

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Julian called the regular meeting of the Kasson Township Board to order at 7:00 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Greg Julian – Supervisor, Dana Boomer - Clerk, Julia Carter – Treasurer, Tad Carter – Trustee, Roger Noonan – Trustee
Member(s) Absent: None
Staff Present: Tim Cypher

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA – The board briefly discussed the agenda. **T. Carter moved to approve the agenda as presented. Noonan seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES – The board discussed the minutes from the regular meeting on July 11, 2023. **Noonan moved, J. Carter seconded to approve the July 11, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.**

PERTINENT COMMUNICATIONS: None

PRESENTATION: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a) **TREASURER’S REPORT:** J. Carter had previously submitted the treasurer’s report to the board. Receipts total \$251,036.26. Disbursements \$94,100.26. Balance \$1,060,257.48. A substantial portion of this is in the tax fund, which will be dispersed to various agencies.
- b) **BUDGET REPORT:** Boomer presented a budget report for July. The board briefly discussed.
- c) **BILL APPROVAL** – Boomer presented the check detail. The board briefly discussed. **T. Carter moved to pay the bills as presented; seconded by Noonan. All in favor, motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. **Cemeteries** – Boomer reported no discussion items for cemeteries this month.
- b. **Mining/Gravel Legislation** – Julian reported that the legislature is on recess for the summer, and no action is anticipated.
- c. **Sidewalk Ordinance** – No discussion - tabled
- d. **Township Master Plan** – A review of the updated Master Plan was received from Township Attorney Grier today. Boomer will be forwarding that document and the updated Master Plan to the board. She recommended that the board review the updated Plan in detail and prepare for discussion at the September meeting. The board had consensus to do so.

e. **Park Tables & Benches** – Julian has been continuing to work on getting specifications and quotes for park tables and benches. Commercial pre-made benches run \$750-1200 each, not anchored. Dave Murphy from Complete Outdoor is going to be looking at replacing the boards on the existing benches and providing a quote to Julian, for future discussion.

f. **Other Unfinished Business** - None

NEW BUSINESS –

a. **Consumers Franchise Agreement** – Boomer had forwarded a draft resolution for an extension to the Consumers Energy Franchise Agreement to the board. The board briefly discussed and had consensus to have Township Attorney Grier review the document prior to approval.

b. **Parks & Rec Planning** – Julian had received a mailing regarding planning for parks and recreation. The township does not currently have a Parks and Recreation Plan. These plans are required for most state and federal funding for recreation areas. The board briefly discussed. Julian would like to have a parks committee for the township. The board discussed the current township park and the possibility of additional recreation facilities there and at the township hall. Due to the extensive planning process for the creation of these plans and the lack of current focus on the expansion of township-owned recreation areas in Kasson Township, it was determined to hold off on further discussion of a Parks and Recreation Plan until some of the other long-term items on the agenda had been finalized.

c. **Little Free Library** – Kathy Drabik presented on the Little Free Library program of the Glen Lake Library. There are currently Little Free Libraries at the Lions Club and Myles Kimmerly Park. The books in these Libraries are provided by the Glen Lake Library through their culls and donated books. The library is interested in putting new Little Free Libraries in Kasson Township. There is a Boy Scout from Glen Lake School who is interested in constructing one of these Libraries, and there are already plans to place one at Broomstacks by the end of October. Julian and Drabik are also interested in placing one at the Township Hall. This one would be built or purchased by the Glen Lake Library or Friends of the Library. **Boomer moved to approve the placement of a Little Free Library at the Township Hall. J. Carter seconded. All in favor, motion carried.** Drabik summarized recent improvements to the Glen Lake Library, including a bicycle repair station and cubes that allow the charging of devices in the front courtyard.

d. **Township Hall** – This will be discussed under capital projects.

e. **Other New Business** - None

CAPITAL PROJECTS – EXPLORATION

a. **Maple City Improvement Project** – Julian and T. Carter are continuing to try to make contact with the LCRC to coordinate this project. There needs to be coordination between the township, LCRC, and Gosling Czubak on this project. The board extensively discussed the timeline for the project and the need for coordination with the Road Commission. The Township Board would like to see progress on this project in 2024, which requires planning in 2023. T. Carter brought up the possibility of purchasing the lot next to Blue Maple and putting in a township-owned parking lot to reduce stress on parking on Maple City Road. Julian and T. Carter will continue to attempt to coordinate with the Road Commission prior to the September meeting.

b. **Township Hall Renovation** – Leelanau Construction has received construction permitting and has begun construction. Julian has received a quote for three new lights for the parking lot for

\$2,500 from Quantum Electric. The board had consensus to move ahead with this. Julian will work with the electrical company to work to keep the lighting within the parking lot.

- c. **Fire Department Capital Improvements** – Julian has been continuing to work on finding potential properties for a new fire station, reaching out to both realtors and citizens in the area. He has spoken with Tim Stein, and will be meeting with the Fire Chief regarding the building size and usage. Cleveland Township would prefer that the search continues for private property. Julian has spoken with the legislators regarding potential funding for buildings and equipment.

REPORTS: Planning Commission (PC) – T. Carter reported that at the July meeting the PC formally denied the Enduro application, as well as discussing farm markets/farm stands. Cypher reported that at the August meeting the PC will be working on potential Zoning Ordinance amendments.

Zoning Administrator (ZA) – Cypher had previously submitted written reports to the board, and he summarized those for the board. The Enduro applicants have submitted two ZBA applications, one addressing the PC denial of their application and one addressing the ZA denial of a separate application. Cypher and Grier are reviewing their requests, and will be working to schedule a ZBA meeting.

Supervisor – Julian summarized his activities for the month. He spoke with the Sheriff regarding parking issues in Maple City, but it is difficult for deputies to enforce parking and lane issues with no lane markings. He has been in touch with the National Park Service regarding activity in the Kettles Trail area – the NPS is looking at possibly expanding the parking area and improving the signage at the Kettles Trail.

Assessor – Standard assessing business is ongoing.

Fire Board – Julian summarized the Fire Board meeting for August. The board is continuing its review of the draft 2024-26 budget, and a public hearing on the draft budget will be held in September at the regular meeting. All approvals for the new ambulance have been received, and that is being ordered this week.

Clerk/Elections Report – The status of the November election is still unknown – the main possibility is whether Glen Lake School will place a millage request on the ballot. The deadline for that decision is August 15, and the school has a meeting planned for immediately prior to that date. Additional details are starting to be received from the state regarding early voting, which will be required for all state and federal elections going forward. There is the possibility of a county-wide agreement, with all early voting taking place at the County Building, and Boomer has also been in contact with Empire Clerk Chris Neiswonger about the possibility of a multi-township agreement in the southwestern portion of the county with voting centralized in Empire. Boomer hopes to have a more thorough update at the September meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Hall Use and Buildings and Grounds Reports –The flag pole rope broke in the recent storm – Julian is working on getting this replaced. There has been use for a funeral and by the community music group. Noonan will not be taking further reservations until after the construction is finished.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Don Drabik – He likes the idea of the Little Free Libraries, and the one at the hall might bring more people to the Township Hall, which is a good way to keep it in the public eye.

BOARD COMMENT: T. Carter said that he has seen major traffic violations from bicyclists in Maple City. They should be being ticketed.

Noonan stated that he will not be in town September 12th, so he asked the board to move the Township Board meeting. **There was consensus to move the meeting to Tuesday, September 5.**

Noonan asked the public to support farmers by supporting the local farm markets. He would like to see the Maple City project and the Fire Department project move forward, as time is moving by quickly.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 5 at 7 pm.

Motion by J. Carter to adjourn, second by Noonan / **All in favor, motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by:
Dana Boomer, Township Clerk