

Minutes of
September 11, 2023
INDIANFIELDS TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
1633 Mertz Rd., Caro, MI 48723

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM by Twsp. Supervisor William Campbell. Present were Treasurer Kristine King, Trustee Eric King, Trustee Ron Woloshen, and Clerk Robert Keilitz.

Guests: Scott Czasak, City Mgr., City of Caro; "Billy" Putman and family, Laura Strzelewicz, and Russ Sauvageau.

The Enforcement Officer was not present.

Public Comment: Mr Putman provided information on ordinances the local Republican Party hopes to have adopted at the county level, and that he is seeking broad township support for, that would protect provisions of the 2nd Amendment and The Right To Life movement from any constitutional oversight or infringement by the State.

Ms Strzelewicz stated that she has submitted a request by telephone for the name of the defoliant that was sprayed along the creek bank in the township park and has not received a response. She also stated that a tree has fallen across one of the trails in the park and is yet to be removed. And she asked if anyone on the board was aware that a collision between a township lawnmower and a tractor had resulted in an eighteen-hundred-dollar (\$1,800) repair bill. That was news to everyone.

Mr Czasak mentioned that the Township Clerk has spelled his name incorrectly several times in both sets of minutes presented at tonight's meeting.

Mr Sauvageau asked to know the procedure that is followed whenever someone calls the township with a complaint. He stated that, while having breakfast at a local restaurant, he overheard people at a nearby table stating that they had called and complained about disruptive activities on a neighbor's property and were told the appropriate official would call them back, but no one has been in contact with them. Moved and supported (Keilitz/Campbell) that the Township Board direct the Zoning Administrator/Enforcement Officer to instruct the owners of the property where the disruptive activity is occurring to "Cease and Desist," said activity. Motion passed. (Note: subsequent investigation by the Zoning Administrator/Enforcement Officer and the Township Clerk indicates that the activities in question ARE NOT disruptive, or a nuisance, and thus this motion should not be enforced.)

Moved and supported (Keilitz/E. King) that the Zoning Administrator/Enforcement Officer provide a written report of his activities to the board each month prior to regular meetings. Motion passed.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Campbell added the discussion of a proposed increase in the Garbage Collection Tax Assessment for the remainder of the year. Moved and supported (Woloshen/K. King) to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of 8/14/23 Regular Meeting: Moved and supported (Woloshen/E. King) to approve the minutes as corrected (fixing the City Manager's name). Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of 8/16/23 Public Hearing (Marijuana Licenses): Moved and supported (K. King/E. King) to approve as corrected (fixing the City Manager's name). Motion passed.

Reports of Officials:

The Supervisor shared photos he had received showing unkempt roadsides and cemetery plots. The photos were sent anonymously. Even so, cemetery workers were sent to the roadside locations to cut the grass and to trim cemetery plots.

The Treasurer's report was submitted and accepted by motion (Keilitz/E. King).

The Clerk provided the check register and reported that he and several other townships were entering into an agreement to "consolidate" efforts with the City of Caro during the nine (9) days of early voting during the upcoming Federal Elections. Doing so removes the necessity of Indianfields Township purchasing an additional tabulator. Details are currently being worked out by the County Clerk's office.

CTA Board Liaison (Secretary Keilitz) to the Caro Transit Authority provided a written report.

The Planning Commission did/will not meet in September.

Committee Reports:

The Personnel Committee did not meet.

The Cemetery Committee report was submitted and accepted.

The Parks Committee report was submitted and accepted.

Unfinished Business:

The Policies and Procedures Manual: the Clerk has provided an updated copy of the document to the Supervisor for review.

Purchase of new printers: The Clerk reported that he contacted the internet service provider for the township hall for recommendations of brands and models that would integrate seamlessly with the township network. The individual responding seemed to think the clerk was seeking to purchase equipment from the provider. This is wrong, and it impeded getting recommendations for this meeting.

Golf Cart: The Clerk contacted Titan Gold Carts in Linwood, Michigan. At the time of said contact, Titan did not have any used cart for sale. However, a page on their website displayed several carts that had recently been sold, including the prices asked, which were in line with the price of the cart provided to the Board at last month's meeting. The question that remained was: does the cemetery crew actually need a golf cart to chauffeur mourners to individual gravesites? No action taken

Putman Tax Abatement: Both the township attorney's and the township assessor have indicated that no legal way to grant the requested abatement exists. No action taken.

Putman recommendation for County Ordinances: No action taken.

New Business:

Roadside Mowing/New Mower: Moved and supported (Campbell/E. King) to purchase an articulated attachment for a township tractor and to hire an individual to mow roadsides two (2) times each year. Motion passed with two members (Keilitz/Woloshen) opposed.

Relay For Life: Moved and supported (Keilitz/Woloshen) to post notification of the Relay For Life on the township electronic bulletin board. Motion passed.

Winter Taxes: To be collected by the County Treasurer. Discussion, no action taken.

Improve Park Entrance: Moved and supported (Woloshen/K. King) to request bids to pave (with six (6) inches concrete) the entrance to the Township Park from Caro Road (M-81) to the railroad tracks. Motion passed.

Garbage Collection: Emterra's operating costs have increased, and they are asking for a corresponding increase in the Special Assessment that is currently being applied to each township resident. Moved and supported (E. King/Keilitz) to increase the assessment twenty dollars per year (\$20/Yr.), to be applied beginning with the Winter taxes this year. Motion passed.

Approval of Check Register Report: Moved and supported (K. King/Woloshen) to approve the check register as submitted. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None.

Announcements and Correspondence: None.

There being nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

William Campbell, Township Supervisor

Robert Keilitz, Township Clerk