

DRAFT

2024 ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING

Supervisor Julian called the Annual Meeting of Kasson Township to order at 10:00 AM on March 23, 2024, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members Greg Julian, Dana Boomer, Julia Carter, Roger Noonan and Tad Carter were present. Mike Lanham, Don Drabik, Kathy Drabik, Christine Hauke, Marv Grahn, and Tim Newman were present as residents of the township. A special budget meeting will be held immediately after the annual meeting.

Julian asked for approval of the agenda. J. Carter moved, Noonan seconded to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Noonan, second by T. Carter to accept the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports were presented by various township and county agencies. Written reports have been received from the Kasson Township Planning Commission, Kasson Township Zoning Administrator, the Glen Lake Library and Cedar Area Fire & Rescue. These reports have been emailed to interested members of the public and placed online. Verbal reports were given by Andy Doornbos of Cedar Area Fire & Rescue and Kathy Drabik of the Glen Lake Community Library. Doornbos summarized the 2023 Annual Report for Cedar Area Fire & Rescue. Highlights for 2023 include hiring three additional full-time staff and gaining Advanced Life Support (ALS) licensure. The roof on the station was replaced by Solon and Centerville Townships. Doornbos covered the transition to ALS service and the benefits that this brings to the service area, as well as the general trends in patient demographics, calls for service, training, and other areas of the department. Julian summarized the history of the work on the potential of a second station for Cedar Area Fire & Rescue. While Cleveland Township has expressed reservations about a new station, Kasson Township remains committed to pursuing the needed expansion to a second station on the western side of the service area.

Kathy Drabik reported that the library continues to push for more programming, including a robust children's program. They have excellent support from the Friends of the Library, and are grateful for the support of the townships. There has been ongoing discussion about library expansion into Kasson Township. They are proceeding with work on placing a little free library at Broomstacks, after which they will be focusing on one at the Township Hall.

A report was given by the Leelanau County Road Commission at the March Township Board meeting. The board briefly discussed the needs for road repair in the township – this discussion will be continued at the April board meeting. The written reports from the Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator were briefly discussed. New employees that have been hired include Marsha Wolf, the new recording secretary for the Planning Commission; and several new members of the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Review. A number of long-time residents of the township have been lost over the last year, and the board expressed their sympathies to the families.

Julian opened the floor for public comment. Christine Hauke supported raises for the board members. She thanked the Supervisor for bringing that position to the forefront, and his work with the fire department and at the state level with the gravel issue. She stated that the clerk had also brought that

position up to a more professional level in the last decade that they have lived in the area. Kathy Drabik seconded these comments.

Tim Dowd – Solon Township – He thanked Kasson Township for their representation of the zoning laws that were used in response to the Enduro Motorcycle Track issue. Everyone acted in a professional manner, and appreciates the continued support of the township with the ongoing issue. Regarding the Road Commission and the state of the roads, they have been out working on the roads, including his road of Hill Road. They do an excellent job of snow removal in the winter and maintaining the roads.

The budget and salary resolutions were briefly discussed. At the February meeting, the salaries were set for the board members – the residents can either take votes to increase those salary resolutions or let the salary resolutions stand as passed in February. Christine Hauke stated that she feels the salaries as set are low, and would like to see the salaries at least at the mid-range of comparable townships. Mike Lanham summarized the discussion from the February Township Board meeting, and stated that the workload for the clerk and treasurer have increased substantially.

Christine Hauke moved to increase the salaries for the clerk and treasurer by \$1,800 each. Kathy Drabik seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Julian opened the floor for further comments from the public.

Don Drabik – He thanked Tom Grier, Tim Cypher, and Dana Boomer for the support he received as the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals on the Enduro case.

Marv Grahn – He thanked Don Drabik for his service as the Chair of the ZBA on the Enduro case and the support of the board.

Kathy Drabik – She thanked the board for the work they do and she feels the township is in a good place.

Christine Hauke – She would like to raise the idea of hiring an expert to re-write the Zoning Ordinance to clarify allowable development. This should be a focus for the township, as it is very important.

Mike Lanham – He thanked the board for holding the Annual Meeting, which is something that is not being done in all townships anymore. The other residents agreed with this.

Julian stated that he is looking forward to working on the projects that the township has lined up for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

There being no further public comments, J. Carter motioned for adjournment, second by Noonan. The 2024 Annual Meeting closed at 10:55 AM.

Dana Boomer
Kasson Township Clerk