeren has found studies economists have done that report properties within 800' of a park experience an increase in property value.
- Discussion ensued about what to do about the sign outside of the Township Hall announcing a park "coming soon." Until SHARP plans are final, it seems premature to develop this site. It also seems premature to turn it back to farming. After discussion, consensus was to take sign down, and mow the field once at the end of the summer

Casco Senior Care Program: Marcy Formigoni announced that the "Matter of Balance" class has begun. It is 8 weeks long, led by Lisa Ross-Miller and Marcy Formigoni. Project Fresh is a

coupon program for fresh produce starting next month; it is income based, but open to more than residents living at poverty level.

Winfrey announced that Township Newsletter articles need to be submitted to Kevin at Pat's Pronto by the first week in June, June 5. The tax bills will be in the mail by July 3.

Overhiser complimented Emil Wessling on how nice the cemeteries look. Winfrey expressed a desire to have a sign posting cemetery rules in front of McDowell cemetery.

ZBA report: Met Thursday, May 7, with a quorum of 3 members, to review Klindt Houlberg's request to construct a garage at 7365 101st Avenue; a 5' variance was granted in Baron's Lakeside subdivision.

Planning Commission: The new Planned Unit Development Ordinance is in effect (chapter 16). At the last meeting, the PC approved a group childcare home on 109th Ave. Several PC members attended a session in Allegan Township on new State laws pertaining to PCs, ZBAs; changes not required to be completed for two years. An ordinance is needed ~~for~~ TO ESTABLISH THE Planning Commission to have authority and establish certain procedures. The PC will likely address these items in January. Judy Graff's term on the Allegan County Planning Commission will expire in June and she does not plan to serve again.

Water/Sewer Authority:

- Overhiser presented "Agenda item #10," a handout from a recent public works meeting. South Haven will start publishing an annual report from public works.
- The Authority has been following up on a mandatory hookup for sewer service (related to the Feb 25 meeting), analyzing potential of people who should hookup but aren't. More than 300 houses could be hooked up (between Casco & South Haven Township).
- When system was set up, mandatory hookup was included as an option FOR SEWER. Mandating hookup will be an 18 month process. By July, the Authority will be ready to send out notices. From the time the notice is sent out, a resident has 18 months to hook up. This will not be a total fix, but it is a good start. The ordinance which permits this process is a Township ordinance; Casco can proceed with this plan even if South Haven Township chooses not to.
- City will know in June about the analysis of the water filtration plant costs. June will show total cost, bond interest payments, etc. The City is taking a conservative view, based on 1% growth. Graff asked about a meeting after the numbers come out--for communication etc.—addressing both the water plant and the mandatory hookup, perhaps in late July?

Old Business

Fire Station: The Fire Station Contract addendum took care of part of the issues--but it didn't take care of the fact that any Township that wants to get out of SHAES can withdraw from the organization. The SHAES board is trying to make that withdrawal provision tougher and also trying to strengthen the financial commitment so everyone who is in will stay in until capital commitments are completed. This may require a special meeting in the next month.

Blight Ordinance: There is a need to more carefully consider provisions in the ordinance, define them better, make them suitable for rural life and our budget. Overhiser distributed an MTA article for the board to review. Graff shared feedback from residents, with 8 in favor, and 4 not in favor but would be if changes are made. Questions included how the ordinance would be enforced, how a person would be informed of a blight issue, and whether the ordinance should be more proactive. The term "blight" is vague.

Outdoor gathering ordinance (FOR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES): The time frames of violations are spelled out in the civil infraction ordinance and the time frame for addressing the matter is outlined on the tickets.

New Business

Budget discussion & salary consideration: The Supervisor is recommending leaving salaries where they are for the 2nd year in a row; hourly people have agreed to this also.

Discussion ensued about the budget, the surplus, and the need for an operating balance of \$400,000 given several expenses the Township faces.

Letter from Don Sappanos: The letters from Sappanos and Ellingsen were discussed. Overhiser ~~declined to have the Board take superintending control of the matter~~ REPORTED THAT THE BOARD DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO OVERRIDE THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S DECISION. Overhiser said Don Sappanos can take Ellingsen's determination to the ZBA for an interpretation. The ZBA can't give a variance, but can appeal a Zoning Administrator's decision.

Participation in County GIS Aerial Imagery Exercise: Cowie moved to approve purchase of aerial imagery and authorize the clerk to complete required paperwork, seconded by Graff; MSC.

Scott creek drain—The County Drain Commissioner will schedule a board of determination meeting for #484 Scott Creek & Branch drain.

Graff suggested that Doug Brousseau provide an update on the reassessment process at the Township Annual Meeting.

Overhiser invited public comment:

Chuck Stennett asked for help to clean up the Township. He wondered why he has to obey the ordinances when others seem to be able to build without a permit; he also complained about junk cars being scattered around properties but acknowledged that people use unlicensed vehicles to move around on their own property.

Overhiser responded that we know there are problems. The functioning criterion seems to be whether or not a vehicle is licensed to be on the road. Overhiser will look into any County ordinances related to junk cars.

Graff motioned to adjourn at 9:30 pm, seconded by Winfrey; adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk

Approved 7/20/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting of June 15, 2009

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:03 with all Trustees present and approximately 15 interested persons.

Fire Station Update: Ron Wise made a presentation related to old business regarding the Fire Station lease agreement. In Judy Graff's recent review of documents it was noted that the SHAES agreements were silent on Townships' obligations in case of debt. Wise proposed amending the SHAES agreement to address this, entitled "Amendment to Joint Emergency Services Agreement" (attached.) This requires a Township to give 5 years notice if it desires to withdraw from SHAES and to pay off debt obligations prior to withdrawing from SHAES. Graff moved approval, seconded by Ridley; Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, and Graff all voted yes.

Wise presented "Addendum to Lease Agreement," (attached) outlining a 15 year payment plan for the new fire station. Cowie moved approval, seconded by Winfrey, all trustees voting yes in a roll call vote.

Wise presented "Lease Agreement," (attached) which is required for Casco Township to act as the fiduciary for the USDA-funded Fire Station on 66th Street. Cowie moved approval, supported by Ridley, with all trustees voting yes in a roll call vote.

Township Insurance Coverage: Overhiser invited two different insurers to make presentations regarding Township insurance coverage. Rick Lange & John Koets, proposal for insurance coverage (EMC Public Entity Program) and Melissa Swims, from Western Insurance (Par-Plan) appeared before the board and distributed proposals.

Committee reports received from:

Casco Senior Care Program (Marcy Formigoni); A Senior Project Fresh meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.; The CSC received a grant from Entergy Corporation in amount of \$4744 to expand the Senior Wellness program.

Parks & Recreation (Jeanne Van Zoeren); Reported that the committee continues to interview various interested parties about the renovation of the Casco Township Hall (Fire Station) into a community center. They anticipate needing to look at good use of space within the next two months. Van Zoeren is chairing a new task force on non-motorized trails involving many local entities. The cost is \$25,000 per mile and they usually do 6 miles at a time.

She presented a unanimous motion from the committee to the Trustees to recreate natural setting at the Township-owned parcel in Miami Park by replanting trees and shrubbery. Lengthy discussion ensued about the destruction that occurred when a sewer connection was installed. Rob Pirsein appeared from Midwest Civil Engineering on behalf of the Water/Sewer Authority. A 45' easement exists on the Township-owned parcel to allow water/sewer. The hole dug was 25' deep and it required a 45' width of cleared land to accomplish this. Pirsein explained that the reclamation of the lot follows City of South Haven policies. There shall be no permanent structures on the easement, and no trees; a parking lot is permitted.

The P&R committee sees themselves as stewards/advocates of public property that could be developed into a public park and are not sure what kind of park it could be given how it looks now.

It was clarified by Tom Jessup that the Water/Sewer easement on this parcel pre-dated the Parks & Recreation committee; Midwest Civil Engineering is responsible for a final inspection of lot restoration; and Overhiser will communicate with the Water/Sewer Authority that if there is construction on public property, it needs to be reviewed and subject to more careful work.

Cowie suggested a grant might be available from the Allegan County Conservation District for a butterfly garden or some land use that fits with the easement.

Fennville District Library: Summer reading program is underway. New Carpeting has been installed.

County Commissioner: shared highlights from his newsletter. Brief discussion ensued about the State and County budget update. Questions raised about why a new jail is being built when the State is moving to close prisons.

Clerk: Cowie presented minutes of May 18 regular meeting. Several amendments were noted, including the following:

(p. 2) An ordinance is needed ~~for~~ TO ESTABLISH THE Planning Commission to have authority and establish certain procedures.

(p. 2) Water/Sewer Authority: When system was set up, mandatory hookup was included as an option FOR SEWER.

(p. 2) Outdoor Gathering Ordinance (FOR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES):

(p. 3) Overhiser ~~declined to have the Board take superintending control of the matter.~~ REPORTED THAT THE BOARD DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO OVERRIDE THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S DECISION.

Winfrey moved approval of the May 18 minutes as amended, Cowie seconded; MSC.

Cowie presented a land division request by Robert Nicola, who wishes to create 3 lots from 4 existing lots in Sunset Shore Subdivision. After discussion, Cowie moved approval of the land division, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

July Board of Review: Given Doug Brousseau's work with several Townships, the BOR meeting needs to be scheduled for Monday, July 20 at 2:00 p.m. Overhiser moved approval of this date for BOR, seconded by Winfrey; MSC.

A Resolution Authorizing Issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2009 was presented for discussion. The rate is locked in at 4.5%. Graff asked how the Township can be assured that the construction costs stay at the bid price. Overhiser responded that we would be protected, contractually, from cost overruns. If bids come in too high, we can reject all of them, and we are going to require performance guarantees if construction is not completed on time. Cowie moved approval of the Bond resolution, seconded by Winfrey. Cowie, Ridley, Graff, Winfrey, and Overhiser voted yes in a roll call vote, with no nays and no abstentions.

Terence M. Donnelly of Dickinson Wright PLC proposes to act as bond counsel for the issuance of bonds. The fee for this is \$12,000 with this expense to be reimbursed to Casco by SHAES. Winfrey moved to

enter into this agreement with T. Donnelly, and authorize the Clerk to sign related documents, seconded by Cowie, with Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, & Ridley voting yes.

The Treasurer's report is as follows:

General Fund Balance	\$494,019.45
Parks Fund	88,595.27
Senior Services	45,969.94
Fire Department Fund	\$577,903.23
Road Fund	\$235,796.22
Cemetery Care Fund	\$ 21,355.33
12-month CD	\$103,135.54
Collected Tax Account	\$ 6,699.62

Winfrey moved to approve payment of General Fund orders #19526-19585 in amount of \$40,735.17; Collected Tax orders #2444-2451 in amount of \$53,478.92; Fire Fund order #3835 in amount of \$86,565.75; Cemetery order #1012-1013 in amount of \$362.86, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

Public Comment: Samuel Fleming inquired about having a Board representative at the Parks & Recreation Meetings. Judy Graff volunteered to attend a couple of meetings on a temporary basis.

Cowie moved to adjourn at 9:40 p.m., seconded by Winfrey. MSC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk
Casco Township Board of Trustees

Attachments: 4 resolutions related to SHAES
Nicola Land Division

Approved 8/17/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular meeting of July 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance. Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, Cowie and approximately 8 interested persons.

Barb Houlberg gave a report on the Paul Dickerson Studio Art Museum and Art Research Center. A dedication of the Paul Dickerson Memorial Art Library is scheduled for Fall 2009.

Clerk's Report: Cowie presented the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of June 15, 2009. Graff moved approval, seconded by Cowie, MSC. Cowie moved approval of 6/22/09 Special Meeting minutes to approve the FY Budget, seconded by Graff, MSC.

Cowie acknowledged correspondence received from Hann Persinger P.C. dated July 15, 2009, but this matter does not concern the Board at this time, and has been forwarded on to the Water/Sewer Authority.

Cowie presented a contract letter from Siegfried Crandall PC to conduct the annual audit at a fee of \$7500. Winfrey moved to enter into this contract, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

Winfrey presented the **Treasurer's report** as follows:

General Fund	\$471,712.65
Parks	88,235.30
Seniors	43,466.39
Fire Dept Fund	\$573,334.80
Road Fund	\$221,439.19
Cemetery Care Fund	\$ 21,245.95
12 month CD	103,351.90
Collected Tax Account	6,720.10

Winfrey moved to approve General Fund Checks #19586-19643 in amount of \$47,353.37; Fire Fund Checks #3836-3838 in amount of \$4953.13; Road Fund Check #1051 in amount of \$14,500.00; and Cemetery Checks #1014-1015 in amount of \$123.02, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

Cowie explained Supervisor's pay shortage error and this will be corrected in the July pay period.

Casco Senior Care Program: Marcy Formigoni presented letters of resignation from Marco and herself due to an upcoming move to Chicago. Rachel Brenner, a long term Casco resident, has been interviewed to be hired as an outreach worker, and a second interview is set for Tuesday with another potential candidate. Background checks would be conducted on any new hires. Marcy and Marco were thanked for their outstanding leadership and service to Casco in starting this program, and will be greatly missed.

ZBA did not meet, and the Planning Commission has no report.

Water/Sewer Authority: The authority is moving toward making a recommendation for mandatory hookups for sewer. The Attorney is reviewing related issues to this matter, including a poverty exemption. The authority is also exploring refinancing bonds to improve cash flow and Overhiser will meet with bond counsel in Lansing in August to address this matter.

SHAES: Rob Pirsein of Midwest Civil Engineering gave an update on the bid process. 12 bids have been received, which is good, though they are generally high. Chances are the Board will need a special meeting prior to August 14 to approve a contractor.

New Business:

Miami Park Drain: a small ditch needs to be constructed on the Township owned parcel in Miami Park. This will take water back to a detention/retention area and will mitigate water flowing over bluff. The McKays, property owners adjacent to this parcel, wish to pay for construction of this linear depression and place an outlet tile in the depression to correct flow of surface water. Currently, water is flowing over the road in heavy rains. Cowie moved to grant McKays permission to pay for construction of a linear depression to direct water to a catch basin and install a tile that drains into the linear depression, with storm water being managed by the Casco Boardwalk detention system, seconded by Ridley, MSC. Overhiser has notified Ken Vanderzee of David C. Bos homes about this matter. DeBest, Inc. will do the construction.

Wind Energy: Cowie distributed a report from the Wind Energy Resource Zone Board about Casco Township's suitability for wind energy. Casco Township Trustees are invited to share comments about this report by August 4, 2009.

The current ZO contains language to accommodate wind farms. The PC will review the special land use section that covers wind energy. Green energy is consistent with our master plan. The board wants to support local businesses and also offer neighbors to the wind site opportunity to financially benefit from the inconvenience of having windmills sited nearby. Our ZO permits windmills as a special land use in Ag, and they are permitted in commercial. If someone wanted to site a windmill, a public hearing would be conducted and the PC would review criteria with applicant. Cowie will provide these comments to the Wind Energy Resource Zone Board.

WMRPC: the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission is seeking people to assist with Wind, Economic Development, and Farmland Preservation. The working committee involves reviewing documents but no physical meetings. Bruce Barker and Will Hart were suggested for the working committee.

Public Comment:

Chuck Stennett asked about any progress on the blight ordinance.

Laurie Honor asked about required hookups for sewer. Overhiser said the authority is working out a poverty exemption, ability to place a lien on property and/or the ability not to require a resident to hook up. Marcy Formigoni asked if there is a chance that those who've already hooked up will be reassessed; Overhiser responded that he can't say no definitively to that, but it doesn't make much sense.

Cowie invited interested persons to attend the upcoming Family Farm Fest sponsored by Lakeshore Harvest Country, Inc. (Saturday, July 25).

Other items for action:

Doug Brousseau is attending a **training in Traverse City** and requests \$300 to cover the cost for Casco's portion. Overhiser moved to approve the \$300 conference cost, seconded by Cowie, MSC.

Diane Schlanser has **resigned from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee**. She has served since the inception of the committee and has provided good help on the First Street beach stairs. She will be missed and is open to helping with special projects. Overhiser moved to receive her resignation, seconded by Cowie, MSC.

Overhiser reported on the July P&R meeting and said the **Parks committee seeks more direction** from the Board. They are seeking to hire a staff person to focus on the Stefan parcel and other priorities. Overhiser moved to have the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee focus on bike paths, the Stefan parcel, and the Township Hall renovation as the top three priorities, seconded by Cowie, MSC. Graff asked if those three priorities should be further ranked; that could occur in August. Graff will attend the August meeting of P&R.

Cowie reported on the Bike trails summit attended by herself, Graff, and Bruce Brandon in Kalamazoo. Currently the thinking is to pursue grants to extend a Blue Star Highway Right of Way for bicyclists.

Brian Dissette and Bob Black are interested in establishing a Regional Recreation Authority.

Ben Williams has taken over recycling responsibilities for Allegan County Health Department.

Ridley moved to adjourn at 8:23, seconded by Winfrey, adjourned.

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk

Approved 8/17/2009

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Special Meeting of August 6, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., stating the purpose of the meeting was to review the status of the Fire Station construction project. The properly noticed meeting was also to award a construction contract related to the new fire station, and review the MI Court of Appeals decision on Workmen's Circle.

Present: Overhiser, Cowie, Ridley (left at 9:30 a.m.), Graff, Winfrey, and guests: Bruce Rissi, Scholten Fant Attorneys; Ron Wise, SHAES; Rob Pirsein, Midwest Civil Engineering; Marcy Formigoni, Rachel Brenner, and Susan Katt, Casco Senior Care Program (arriving 9:15 a.m.); Paul Bristol, USDA (arriving 9:10 a.m.).

Ron Wise reported that interviews had been conducted with the three lowest bidders: BCI, Mavcon, and Lakewood Construction. Olson Construction, a local company, had also been interviewed.

Contractors had varying approaches to lowering costs, and BCI had suggested building 2 5" wells instead of an 8" and a 5" well. A stick built approach is cheaper than a pole barn by eliminating multiple concrete pours. The current bid has been lowered to \$680,000 and they will meet with electrical and mechanical subcontractors later today.

The USDA and the bond counsel likes to see contingency plans. While SHAES has a \$15,000 contingency fund established, bond counsel recommends \$45,000-\$50,000.

The USDA interest rate may go down to 4.375%; it cannot go higher than 4.5%.

SHAES wants to build a building big enough to anticipate future needs. The site will be raised 4' and the roof drainage will be tied to the Bodfish drain and a retention pond on the south side. The building will be equipped with fire suppression sprinklers.

Initially, the project authorized the Township to incur indebtedness up to \$700,000. In June, a bond resolution was passed for \$650,000. That bond resolution needs to be amended to \$700,000, given the proposed total project cost of \$750,000 (including architects and engineering fees). \$700,000 will be bonded, and the additional \$50,000 will be the USDA grant. (Initially, a larger grant was hoped for).

SHAES has approved (in a meeting on 8/5/09) to establish a \$15,000 contingency fund, to service total debt incurred by Casco in 15 years, and to work with BCI as general contractors.

Cowie moved to adopt the Resolution Amending Resolution Authorizing Issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2009, seconded by Graff, with Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, and Graff voting yes in a roll call vote.

Eldon Ridley excused himself at 9:30 a.m.

Paul Bristol presented a Position 5 Loan Resolution Authorizing and Providing for the Incurrence of Indebtedness for the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving, and/or extending its new fire station facility. This loan resolution outlines the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$700,000 and the acceptance of a USDA grant of \$50,000. Winfrey moved approval, seconded by Cowie, with Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, and Graff voting yes in a roll call vote, with Ridley absent.

Graff moved to accept the recommendation of SHAES to accept BCI as General Contractor, seconded by Winfrey, with Graff, Winfrey, Overhiser, and Cowie voting yes in a roll call vote. Ridley was absent.

Susan Katt and Rachel Brenner were introduced and welcomed as the new Casco Senior Care Program Director and Outreach Coordinator, respectively.

Mount Pleasant/Workmen's Circle Park:

Bruce Rissi of Scholten Fant explained the background of the lawsuit and the legal arguments presented by both Workmen's Circle and Casco Township. This matter relates to a plat dedicated in 1925 and the legal question of a government knowingly accepting the public park within the plat.

The Court of Appeals has remanded the matter back to the Trial Court.

Mr. Rissi outlined various options and discussion ensued about the Township's interests in the matter.

After discussion, Cowie moved to authorize Mr. Rissi to file a motion for reconsideration by the Court of Appeals, seconded by Graff, MSC. Mr. Rissi will research the deadline for filing an appeal to the Supreme Court and he will advise us of other potential next steps at the August regular board meeting.

Graff moved to adjourn, seconded by Winfrey, adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

Attachments: Fire Station resolutions and Court of Appeals decision

Approved 9/21/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting of August 17, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance. Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, & Cowie, and approximately 20 interested persons.

Jeanne Van Zoeren, Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, and Bill Nelson, Director of the Allegan County Road Commission, made a presentation about a CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) grant opportunity for a bike path along Blue Star Highway.

Van Zoeren has been chairing a committee comprised of representatives from other jurisdictions to explore developing a bike path along the Lakeshore in Allegan County. The idea is to connect a link stretching from the Indiana border to Mackinac. The CMAQ funds, federal funds, require a 20% match, and consulting fees would add 15% to the project cost for year one. The concept is to work in phases, with Year 1 bringing the path from the Kal-Haven trail to just south of Miami Park.

Van Zoeren outlined advantages a bike path would bring to quality of life, including evidence to show a path increases surrounding real estate values. The parameters of the CMAQ grant were discussed. Though funding is not guaranteed, there is an annual allocation in Allegan County and Bill Nelson estimated that Casco would be viewed favorably for this project by the committee. Scott Post, a consulting engineer from Prein Newhof, discussed the grant opportunity.

At the end of September, the Road Commission will conduct a public meeting to decide on funding priorities for 2010 and 2011. Bill Nelson is currently soliciting project proposals. Another source of funding is a Federal Enhancement Grant, awarded state-wide, submitted through Bill Nelson. The request can be large, but a 40% match is needed to be competitive.

The path under consideration is a separate facility on the road right of way (not a paved shoulder).

In discussion, Graff expressed interest in receiving an estimate for another option (to extend the shoulder). She urged for clarity about how Parks & Recreation millage should be utilized, noting that a public hearing on the matter has not been held.

The timing was discussed, noting that a Parks & Recreation Meeting and Board Meeting will be held before the Road Commission meeting in September.

The argument was made that this could help increase construction within the Water/Sewer district as the bike path would make development more attractive.

Board members spoke to the lack of available funds for the match due to Water/Sewer funding pressures, the State economy, and the need to develop the Stefan parcel as a priority. Sources of funding outside the Parks & Recreation millage included a friends committee, Real Estate Companies, and developers. The question was raised if the road millage can be tapped.

Little detail is needed for the CMAQ grant application, though the 20% match cannot be comprised of other federal funds.

Overhiser opened the floor to questions. Doug Murdoch urged the Board to put some park money toward this and supported the decision to fund this as a way of showing the public more of what is happening.

Cowie expressed enthusiasm for the bike path but concern that more time is needed to explore funding options for the match.

Jackie DeSwann of Ganges Township introduced herself. She is now serving on the Allegan County Planning Commission (following the conclusion of Judy Graff's term).

Overhiser continued with the agenda.

Clerk's Report: Cowie presented minutes of the regular Board meeting of July 20, 2009. Graff moved approval, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

Cowie moved approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 6, 2009, amending the minutes to show the Fire Station resolutions and Court of Appeals decision as attachments, seconded by Winfrey, MSC.

Cowie introduced Resolution 090817B, Resolution Revising the Fee Structure for Freedom of Information Requests to cover expenses incurred when filling FOIA requests. Cowie moved support of this resolution, seconded by Ridley. Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, and Graff approved in a roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report:

General Fund	\$497,494.32
Parks	\$ 88,042.66
Seniors	\$ 41,242.40
Fire Department Fund	\$572,961.23
Road Fund	\$207,080.24
Cemetery Care	\$ 21,249.63
12 mo CD	\$ 103,561.72
Collected Tax	\$230,298.70

Winfrey moved to pay general fund orders #19644-19700 in amount of \$33,517.74; Collected tax orders #2452-2454 in amount of \$219,541.20; Fire Fund #3839-3840 in amount of \$739.37; Cemetery fund orders #1016-1017 in amount of \$159.47; and Road Fund #1052 in amount of \$14,500.00, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

ZBA: Ridley reported that Douglas Harper, 7430 Washington Street, parcel 03-02-609-015-00 needed variances on the west and front sides of his home and these were granted.

Planning Commission: Judy Graff reported that fees for special land use permits for home based businesses need to be reviewed. One was recently granted to Don Ridley for a slightly expanded use of his farm building. There is a need for tiered fees for special land uses and site plan reviews, and perhaps assigning Alfred Ellingsen to approve these without requiring applicants to appear before the Planning commission. Fees applicants have paid for PC meetings may be retroactively refunded to January 1,

2009 if this change is made. Compliance with SLU permits may increase if the requirement to appear before the PC is changed.

Casco Senior Care Program: Susan Katt introduced herself as the new Casco Senior Care Director, with Rachel Brenner as the Outreach Coordinator. Programming begins the Thursday after Labor Day (September 10 at 10:00 a.m.). Exercise will take place on Monday and Thursday.

Water/Sewer Authority: Allan Overhiser reported that the Bond Attorney and Financial Advisor have met in Lansing with hopes of refinancing the debt. Next month, the Authority will consider a timeline for mandating hookups to sewer. There are 415 homes in the district that are not hooked up.

SHAES Fire Station: The project is close to ground breaking, and paper work is in order, with a total project cost of \$750,000. BCI has been hired as general contractor (from Grand Rapids). A closing around September 1 is anticipated.

Parks & Recreation: The committee seeks direction on how much of the Township Hall will be renovated.

Regional issues include working with others (Casco , City of South Haven, South Haven Township, Geneva Township) to meet recreational needs, and explore establishing a regional recreational council. SHARP committee is looking for someone to take over development. The City doesn't want the burden of running SHARP.

Pam Weiner, a resident of the Washington Street/North Shore area, addressed the board about First Street Beach access and people violating the boundaries of the park area. She complained about the lack of enforcement of rules posted at the top of the stairs.

In response, the board wondered about establishing a contractual relationship with the City of South Haven to address the First Street park. There is a need to make provisions for park maintenance on a regular basis, and provide feedback to neighbors about actions or remedies. Historically, this has been used as a park. Overhiser will check into the City's involvement. Graff had visited the site and suggested that the township put sturdy fencing to mark the north and south property line, similar to the City of South Haven's Newsome Street access with states "This Property is only 30' wide." Also, simple language such as "no dogs, no fires, no alcohol, no tents" is needed. Overhiser will order a survey and pursue police protection.

Carleen Jones expressed concern about this park and stated the worries are similar to what happens at Glenn Shores.

Cowie presented Resolution 090817A, Casco Township Senior Services Millage. Cowie will ask the attorney if the time frame can be five years rather than 4. Cowie moved approval of the resolution, extending the term to 5 years instead of 4, contingent upon Attorney approval; seconded by Ridley; Ayes: Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, and Ridley.

Cowie presented Resolution 090817, Casco Township Nature Preserve Acquisition, a requirement of the MNRTF (Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund) grant process. Item #1 in the resolution reflects our particular financial involvement, that we are used phased grant funding and donated land to acquire the entire parcel. Cowie acknowledged that the wording of this resolution might need to change upon

review by our grant manager, but asked that we approve it with that potential amendment in mind. Winfrey moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Cowie, with Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, and Cowie voting yes in a roll call vote.

A quote from DeBest, Inc. related to the reclamation of the Miami Park park site was reviewed. The bid is acceptable at \$4344.45, but the new question is whether to create berms on the site as a way of managing dirt removed to create the swale. Consensus was that berms would be a nice feature at the park site.

Overhiser announced that a consent judgment is being pursued in the Beatty lawsuit. The Beattys are pursuing the vacation of Bluff Drive in Hollywood by the Lake. It is undeveloped land on Ravine Road, and our attorney is recommending the consent judgment. Cowie moved to approve the consent judgment, seconded by Ridley; Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, Cowie, and Overhiser voted yes in a roll call vote.

Other Business:

Brief discussion ensued about the need to further prioritize matters for the Parks & Recreation Committee. Priorities for the board include developing beach access at the Stefan Parcel, and developing the interior of the Township Hall into a community center where congregant meals might be served.

Overhiser invited public comment; there was none.

Ridley moved to adjourn at 9:50 p.m., seconded by Winfrey; adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk, Casco Township

Attachments:

Resolution 090817B, Resolution Revising the Fee Structure for Freedom of Information Requests
Resolution 090817A, Casco Township Senior Services Millage Resolution
Resolution 090817, Casco Township Nature Preserve Acquisition

**Resolution Revising the Fee Structure for
Freedom of Information Requests 090817B**

Resolution of the public body regarding the
fee structure used by the FOIA coordinator

BE IT RESOLVED, that Casco Township does hereby amend the following fee schedule for establishing the proper charge for a Freedom of Information Act request under Public Act 442 of 1976.

1. Duplication:
 - a. Copies from the Township-owned copier
 - Per 8 ½ x 11 page: \$.25
 - Per 8 ½ x 14 page: \$.25
 - Per ledger page: \$.40
 - b. Copies from another printing provider: actual cost of copies
 - c. Computer disks \$2.00/CD

2. Mailing/Delivery costs
Actual postage as established by USPS for the envelope size, or actual overnight charges of another courier if requested

3. Hourly Labor Wage: \$13.00 per hour

4. Subscription fee: \$20 for six month subscription

5. Deposit: If the anticipated charges for a requested record will exceed \$50, a good faith deposit of one-half the total anticipated charges shall be required.

6. Waiver of Fees: If an individual submits an affidavit that he or she is receiving public assistance or is able to state facts showing inability to pay fees because of indigency, a copy of a public record shall be furnished without charge for the first \$20 of the fee for each request.

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

Adopted/Denied this 17th day of August, 2009, by the Casco Township Board.

Casco Township Senior Services Millage Resolution 090817A

Motion by _____Cowie_____, supported by ___Ridley_____:

WHEREAS, Public Act 39, of 1976, authorizes a local unit of government to appropriate funds for activities or services for older citizens; and,

WHEREAS, activities or services under said Act mean identifiable actions directed toward the improvement of social, legal, health, housing, educational, nutritional, recreational, or mobility status of older persons, being persons 60 years and older; and

WHEREAS, said Act provides a local governing body of a local unit of government may submit a millage proposition to the electorate to levy up to 1 mil for services to older citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Casco Township Board desires to appropriate funds to promote such private, nonprofit corporation or organization for senior citizen activities or services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Township Board of Casco Township, Allegan County, Michigan resolves to submit the following ballot proposition in the general election to be held on Tuesday November 3, 2009:

“Shall the previously voted increase of .25 mill in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan constitution on general ad valorem taxes within Casco Township reduced by the required roll back to .2221 mill be renewed at .25 mill (.25 per \$1000 of taxable value for real and personal property) for the 5-year period of 2010 through 2014 inclusive for the purpose of funding activities or services for older persons, meaning individuals over the age of 60 years in accordance with Public Act 39 of 1976; and shall the Township levy such renewal in millage for said purpose, thereby raising in the first year an estimated \$48,314.00?”

Roll Call:

Ayes:___Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley_____

Nays:___none_____

Absent:___none_____

Resolution declared adopted this 17th Day of August, 2009.

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk
Casco Township

Approved 9/21/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Special Meeting of September 1, 2009, 11:00 a.m.

Overhiser called the meeting to order at 10:59 a.m. Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, and Cowie. The agenda was to provide direction to the Parks & Recreation Committee regarding various opportunities and considering our financial situation, and to set millage rates.

Discussion ensued about the bike path grant opportunity. Cowie desires to place a priority on the bike path development because, regionally, there is a lot of interest and the CMAQ program finally offers some funding. She also expressed that the Township Hall Community Center renovation should be managed by the Township Board, as it is beyond the scope of any particular committee, with a wide array of Township uses needing to be kept in mind.

Graff expressed that the bike path opportunity seems reactive and emanating neither from the Parks & Recreation plan nor the whole committee, which did not vote on the matter. She would like the Board to play more of a leadership role in providing direction to the Parks & Recreation committee about priorities. Graff expressed that park operations need to take precedent and development of the bike path is a lower priority than working towards park management (of First Street and the Stefan parcel).

Ridley was not in favor of the bike paths at this time, given our financial situation, and feels that country roads are adequate for people who bicycle.

Winfrey, an avid bicyclist, expressed concerns about affordability of the bike path with maintenance, and sees the Stefan parcel as the priority. She preferred to focus Township resources on the Stefan property.

Overhiser spoke to the size of Casco Township compared to other Townships with parks to manage, and the challenge of funding and developing parks given our budget, median household income (approximately \$44,000), and other priorities that demand our finances.

Overhiser summarized that the Township supported the idea of a bike path but not use of Township resources to pursue the development of a bike path (and maintenance of it) at this time. The question facing the Board is how to fund all park obligations, especially if parks & recreation millage funds are not available. A bike path is not deemed a top priority according to the current Parks & Recreation plan. The non-motorized path is a positive idea and the lack of support by the Board is not a negative view of the project.

After lengthy discussion, consensus was the Township was supportive of the concept of a bike path along Blue Star Highway, but could not commit to using Township funds to support the project at this date. Board members agreed about the need to focus efforts on acquiring and opening the Stefan parcel to the public and to put millage dollars to that effort. Questions

remained about the management of the various parks under discussion. The bike path is opportunistic but not strategic. When the recreation millage is up for renewal in 2010, bike path funding may factor into that.

Discussion ensued about hiring a consultant, accountable to the board, to direct the Parks & Recreation Committee in the following areas:

- implement a strategy to renew the Parks & Recreation millage;
- establish a “friends of” group for the Stefan parcel (Casco Township Nature Preserve);
- develop a budget for Parks & Recreation operations.

The Board acknowledged that the non-motorized trail project is not limited to parks & recreation; the board would entertain any proposals that might link funding of this project to economic development, roads/transportation, or other regional cooperation. The Board would be open to proposals for the project that would relieve the Township of any financial involvement in development or maintenance of a non-motorized trail. Cowie will send a letter to Bill Nelson apprising him of this decision ahead of the September 22 CMAQ meeting.

Allan and Judy volunteered to meet with Jeanne Van Zoeren to advise her of these decisions.

The Clerk will consult with other communities for a model for this RFP (Request for Proposals) for a consultant, and a parks & recreation budget will be developed after that.

Brief discussion ensued about the Transfer Station punch card with consensus being to remove three punches from the annual total as a cost-saving measure.

Resolution 090901, 2009 Millage Rates, was moved by Cowie and seconded by Ridley. This authorizes the following tax rates to be placed on the 2009 Winter Tax Bill:

Operating	.4725
Roads	1.3012
Fire	1.3
Ambulance	.7625
Hospital	to be provided by SHCH
Senior	.2221
Parks & Recreation	.2221
Recycling fee:	\$12.50
Lighting District Special Assessments: unchanged from last year (pending upcoming hearing)	

No one offered public comment despite the opportunity to do so.

Ridley moved to adjourn, seconded by Winfrey.

Adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

Attachment: Resolution 090901, 2009 Millage Rates

Resolution No. 090901
2009 Millage Rates
Casco Township Board
September 1, 2009

Whereas, the Casco Township Board has carefully reviewed and evaluated the financial needs of the Township, and

Whereas, the proposed fiscal 2009-2010 budget was noticed and available for public review, and

Whereas, ballot issues regarding millages for Township Roads, Senior Services, and Parks & Recreation were approved by voters on the August 8, 2006 Election,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the Casco Township Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the following rates to be placed on the 2009 Winter Tax Bill:

Operating	.4725
Roads	1.3012
Fire	1.3
Ambulance	.7625
Hospital	to be provided by SHCH
Senior	.2221
Parks & Recreation	.2221

Recycling Fee: \$12.50

Lighting District

Special Assessments: pending hearing at regular September Board meeting

Cowie moved approval of this resolution, seconded by Ridley.

Roll call:

Ayes— Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff

Nays— none

Absent: none

Resolution declared adopted by Allan W. Overhiser, Supervisor.

Approved 10/19/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Minutes of September 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance. Present: Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, & Winfrey and approximately six interested persons; Graff was absent.

Cowie presented the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 1, 2009. She moved approval, seconded by Winfrey; MSC. The minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17 were presented with a motion to approve by Cowie, supported by Ridley; MSC.

Lu Winfrey presented the following account balances:

General Fund	\$467,869.12
Parks	\$ 87,810.02
Seniors	\$ 42,886.29
Fire Department Fund	\$601,326.45
Road Fund	\$181,105.86
Cemetery Care Fund	\$ 22,013.21
12 month CD	\$103,778.97
Collected Tax Account	\$556,108.51

Winfrey moved payment of general fund orders #19701-19758 in amount of \$37,577.46; Collected tax orders #2455-2460 in amount of \$459,048.90; and Road Fund Order #1053 in amount of \$26,107.18, seconded by Ridley; MSC. Winfrey stated that the whole tax season goes delinquent on March 1.

SHAES: A groundbreaking ceremony was held; footings have been poured.

Water/Sewer Authority: Revenue is at a low point; the authority hopes to have enough cash to make the Fall bond payment. Refinancing as anticipated is not workable; if the Townships were to assume ownership of the bonds, they could be financed for a longer term.

Old Business

Blight Ordinance: Overhiser presented a revised blight ordinance. Decision made to add "Zoning Administrator" to those listed as being empowered to enforce the ordinance. Cowie moved approval of the following, with support by Ridley:

Casco Township Ordinance No. 092109, Blight Ordinance [see attached]; Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, and Winfrey voted yes; Graff was absent.

First Street Beach: A survey of First Street Park has been ordered; the surveyors are waiting for a deed on the southern parcel. Undersheriff Hull of Allegan County is

checking into whether there have been multiple calls at the park site. Emil Wessling stated that there have been no major rubbish problems there; the biggest problem is with neighbors putting yard waste under the beach stairs. The site seems to be used mostly by families with kids. There is a hedge encroaching over road access. Bob Baker said if the Township is going to put up a fence, the public should be notified as to the particular purpose.

Planning Commission: Fees are being looked at, along with an ordinance change to allow the Zoning Administrator to handle simple matters related to special land use permits.

Public comment: Emil Wessling mentioned the house that is falling down on 107th adjacent to the Hawkshead Golf Course.

At 7:49 p.m., Supervisor Overhiser opened a public hearing on street lighting special assessments. Cowie explained the purpose of the hearing and noted that no changes have been made to special assessments for street lights from the prior year.

Bob Baker and Ben Barton asked questions about street lights, which were answered.

Cowie presented Resolution 090921, Street lighting Special Assessments for 2009/2010 and moved approval, supported by Ridley; Winfrey, Overhiser, Cowie, and Ridley voted yes; Graff was absent.

Supervisor Overhiser closed the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

He announced upcoming Drain hearings on the Jerue and Hadaway Drains.

Ridley moved to adjourn at 7:59 p.m., seconded by Winfrey.

Adjourned.

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk, Casco Township

Attachments:

Blight Ordinance
Resolution 090921 Street lighting Special Assessments for 2009/2010

Approved 11/16/09

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting of October 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Present: Overhiser, Graff, Ridley, and Cowie. Lu Winfrey was absent. Approximately 7 members of the public were in attendance.

Overhiser led in the pledge of allegiance.

Clerk: Cowie presented the regular meeting minutes of September 21, 2009, and moved approval, supported by Ridley. MSC.

Cowie explained that Mrs. Lillian West, formerly a resident of Casco Township, had purchased 2 burial spaces in 2006 for two family members. This matter had been done by exception, and she now wished to undo the transaction. Cowie moved to receive back two burial spaces in Stephenson Cemetery, lot 05-2-12 #3 assigned to Roger West, and lot 05-2-12 #4 assigned to Mitchell Jordan, and to refund Mrs. Lillian West of 1700 Fairplain Avenue, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 the sum of \$200 in exchange for surrendering of the right to use these burial spaces. Graff seconded; MSC.

Cowie reminded those present of the November 3 election featuring 4 items for SHPS voters (election of Board members and renewal of the operating millage) and two items for everyone else (the senior millage renewal and the 9-1-1 surcharge renewal).

The first construction draw has been received for the fire station. Overhiser presented a bill from BCI construction (approximately \$73,000) and 3 change orders. Graff moved payment of the BCI bill and change orders, seconded by Ridley; Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, and Graff approved in a roll call vote. Winfrey was absent.

In Lu's absence, Overhiser presented the Treasurer's report as follows:

General Fund	\$462,401.16
Parks	\$ 86,628.02
Seniors	\$ 39,081.84
Fire Department	\$576,857.48
Road Fund	\$180,433.30
Cemetery Care	\$ 21,931.32
12 mo CD	\$103,996.68
Collected Tax Account	\$127,173.97

Overhiser moved payment of General Fund Orders #19759-19814 in amount of \$44,728.18; Collected tax orders #2461-2469 in amount of \$3,430,257.08; Cemetery Fund order #1018 in amount of \$92.97; Fire Department Fund orders #3841-3847 in amount of \$24,716.34; and Road Fund order #1054 in amount of \$747.99, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

Cowie distributed correspondence from neighbors near the Hanenburg parcel (Maple Grove). She wrote to them ahead of the MNRTF (Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund) Board appearance scheduled for next Wednesday, 10/21/09. Correspondence was received from Michael Lapchick, Abigail MacKenzie, Sam Rovit, and Tom Storr. Cowie also acknowledged receiving an email with questions and

concerns from Paula Arendson-Russo, who lives near the parcel but not within 3 lots of either side. Cowie also spoke by phone to near neighbors (Schuette and Barondes). Graff acknowledged that the concerns raised by the neighbors are nothing the Board is not already aware of and the board plans to address these. It was stressed that there is no more information on the acquisition of this parcel and nothing will be known until the MNRTF makes its decision on December 2, 2009. Graff suggested sharing this correspondence with the Parks & Recreation committee.

ZBA: The ZBA failed to have a quorum for its October meeting. Alternates are needed.

Planning Commission: Graff said a special meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, a workshop to set priorities for updates to the Zoning Ordinance.

Fennville District Library: Marilyn Jessup reported that the Board welcomed two new Board members and passed a budget. A 40% cut in State Aid is anticipated.

SHAES: It was Fire Prevention week last week, and 1200 children were educated about fire safety.

Casco Senior Care Program: Flu shots, flu mist, and the pneumonia vaccine will be available on Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Casco Township Hall, and that renewal of the senior millage will be on the November 3 ballot. Graff urged passage of the senior millage renewal.

County Commissioner's Report: Tom Jessup distributed his written monthly report and gave a summary. He explained the 911 surcharge.

Old Business:

RFP, Parks & Rec Consultant: Cowie distributed the draft Request for Proposals for a Parks & Recreation consultant. This consultant would do the following: a) focus on renewing the Parks & Recreation millage in 2011; b) establish a "friends of" group for the Stefan parcel; and c) develop a budget for Parks & Recreation. Overall, a consultant is needed to work with the committee and use volunteer energy well.

Questions from the audience were asked and answered. Concerns were expressed about the status of the Parks & Rec committee. The committee has not been disbanded by the Board. Feedback about the RFP was provided to Julie Cowie, who will distribute the final version later this week. This is following a decision made by the Board at a special meeting of September 1 to establish a paid position to manage Parks & Recreation activity in specific ways.

Update on Stefan Parcel: Cowie reported that the MNRTF Grant Manager visited the Maple Grove site and also met with her regarding paperwork and the closing of the Stefan parcel acquisition. All paperwork has been sent in. Allan Overhiser reported that the attorneys for the Stefan Trust had made some financial claims related to the transaction, but these arose after the initial costs for the acquisition had been submitted to the MNRTF (in 2007). Overhiser stated the amount being sought by the Trust Fund attorneys is approximately \$115,000, but there are no general funds available to pay this charge. He went on to say there is certainly political will to complete the acquisition of the lakefront park, as Lake Michigan access is a top priority of the Township residents.

Cowie presented the MNRTF resolution related to the Maple Grove grant request (attached to these minutes). She explained that in conversation with our grant manager, it is simplest to describe the

transaction as follows: Casco Township will put up \$500,000 in cash, Mr. Hanenburg will donate \$600,000 in land value, and the grant will cover the balance of \$2.5 million for the \$3.6 million parcel, Maple Grove. Casco Township's \$500,000 will come from the sale of the Township-owned parcel on Lakeview, which we estimate has a value of \$500,000 to \$600,000. Cowie moved approval of Resolution 091019, Casco Township Commitment to Nature Preserve Expansion Acquisition, seconded by Ridley. Cowie, Overhiser, Graff, and Ridley approved in a roll call vote. Winfrey was absent.

Graff suggested including maps and graphics to clarify what parcels of land are involved in this discussion.

Mount Pleasant Offer: Overhiser reviewed this matter, that Casco Township lost the case in Circuit Court. On an appeal, the matter was remanded back to Circuit Court to determine if the Board accepted the park in Mount Pleasant by use. We filed a motion for reconsideration, which was rejected. The Township could appeal to the Supreme Court, though our counsel does not recommend we do so. Brief discussion ensued. Cowie moved that we not appeal to the Supreme Court in the Mount Pleasant Community Circle case, seconded by Ridley; Overhiser, Graff, Ridley, and Cowie all voted yes in a roll call vote. Winfrey was absent. A representative from Mount Pleasant, who was present, said the offer of settling with Mount Pleasant Community Circle for \$10,000 was still on the table.

First Street Survey: Overhiser stated a survey has been done at First Street Beach. At North Shore, the Township parcel is 36' wide; at the top of the beach stairs, the parcel is 18' wide to the water's edge. With this information, perhaps a new sign can be posted though there is no urgency given the end of the season. Bob Baker, in public comment, warned against placing any kind of fencing or demarcation on the beach. Overhiser volunteered to work on a recommendation for this access point.

Water/Sewer Authority: Work continues on estimates for refinancing. With construction significantly behind projections, refinancing is being pursued before the Spring bond payment is due. There will be a decision at the next meeting on mandatory hookups. The first step will be to send out a letter describing this action and providing criterion for applying for a poverty exemption. This will only apply to residents within the special assessment district for water/sewer.

Bob Baker asked about tools used to identify homes within the water/sewer district. The Township has aerial maps available to view homes constructed in the district.

December Board of Review: Doug Assessor is recommending that the December Board of Review meeting take place on Tuesday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m. for correcting mutual mistakes. Overhiser moved that this date be set as the Casco Board of Review meeting time, with Cowie supporting; MSC.

Overhiser stated that Jeanne Van Zoeren tendered her resignation from the Parks & Recreation Committee. Overhiser thanked Jeanne for her energy as Chair this year, and moved to accept the resignation, seconded by Cowie; MSC.

Public Comment: Paula Arendson Russo presented the board with letters from residents suggesting that she be appointed to serve on the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Doug Murdoch suggested that the Board advertise for individuals to give of their time to Parks & Recreation, especially for young people.

Overhiser reiterated that the Board is very interested in keeping volunteers involved in park and recreation projects. Cowie stated that often the projects take a long time to launch and it tries the patience of the public. Bob Baker said it's important to let people know what they've volunteered for, and how long the commitment is.

Bill Sill presented a bid for snowplowing for the 09/10 Winter season. His rate would be the same as last year, \$6500, and includes plowing the Township Hall, the Transfer Station, and the cemeteries when a burial is scheduled. Ridley moved to continue the contract with Bill Sill Snowplowing, seconded by Graff; MSC.

Ridley moved to adjourn at 9:01 p.m., seconded by Graff; adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Cowie

Encl: Resolution 091019, Commitment to Nature Preserve Expansion Acquisition

Resolution 091019

Casco Township Commitment to Nature Preserve Expansion Acquisition

WHEREAS, Casco Township has submitted all documents required to complete acquisition of 8.62 acres to establish the Casco Township Nature Preserve, a public park; and

WHEREAS, this acquisition was made possible in part by a \$1.56 million grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the adjacent parcel, approximately 12 acres, currently owned by Mr. Ed Hanenburg and known locally as "Maple Grove," has been made available to Casco Township for purchase, and

WHEREAS, The Township sees the value in expanding the size of the proposed 8.62 Nature Preserve by an additional 12 acres, and

WHEREAS, The parcel owned by Mr. Hanenburg has an estimated market value of \$3.6 million; and

WHEREAS, The Township has applied for additional funding in the amount of \$2.5 million from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to put toward the acquisition of the land, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ed Hanenburg is willing to donate approximately \$600,000 of the land's market value to expand the Casco Township Nature Preserve, and

WHEREAS, The Township owns a parcel in Miami Park Subdivision with a market value of \$500,000 or more, and

WHEREAS, the sale of this parcel would produce sufficient cash to provide a funding match to qualify for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and

WHEREAS, The Township is willing to enter into a phased agreement with Mr. Hanenburg and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to make this transaction possible,

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the Casco Township Board proposes to sell the Township-owned parcel on Lakeview in Miami Park Subdivision and put \$500,000 from expected sale proceeds toward the purchase of the approximate 12 acre "Maple Grove" parcel currently owned by Mr. Ed Hanenburg in order to expand the Casco Township Nature Preserve to a total size of approximately 20 acres.

Moved by Cowie, seconded by Ridley;

Aye votes: Cowie, Overhiser, Graff, Ridley

Nay votes: none

Absent/Abstentions: Winfrey was absent.

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
 COUNTY OF ALLEGAN)

I, Julie M. Cowie, Clerk of the Township of Casco, Allegan County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Township Board at a Regular Meeting held October 19, 2009.

Signature

Date

Clerk, Casco Township, Allegan County, MI

Approved 11/16/2009

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Special Meeting of November 4, 2009, 12 noon

Supervisor Overhiser called the properly noticed special meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Present: Overhiser, Graff, Ridley, and Cowie. Winfrey was absent. Graff expressed a need to have the agenda earlier. Overhiser reviewed the posted agenda which included the following items:

- 1) Roundabout for North Shore/Blue Star Highway interchange
- 2) Non-motorized facility for proposed roundabout project
- 3) Senior Millage
- 4) Language and tasks for Parks & Recreation Request for Proposals, namely withdrawing the task of renewing the Parks & Recreation millage from the RFP;
- 5) Casco Senior Care Program Volunteer Driver policy
- 6) Stefan parcel and Barondes parcel
- 7) Heritage Route Resolution
- 8) Mt. Pleasant/Workmen's Circle lawsuit
- 9) Appoint ZBA member or alternate

Roundabout: Overhiser reported that the Allegan Co. Road Commission (Bill Nelson) got the grant for the roundabout proposed for North Shore and Blue Star Highway. A non-motorized facility could be included in the roundabout construction if the Township desired. Moreover, an additional pathway stretching from the south side of the roundabout to Baseline Road could be included in the construction of this roundabout for a cost to the Township of between \$20,000 and \$30,000. CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality) funds may be available in 2010 for this extension of the non-motorized facility (beyond the roundabout).

Discussion ensued about where funds would come from to construct a non-motorized facility between the proposed roundabout and Baseline Road. With the budget being tight and the acquisition and development of the Stefan parcel being the highest priority, there was reluctance to invest in this additional segment at this time. The bike path segment through the roundabout would serve Cousins' customers and provide a linking point for future funding of a bike path (as connectivity is an important element in securing grant funds). Cowie moved to authorize construction of a non-motorized facility at the North Shore/Blue Star roundabout and to accept responsibility of maintenance of the non-motorized facility, but not to expend Township funds on the project at this time, seconded by Graff; MSC.

In public comment, Bob Sherwood urged the Board to hold off expenditures on this project for the time being.

Senior Millage: The millage passed by a resounding vote, and Lisa Ross-Miller, Judy Graff, Blanche Wilkinson, and other donors and volunteers were thanked for their efforts in renewing the millage.

A new program designed to train and strengthen persons who care for aging parents is being proposed by the Casco Senior Care Program for early 2010. The program costs \$800 for 4 segments delivered at two hours per week for four weeks, or \$1200 for a six week program (the program would be presented by a trainer from Evergreen Commons). Consensus was to schedule the four week program at \$800 program cost.

Casco Senior Care Program Volunteer Driver policy: It was noted that although we run background checks on drivers, we have not established a policy on what to do about what might appear when running such a check. Julie will check with other organizations (Allegan, Cass County) to find out what their policies are.

Email correspondence from Barb Houlberg to the Board regarding Casco Senior Care Program staffing was acknowledged. Allan Overhiser will follow up with Barb Houlberg.

Parks & Recreation Request for Proposals: Cowie explained that she had erred in including the task of renewing the Parks & Recreation millage in the Request for Proposals for a Parks & Rec Consultant. Millage funds cannot be used for this purpose, but certainly a consultant can train volunteers to “befriend” parks. Cowie has already explained this correction to interested consultants. Graff moved to amend the Parks & Recreation Request for Proposals to remove this language, seconded by Cowie; MSC.

Stefan Parcel and Barondes: Cowie has received no further word on the Stefan parcel closing date. Acknowledgement was made of correspondence received from Marjorie Barondes, owner of a 12.3 acre parcel directly north of Edward Hanenburg’s parcel (Maple Grove). Mrs. Barondes is interested in the Township’s acquisition of the Maple Grove parcel through grant funding (requested in 2009 from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund) and would be willing to have her parcel considered for park land also.

Heritage Route Resolution of Support: Cowie offered Resolution 091104, Heritage Route Resolution of Support, US 31 Route/West Michigan Pike, attached to these minutes. This resolution would support the nomination of US 31 as a heritage route. Graff moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Cowie; Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, and Graff approved the resolution. Winfrey was absent. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Mount Pleasant/Workmen’s Circle: There has been no movement on this lawsuit and no action taken.

ZBA Member or alternate: Overhiser had no nominations to offer at this time.

In other matters, newsletter articles should be written by the weekend.

Allan and Ross Stein traveled to Lansing to pursue refinancing the water/sewer debt and stop the Township subsidies of the Water/Sewer Authority. At this time, about \$13.5 million of the debt will be refinanced; interest rates should be favorable. Timing is to get this completed before the Spring Bond payment is due.

Graff requested a spreadsheet comparison and written information. The new financing package is based on very conservative projections and will not be including mandatory hookup revenue. The refinancing will take precedent over pursuit of the mandatory hookup process.

There was no public comment.

Cowie moved to adjourn at 1:27 p.m., seconded by Ridley. Adjourned.

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

RESOLUTION # 091104

**HERITAGE ROUTE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
U.S. 31 ROUTE/ WEST MICHIGAN PIKE**

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Member Graff and supported by Member Cowie:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) pursuant to the Heritage Route Act of 1993 (P.A. 69 of 1993), is empowered to designate scenic, recreational, and historic highways in the state; and

WHEREAS, the public highway known as Route 31/West Michigan Pike extending from the southwest corner of the Michigan/Indiana state line to Ludington, Michigan and within the Township of Casco exhibits exceptional scenic/recreational/historic quality and passes through an area of significant regional importance; and

WHEREAS, a the designated route was established to be within ten miles of U.S. Route 31 highway corridor by the State of Michigan, Department of History, Arts & Libraries, Michigan Historical Center in partnership with the Michigan Beachtowns Association, and

WHEREAS, it is intended that this resolution of support be forwarded to MDOT in order to nominate U.S. Route 31/West Michigan Pike as a heritage route.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Casco enthusiastically supports the nomination of U.S. Route 31/West Michigan Pike as a heritage route and authorizes including this resolution with the nomination documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Casco hereby requests and encourages the MDOT to quickly designate U.S. Route 31/West Michigan Pike as a heritage route.

RECORD OF VOTE: Yeas: Ridley, Cowie, Overhiser, & Graff
Nays: None
Absent: Winfrey

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

I, Julie M. Cowie, Clerk of the Township of Casco, Allegan County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution relative to designating US31 as a Heritage Route, which Resolution was adopted by the Casco Township Board of Trustees at a meeting held 11/4/2009.

Signature

Title

Dated

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting of November 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, and Cowie and approximately 14 interested people. Eldon Ridley was absent.

Overhiser led in the pledge of allegiance. Representative Bob Genetski was present and reported on activity in Lansing. The \$44 Billion State budget is complete after about \$2.8 billion in cuts were made.

Two State Troopers introduced themselves, Officer Linc Miller and Officer Jeff Olney. They have set up a workstation in the Supervisor's office and start and end their work day in Casco Township. This is done at no cost to the Township and the police presence is welcomed by the Board.

Minutes: Cowie presented the regular minutes of October 19, which were approved by Graff, seconded by Winfrey; MSC. The Special Meeting minutes of November 4, 2009/noon were presented, with Graff moving approval, seconded by Cowie; MSC.

Cowie presented payments related to the 66th Street Fire Station Construction project. A double payment was made for an invoice in October (Check #3847 to Professional Services, Inc. for \$1723). This error was corrected and a refund of \$1723 was received from PSI and credited to the Fire Fund in November (on receipt #7526 dated 11/12/09.)

Winfrey presented the following account balances:

General Fund	\$470,873.65
Parks Fund	\$ 85,080.63
Senior Services	\$ 33,746.16
Fire Department Fund	\$274,285.20
Road Fund	\$ 67,880.21
Cemetery Care Fund	\$ 21,630.59
12-mo CD	\$104,341.50
Collected Tax Account	\$ 87,365.02

Winfrey moved payment of the following:

General Fund orders #19815-19881 in amount of \$40,521.92; Collected tax orders #2470-2475 in amount of \$123,730.80; Cemetery fund orders #1019-1020 in the amount of \$308.64; Fire Fund order #3848-3853 in the amount of \$375,756.95; and Road Fund orders #1055-1056 in the amount of \$112,605.97, seconded by Cowie; MSC.

Overhiser stated that in lieu of additional compensation for the June windstorm cleanup, Emil Wessling would like the Township to provide him with a chainsaw that he would use personally and for Township work. Overhiser moved to purchase a chainsaw priced at just under \$420, seconded by Cowie; MSC.

Cowie said she would like to stop using metal ballot containers for holding and transporting ballots. She prefers a more modern canvas bag which is easier to transport in case of a recount. Cowie moved and Winfrey seconded to decommission the metal ballot containers and remove them from the building; MSC.

Reports:

ZBA: Ridley was not present to report, but all three variances requested at the early Nov. meeting were denied.

Planning Commission: Bruce Barker said priorities for 2010 include revising the Master Plan, updating the Zoning Ordinance, and conducting a joint training session the first Saturday in February. A meeting schedule for 2010 has been set.

Bob Baker inquired about street lighting, reporting that a streetlight at the corner of Washington & Lincoln has been ill functioning for years. It was unclear if this streetlight is served by Consumers Energy via Casco Township's street lighting district for Washington, or by the City. Overhiser will check into it.

Casco Senior Care Program: Susan Katt, Director, reported on recent programs. The exercise class has involved many people, and the senior appreciation lunch held in late September was attended by over 100 people. Recently, there have been three potluck lunch/craft programs. The flu clinic was cancelled due to lack of serum. A medicare workshop is scheduled for early December. Lisa Ross-Miller, Blanche Wilkinson, and others who contributed time and effort to the Senior Millage renewal were thanked and the wide margin of yes votes for the renewal was celebrated.

Fire Station Update: SHAES Executive Director Ron Wise reviewed all change orders since the start of the project. Change order #1, for \$435, was to change windows. Change order #2, for \$1,752.50, was to install 4" PVC conduit from property line to the service location. Change order #3 is to provide a trap and clean-out for 8 garage floor drains (\$830), and Change order #4 is to install a 200' test well (\$1,711.50). Cowie moved approval of change orders #1 through #4, seconded by Winfrey, MSC. SHAES hopes to vacate the Township Hall site in June, 2010; the lease with Casco Township will need to be addressed.

Stefan update: Cowie reported on a conversation with Grant manager Deborah Apostol. A resolution stating the matching funds we will provide for year two of the phased funding was presented, with the understanding that Ms. Apostol may help us further edit the resolution. We are providing \$600,000 in matching funds (via land donation) to match the \$600,000 in acquisition money from phase 2. We also owe them statements about how the land does not currently have non-recreational uses nor is contamination suspected. Resolution 091116 pertaining to the Stefan Acquisition was presented, with Cowie moving approval and Graff seconding. Graff, Cowie, Overhiser and Winfrey all voted yes. Ridley was absent.

Five submissions in response to our request for proposals for a Parks & Recreation Consultant have been received. This consultant will help establish a "Friends of" group and will assist in other specific areas. Cowie moved to authorize Overhiser and Graff to review all five proposals and bring a recommendation to the Board at the December meeting, seconded by Winfrey; MSC.

Overhiser reported on his discussion with Bill Nelson about the Roundabout and CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funding. The fund is available on an annual cycle; no one from Allegan County applied for 2010 funds, likely due to widespread budget constraints. An application made in 2010 will fund a 2011 project.

Bond Refinancing: The 1998/2000 bonds can be refinanced if they are brought under the authority of the Water/Sewer Authority. A special meeting to be held jointly with the Water/Sewer Authority and South Haven Township is scheduled for December 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the South Haven Township Hall. Overhiser distributed a memo from bond counsel, Dickinson Wright PLLC, outlining the bond refinancing. If Trustees have questions for the agenda, they should submit them to Overhiser soon.

New Business:

Miami Park Drain and Mt. Pleasant Drain: Overhiser reviewed a memo submitted by Bill Nelson of the Allegan County Road Commission regarding Storm water downspouts at Lakeshore. The drainage issues were discussed. It was deemed that the site in Miami Park is more problematic, and Winfrey moved to fund engineering plans to provide necessary information regarding a downspout project at the Miami Park site, seconded by Graff; MSC.

Anderson Boundary Adjustment: Norman E. Anderson presented a request to convert 4 adjacent parcels in Sunset Shore Subdivision into 3 buildable lots measuring approximately 110' deep and 70', 65' and 65' in width, respectively. This would make them conform to the current Zoning ordinance. Cowie moved to accept the boundary adjustment as described in Mr. Anderson's memo dated November 9, 2009 and shown in an attached surveyor's certificate dated 10/12/2009 (Lots 201 through 204 along Elm Street), seconded by Graff; MSC.

Overhiser presented a document from Casco United Methodist Church that formalizes use of the Church building by the Casco Senior Care Program. Hourly rate will be \$20 effective November 1, 2009. Graff moved to accept conditions as presented by the Casco United Methodist Church trustees in a Policy document dated 11/1/09, seconded by Cowie; MSC.

Graff read email correspondence from Tom Atkinson dated November 4, 2009 in which Mr. Atkinson mentioned money spent in court related to Parks & Recreation. Overhiser stated that no money has been spent on lawyers for Parks-related matters and went on to affirm that the Township has legally defended itself to protect public right of ways for the use of private citizens.

Cowie thanked Bruce Brandon of the Parks & Recreation committee for taking 2 ½ days out of October to attend Parks related meetings—the MNRTF Board meeting on October 21, and a two day Trails summit regarding Non-motorized facilities.

Public Comment:

Bob Baker expressed a desire for the City of South Haven to have a timely way of issuing a “do not contact” order for sewage spills. He also desired that Allan Overhiser have a vote on the Water Board.

Samuel Fleming concurred with our response to Tom Atkinson's email, that we have not spent money on Parks & Recreation legal matters (because there haven't been any).

Judy Graff thanked the many people who donated money and time to renew the senior millage, especially Lisa Ross-Miller and Blanche Wilkinson.

Max Van Zoeren asked for a status report on the Mt. Pleasant lawsuit. Overhiser responded by saying nothing new has happened since the last meeting and the board has not discussed it, except to decide

not to pursue the matter to the Supreme Court. The case has been remanded back to Circuit Court to determine if Casco Township accepted the park in Mount Pleasant/Workmen's Circle by use. The matter involves 300' of Bluff and public beach. There will likely be a pre-hearing conference between the attorneys. The offer of \$10,000 to settle is apparently still on the table, though Overhiser felt this amount was quite short.

There being no further comment, Winfrey motioned to adjourn at 9:20 p.m., seconded by Graff; adjourned.

Julie M. Cowie
Clerk

Attachments: MNRTF Resolution 091116

Resolution 091116
To accept terms of MNRTF Agreement
For the Acquisition of the Casco Township Nature Preserve

Moved by Cowie, seconded by Graff:

The following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Casco Township, Allegan County, Michigan does hereby accept the terms of the Agreement as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and that the Township of Casco does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

- 1) To provide, as a match to the \$600,000 in grant funds awarded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (acquisition project TF08-145) the sum of \$600,000;
- 2) That this sum of \$600,000 pledged by Casco Township comes from the value of land donated to Casco Township by the Walter and Marie Stefan Trust;
- 3) That the land to be acquired has no non-recreation uses remaining on site;
- 4) That the land, held by the Stefan family for more than forty years, has remained in a natural state;
- 5) that there is no indication of any contaminants and pollutants on this site;
- 6) To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available to the Department for auditing at reasonable times.
- 7) To regulate the use of the property acquired and reserved under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.
- 8) To comply with any and all terms of said Agreement including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution.

Ayes: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Cowie

Nays: None

Absent: Eldon Ridley

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

I, Julie M. Cowie, Clerk of the Township of Casco, Allegan County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Resolution relative to the Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which Resolution was adopted by the Casco Township Board of Trustees at a meeting held on Monday, November 16, 2009.

Signature

Title

Dated

DRAFT

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Special Meeting of December 10, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
South Haven Charter Township

Overhiser called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. Present: Overhiser, Cowie, and Graff, a quorum. Winfrey and Ridley were absent. The meeting was scheduled jointly with South Haven Township, though they did not have a quorum, and members of the Water/Sewer Authority. The purpose of the properly noticed special meeting is to discuss Water/Sewer Bond issues.

Ross Stein, Supervisor of SH Township and Chair of the Water/Sewer Authority introduced Terry Donnelly, bond counsel; and Bobbie Bendzinski, of Bendzinski & Co, the firm that issues the bonds.

Stein gave a verbal reporting of expected income: 4 months of REUs, \$285,000; debt retirement, \$250,000; Special Assessments, \$636,000; delinquents, approximately \$450,000. There has been one \$50,000 connection in South Haven Township apart from these revenues. The balance in the Water/Sewer Authority is approximately \$1,030,000 and the Spring 2010 bond payment is \$1.5 million.

Discussion ensued about refinancing the 1998 and 2000 bonds.

Terry Donnelly described various conditions under which bonds can be refinanced. Several do not apply to the Water/Sewer Authority's circumstances. 1) refinancing must offer present value savings (which the Water/Sewer Authority would not have)—and relief must be secured from the MI Department of Treasury, which is not easily accomplished; or, 2) The Water/Sewer Authority must issue the debt, purchasing the bonds from Van Buren County. This latter option is being proposed, and the process is called re-funding (not "refinancing.")

Donnelly noted that the 2004 bonds issued by Van Buren County and Allegan County cannot be re-funded, because they already have been.

A negotiated sale rather than a competitive bid is being pursued. A schedule (included with these minutes) shows a \$12,225,000 bond providing a revenue stream through May 2029. Both gentlemen described the various parameters that go into a bond formula and affect the amounts requested, timeline, etc.

Stein outlined the growth assumptions behind the figures. He assumed a 2% growth rate annually, equal to 7 ½ homes if constructed as single homes in the special assessment district, or 15 homes in a development (or some mix of the two)—approximately 20-30 homes each year between the Townships.

Years 1-3	\$150,000 in annual hookup revenue (15 indirect or 7 ½ whole hookups, approximately)
Years 4-5	\$175,000
Years 6-10	\$200,000
Next 5 yrs	\$250,000
Next 4 yrs	\$275,000
Next 5 yrs	\$300,000

Graff asked what problem is being solved through pursuit of this re-funding. The problems were outlined as follows:

- 1) End drain on Townships' general fund caused by subsidizing water/sewer shortfall
- 2) Water/Sewer customers paying relatively high sum for monthly debt retirement
- 3) Requirement to service debt

Discussion ensued about the \$500,000 bond payment due in May. This sum could be rolled into the re-funding, which would be extended beyond 2029 to account for that.

The consultants were asked how this Water/Sewer Authority's connection charges compare to other communities. It was Donnelly's sense that our rates were competitive. (There is concern that rates do not increase to dis-incentivize construction within the Water/Sewer district).

In public comment:

Discussion ensued about a "zero growth" model, at least for early years, to more accurately reflect this market downturn and high number of unsold existing homes in area (Ron Hartgerink et al).

Rich Dutkowski asked about repair contingencies if the bonds go to 2029 and beyond and there is a major system failure before that time.

It was clarified that a maintenance fund exists that would cover rebuilding a lift pump.

Fees incurred add up to \$100,000 for the consultants and \$122,000 for the underwriter; this \$222,000 will be rolled into the bond issue.

The bond issue is estimated to cost \$4.1 million.

Timeframe for re-funding:

Approve in January

Publish the right to referendum

Issue and deliver the bonds by April 1

Consensus was to request revised numbers from Bendzinski as follows:

0% growth for first five years of re-funding

2% growth for balance of years

Include \$500,000 payment (principal and interest) due in May 2010

It was also requested that assumptions behind the re-funding proposal be itemized. Other assumptions include:

- Retirement fees will not be changed
- Debt Service will not be changed
- Fire hydrant rental will increase according to a stated schedule
- Hookup fees will not increase

Terry Donnelly explained the Referendum Process (formed under Public Act 233).

Graff expressed concern that the public may not easily understand the Right of Referendum. Cowie commented that the right of referendum has been announced in Board meetings before (i.e., during the Fire Station Construction process). Overhiser agreed that the right of referendum and the bond re-funding is a complicated issue. People can be invited to discuss the matter at the next board meeting.

Cowie moved to adjourn at 7:50, seconded by Graff; MSC. Adjourned.

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

Casco Township Board of Trustees

Attachment: 15 page packet entitled, *South Haven Township and Casco Township Water & Sewerage Treatment Authority Series 2009 Restructuring*

Approved as amended, 1/11/10

Casco Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting of December 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Overhiser called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance. Present: Overhiser, Winfrey, Graff, Ridley, Cowie, and approximately 27 members of the public.

Officers Linc Miller and Jeff Olney of the Michigan State Police made a short presentation about how residents may request a property check by completing a form and submitting it to the troopers.

Cowie presented the minutes of the November 16 regular meeting. Graff moved approval, seconded by Winfrey; MSC.

The minutes of the Special meeting of the Water/Sewer Authority (12/10/09 at 6 pm at the South Haven Township Hall) were presented, with Graff moving approval, seconded by Cowie; MSC.

Correspondence from South Haven Public Schools has been received, inquiring if we wish to continue our relationship of collecting taxes each summer on their behalf. Cowie moved to continue collecting 100% of South Haven Public School District taxes during the summer tax collection period beginning July 1, 2010 at the same fee as the prior year, \$2.50 per parcel; seconded by Winfrey; MSC.

Cowie presented Resolution #091214 (attached to these minutes) regarding payment of Fire Station invoices. She moved approval, seconded by Ridley; all approved in a roll call vote.

Winfrey presented the following account balances:

General Fund	\$427,402.92
Parks	\$ 85,028.13
Senior Services	\$ 32,175.48
Fire Department Fund	\$274,202.67
Road Fund	\$ 67,898.00
Cemetery Care Fund	\$ 21,636.10
12 mo cd	\$104,426.42
Collected Tax Account	\$ 53,874.94

Winfrey moved approval of the following: General Fund orders #19882-19936 in amount of \$51,831.75; Collected tax orders #2476-2481 in amount of \$52,501.14; Fire Fund Orders #3854-3856 in amount of \$131,936.93, and payment of additional checks #19937-19944 totaling \$1783.99 which will be part of the December pay period, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

ZBA: Ridley reported the October meeting did not have a quorum. Activity at the rescheduled November 5 meeting included 3 requests;

- Cynthia Koch of 28 North Shore Drive to remove an existing house and construct a new house wider than permitted in Zoning Ordinance;
- Ken Watts, to construct a single family home on B Avenue in Workmen's Circle on a 35' wide parcel; and
- Robert McNulty, to locate a gazebo closer to rear and side boundaries than allowed by zoning on Lakeview in Miami Park.

All three of these requests were denied.

Casco Senior Care Program: The upcoming Caregiver's Program on Wednesday afternoons at the Township Hall in January was announced. Since September, 265 seniors have been contacted.

Sexton, Emil Wessling: Emil requested a leave of absence and appointed Joe Dubas as a temporary replacement. This was received as an excellent idea and Emil was thanked for his great work over the last 10 years.

County Commissioner: In Tom Jessup's absence, Jedidiah Jessup provided highlights from the County Commissioner Newsletter, including purchase of the Haworth property in Allegan to use as the new jail (for \$1.7 million).

Fennville District Library: Marilyn Jessup announced a budget hearing for the Library; services will stay the same but State budget cuts are coming.

SHAES: Ron Wise reported on progress on the 66th Street Fire Station, and change order #10 which will decrease the cost of the building by \$10,000 (the change adds a 5th well and upgrades the generator).

Cowie moved approval of the following change orders: #5, sock tile; #6, venting in kitchen; #7, 5" well and generator upgrade; #8 return air; #9, dryer venting, seconded by Ridley; MSC.

Old Business:

First Street: Overhiser reviewed the history of First Street, which is a Road Right of way. The Township has built and maintained stairs used by the neighborhood for perhaps over 100 years. Originally, the easement was 45'-40' wide. In January of 1962, the Road commission vacated the north 20'. The parcel narrows to 18' ROW at water's edge.

Overhiser stated that the Sheriff's department researched incident files and there have been no habitual problems at this site. He acknowledged increased activity in the area due to growth on Washington Street and acknowledged that realtors are eager to notify renters about beach rules (and changes, if any).

Letters expressing positive experiences of the beach have been received and are made part of these minutes. Graff quelled the rumor circulating that the board had made a decision to close the beach; this decision was never made and is not in the interest of the Board. It is in the Board's interest, now that the survey is done, to show that the Township has 18' of ROW at the water's edge—perhaps through clearer signage or fencing. The goal is to delineate the width of the ROW simply, clearly, and in a manner consistent with other beach signage in that area.

The board understands that people who use the beach want to keep using it. Overhiser invited public comment:

Ann Klimek asked what kind of fencing is proposed (recommendations will come in the future).

Rose Sallen said there is no issue with the beach; beach traffic has declined with "no parking" signs.

Dennis McKenzie stated the police have done a good job reinforcing parking limits, and the residents often clean the beach. He cautioned against restricting access as a negative precedent.

Bob Baker attributed this to the rumor mill and surmised that one resident might've been upset by July 4 activity.

A resident thanked the Township for the wonderful stairway and platform that was installed in the 1980s.

Diane Schlanser asked those present to keep their eyes open for dumping of leaves, etc under the stairs.

Correspondence was sent out to local residents last summer stating dumping was not permitted.

Eric Schlanser stated that the ROW doesn't belong to residents of Washington Street (exclusively). He requested parking on S. side of Washington Street to allow locals to access the stairs.

Local residents were urged to form a "Friends of" group to address First Street wants and needs in an organized manner. The Board is not aware of any petition related to First Street Beach Access.

Overhiser announced that matters related to First Street Beach access (signage, etc) would be taken up at the February 15, 2010 regular board meeting.

Water/Sewer Refinance: An informational meeting will be held in the upcoming weeks. The notice of the Public Right of Referendum will be published to start a 45 day waiting period. He distributed Pro Formas to the Board.

A resident named McKenzie asked how the water/sewer refinancing will affect bills. Overhiser responded that those not connected to the system would face a stiff fee if mandatory hookups go through (the move toward mandatory hookups is on hold at this time). Hopefully what the refinancing will do is eliminate need to raise rates further. After refinancing, mandatory hookups will be looked into. McKenzie wondered about a sliding scale for hookups. Overhiser said State law limits discretion, but payment terms can be negotiated. Bob Baker expressed concerns that the SH Board of Public Works will raise fees on septic to pay for the new treatment plant. He suggested that the amount of (storm)water going into lift stations be looked into, that it was problematic.

Overhiser anticipated that around the first of the month, the Bond Pro Forma and projected Water/Sewer revenue streams would be available and a special meeting would be scheduled.

Parks & Recreation Consultant: Graff and Overhiser, a committee to recommend a parks & recreation consultant, recommended Pam Blouw of the five or so consultants who responded to Casco's Request for Proposals. She has grant writing experience, is very project oriented, and anticipates problems. She also has very strong interpersonal skills. Cowie moved to enter into a contractual agreement with Pam Blouw as a Parks & Recreation consultant, seconded by Winfrey; MSC.

The first task is to establish bylaws for a parks and recreation committee. This document will come before the Board at the January board meeting; then, it is hoped to re-involve members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee in Township work. Overhiser will contact Pam Blouw with this assignment. Cowie will write to the approximately 5 consulting firms who applied for the work to inform them of the Board's decision.

SHAES: A letter from SHAES expressing their desire to vacate the Township Hall on June 1, 2010 was presented. It was moved by Winfrey to accept this document as the breaking of the lease (effective 6/1/2010) between the Township and SHAES, seconded by Graff; MSC.

Meeting Dates, 2010: A proposed list of dates for 2010 Board meetings was presented. Most are third Mondays, with the exception of January and December (2nd Mondays). The Feb. 6 Saturday joint meeting with the Planning Commission, et al, was added. The proposed schedule, therefore, is:

Board of Trustees Regular Meetings Mondays 7:00 p.m.
January 11, 2010

Sat. Feb. 6, 9:00 a.m.
February 15, 2010
March 15, 2010
April 19, 2010
May 17, 2010
June 21, 2010
June 28, 2010 Annual Meeting
July 19, 2010
August 16, 2010
September 20, 2010
October 18, 2010
November 15, 2010
December 13, 2010

Cowie moved approval of these meeting dates; Winfrey supported; MSC.

Judy Graff read an emailed comment from Dan Way about inadequacies in Miami Park drainage in the area of Lakeshore Drive and Lakeview.

In public comment, Ron Wise announced that a new Fire Truck will replace Engine 12.

Overhiser announced the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Julie M. Cowie, Clerk

Attachments: Resolution #091214, Fire Department Construction Expenses
Survey, First Street Beach Access

Correspondence, First Street Beach Access point (all supporting the access staying open):
Tom/Ila Banner; Lee Niffenegger; Margaret Yokom; Jeff Klimek; Laurel & Tom Henkel; Doug Harper and Rose Lovio; Charles Wathen and Marcy Kamen; Anne Klimek; Rosellen Russell Sallen; Kimberly and David Strandberg; Renee Langland; Tom Rosenhagen (for residents Thomas & Holly Rosehagen; Madalyn Rosehagen; Douglas & Deb Popp); Allan and Dorothy Dale

Township of Casco Resolution #091214

The following bills and invoices, relating to the Casco Township 66th Street Fire Station project, were approved for payment at the December 14, 2009 Township Board Meeting:

BCI Construction:	_____ \$129,168.83 _____
MCE:	_____ \$2,190.60 _____
Adm/Legal:	_____
Other (please describe):	_____
Consumers Energy	_____ \$577.50 _____

It was noted that a check in the amount of \$1,723.00 for overpayment made to PSI (duplicate check) was received by the Township on 11/12/09 and credited to the Fire Station Construction Income Account.

The Township of Casco certifies that the above summary of bills and invoices were reviewed and they are directly related to the approved fire station construction project.

By: _____
 Julie M. Cowie

Title: _____
 Clerk

Date: _____