

**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: Allison Hubley-Patterson

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA** – The board briefly discussed the agenda. Julian announced that the meeting will not cover the proposed motorcycle race – that issue will be the subject of a Planning Commission public hearing on April 17 at 6 pm. Public comment may be made on any topic, but that issue will not be addressed by the Township Board tonight. Boomer asked to add Complete Outdoor Proposal and Road Closure Request to New Business. **J. Carter moved to approve the agenda as amended. Noonan seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** C. Michael Verschaeve – Tower Road – He represents the Verschaeve family and their family farm. With respect to the motorcycle race, he plans to speak at the public hearing on Monday night, and they are very concerned about this potential event that is already being advertised state wide. He submitted a list of questions that he will ask to the Planning Commission on Monday night. His questions will focus on whether a permit has already been issued, the status of the group as a nonprofit and whether this will affect the property's tax status, and how the changes to the property will be monitored by the township. He will also ask about liability to the township, environmental assessments, soil and erosion permits, driveway permits, and whether additional events are planned in the future. The event is being advertised as starting at 7 am, and earplugs are recommended for attendants – who is monitoring noise levels? Why is this event not being held on state land or in a park, rather than on private property?

Tom Lufkin – Tower Road – He does not believe this motorcycle race is in keeping with the character of the township. He believes that the race in Mancelona is close enough, and one is not needed in Kasson Township. He thanked the board for the work they do.

Jim Travioli – Tower Road – Their biggest concern regarding the motorcycle event is the impact on property values (their property is extremely close to the property in question) from one or more events.

Douglas Baudoux – East Kasson Road – He has a substantial investment into his property, which he now calls his permanent home, and feels the motorcycle race is ill-conceived. He is concerned about the noise levels, the exhaust fumes, and the after-parties. He does not want this in his backyard, disrupting an entire holiday weekend.

Rachel & Steve Wojeski – Kasson Road – A statement was read on their behalf as they could not attend. Due to the potential environmental harms from the motorcycle event, they request an environmental impact assessment. They are concerned about increased traffic and noise and disruptions to the community from the event. There is a wetland in the immediate vicinity, which could potentially be harmed by this event.

Joe Verschaeve – He read the Wojeski statement for them, and then spoke on his own behalf. – He is a trustee for the Verschaeve family trust, and they are concerned about the impact on the wetland on their property and the swale along Bright Road. The wetland is home to numerous avian species. They are concerned about potential fuel spills and the overall management of the event.

**MINUTES** – The board discussed the minutes from the regular meeting on March 14, 2023. **Noonan moved, T. Carter seconded to approve the March 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.** The board discussed the minutes from the special meeting on March 18, 2023. **Noonan moved, J. Carter seconded to approve the March 18, 2023 special meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.**

**PERTINENT COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**PRESENTATION:** The Township Board presented Jim Anderson with a certificate of appreciation for his 22 years as a member of the Township Planning Commission, following his retirement last winter. The Township Board thanked Anderson for his service to the community.

Fire Chief Andy Doornbos presented the annual report for Cedar Area Fire & Rescue. He summarized the annual report, including community demographics and department activities in 2022. He thanked the fire board, the township boards, and the citizens for their support of the fire department.

Trustee John Popa presented the annual report from the Leelanau County Road Commission. He summarized the annual report, including 2022 commission activities and budget. He also gave an update on 2023 Road Commission activities. The Road Commission will likely be asking for additional township contributions on major projects, especially sub-division and non-county level roads, as prices for road work continue to rise.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- a) **TREASURER'S REPORT:** J. Carter had previously submitted the treasurer's report to the board. Receipts total \$147,801.43. Disbursements \$510,241.32. Balance \$963,173.88.
- b) **BUDGET REPORT:** Boomer presented a budget report for March. The board briefly discussed. A final 2023 FYE budget will be presented in May.
- c) **BILL APPROVAL** – Boomer had previously presented the check detail. There is an additional bill to Shannon Routzhan in the amount of \$75.00 for cleaning. 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** – Noonan reported that the fence project at the cemetery has been started, with the neighbor's fence being installed and the damaged parts of the township fence removed. Later this week, the new posts will be cemented in place and once that has dried the new fencing material will be installed.
- b. **Mining/Gravel Legislation** – Julian has been in communication with both new state representatives. Julian has met with Representative Coffia, who has stated she supports Kasson Township in their efforts to retain authority over gravel mining in the township; he is still working to meet with Senator Damoose. He has been working on a new letter regarding the gravel mining issue, which will be distributed to board members and submitted to the Leelanau

Enterprise. Both sides of the issue are working on new bills to introduce, although the timeline is not clear at this point.

- c. **Sidewalk Ordinance** – No discussion - tabled
- d. **Township Master Plan** – An updated version of the Master Plan has been forwarded to Township Attorney Grier for review. This item will continue to be tabled until the plan is re-forwarded to the Township Board.
- e. **Other Unfinished Business** - None

#### **NEW BUSINESS –**

- a. **Board/Commission Payments** – Boomer reported the ZBA and PC are currently paid \$80/meeting, with the chair making \$100/meeting, and the Board of Review is currently paid \$90/meeting. Noonan suggested that members of all boards and commissions be paid \$100/meeting, and chairs be paid \$125/meeting. **Noonan moved, T. Carter seconded to pay members of the Planning Commission, Board of Review, and Zoning Board of Appeals \$100/meeting, and the chairs of those bodies \$125/meeting. All in favor, motion carried.**
- b. **Complete Outdoor Quote** – Boomer reported she met with Dave from Complete Outdoor at the request of Julian and they discussed trimming of trees and bushes that Complete Outdoor is recommending at the various township properties. The quoted prices are:
  - \$785 – Cemetery Road initial cleanup
  - \$240/occurrence – Cemetery Road Cemetery
  - \$600 East Kasson Road cleanup
  - \$600 Cemetery Road cleanup
  - \$300 Park cleanup
  - \$100 Township Hall cleanup
  - \$185 each for six garbage containment boxes plus one additional garbage barrel (\$1135 total)

The board briefly discussed. The initial cleanup and ongoing grass maintenance at the Cemetery Road cemetery are increased from those approved last month because Complete Outdoor was not aware that the new section had been seeded after having the stumps removed last fall. These are the updated quotes including that area. The other cleanups for the cemeteries, park and township hall are for tree and bush cutting and trimming above and beyond the standard maintenance – Dave from Complete Outdoor recommends doing this every 3-5 years.

**Noonan moved to approve the new costs for the Maple City cemetery, and the one-time cleanup fees of \$600/cemetery for tree and brush trimming and removal. T. Carter seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Noonan moved to approve the cleanup for the park and township hall cleanup. J. Carter seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

The board discussed the trash bins. The township will start with two at the township cemetery, one at the East Kasson cemetery and one at the park for a total of \$740. The township board did not have consensus at this time for a garbage bin at the township hall, and wants to begin with only two at the Cemetery Road cemetery. **Noonan moved to approve four garbage containers for a total of \$740, J. Carter seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

- c. **Road Closure Request** – The Cedar Polka Fest is requesting a road closure for their Run 4 the Kielbasa race series. The road closures will take place on Saturday, August 26, with the race running from 8:30 to 10 am. The race route is identical to the last two years, and according to race representatives they have received no complaints from homeowners impacted on the race route. They will be sending letters and Polka Fest tickets to all homeowners a few weeks before the race. The board briefly discussed. **Noonan moved, Boomer seconded to allow the road closures requested by the Polka Fest. All in favor, motion carried.**

- d. **Other New Business** - None

#### **CAPITAL PROJECTS – EXPLORATION**

- a. **Maple City Improvement Project** – Julian and T. Carter have been in contact with Gosling Czubak and they are moving forward with their project. The engineered drawings from Gosling Czubak have been sent to the Road Commission and the LCRC is in the process of reviewing those plans.
- b. **Township Hall Renovation** – The final contract from Leelanau Construction was forwarded to Julian for his signature. Zach Baker was able to find a survey that was conducted of the Township Hall property, so a new survey did not need to be completed.
- 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.

**REPORTS: Planning Commission (PC)** – The March meeting was focused on the initial presentation on the proposed Enduro race. April meeting will take place next week and include a public hearing on the proposed Enduro race. Letters regarding the hearing were sent to landowners within 1000' of the boundaries of the property on which the event is proposed.

**Zoning Administrator (ZA)** – Cypher had previously submitted written reports to the board. Hubley-Patterson summarized Cypher's reports for the month. She will be forwarding the written comments on the motorcycle race that she received tonight to Mr. Cypher.

**Supervisor** – Julian summarized his activities for the month.

**Assessor** – The Board of Review meetings were conducted in March. Standard assessing business is ongoing.

**Fire Board** – Julian summarized the Fire Board meeting for April. Two of the three open positions were filled – another individual was offered a position but declined due to another offer. The board hopes to fill that position in the upcoming month.

**Clerk/Elections Report** – Boomer stated that she has received a quote from Gabridge to complete the F-65 annual financial report for \$1,500. She recommended using Gabridge for the F-65 report for

2023 and going out for quotes for the full audit in 2024. The board had consensus to use Gabridge for the 2023 F-65 report and go out for quotes for the full audit in 2024.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Hall Use and Buildings and Grounds Reports** –There are no issues with building and grounds. There was a baby shower at the hall in March, and there will be a Rose Hill Cemetery meeting on May 5. Julian will have the hall cleaned between the April PC meeting and the Rose Hill meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jerry Gretzinger – He is concerned about the Enduro event due to increased amounts of trash along the road and who will address this. He also wonders if there will be vendors at the event, including alcohol vendors, and who will supervise that. He would like to see some planting done around the new DTE enclosure in Maple City near the Habitat development. The plain enclosure is quite ugly to look at.

**BOARD COMMENT:** T. Carter received a call from a citizen complaining of dust from the Elmers project on Baatz Road and the smell from the landfill. He also received a call opposing the motorcycle event. Noonan appreciated the presentations from the fire department and road commission.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 7 pm.

**Motion** by J. Carter to adjourn, second by T. Carter / **All in favor, motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Submitted by:  
Dana Boomer, Township Clerk