

Chase Township
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 16, 2024

Board Members

Ken Pollaski- Supervisor Amy Patterson- Clerk Phil Lodholtz- Trustee
Janel Eichenberg- Treasurer Joyce Beach- Trustee

Meeting Called To Order

Supervisor Ken Pollaski brought the Chase Township Board meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Roll call shows Janel Eichenberg, Joyce Beach, Ken Pollaski, Phil Lodholtz, and Amy Patterson present.

Approval of Minutes

Amy Patterson moved to approve the March 19, 2024 regular meeting minutes and the March 19th, 2024 budget meeting minutes. Seconded by Phil Lodholtz. Roll call vote shows Janel Eichenberg yes, Joyce Beach yes, Ken Pollaski yes, Phil Lodholtz yes, Amy Patterson yes. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report

General Account

Beginning balance March 2024 was \$317,850.21. Income received \$35,316.96. Expenses \$13,104.02 leaving a balance of \$340,063.15.

Library Account

Beginning balance for March 2023 was \$76,678.07. Income received \$43.44. Expenses \$3,805.90. Leaving a balance of \$72,915.61.

Tax Account

Beginning balance for March 2023 was \$91,159.84. Income received \$7,358.17. Expenses \$94,478.84. Leaving a balance of \$1,039.17.

Clerks Report

Bills presented for approval:

Township Bills in the amount of \$22,584.00

Library bills \$1,807.47 were approved by the library board.

Amy Patterson made a motion to pay bills with the monthly 941 and lawnmower service bill to be added. Seconded by Phil Lodholtz.

Janel yes, Joyce yes, Ken yes, Phil yes, Amy yes. Motion passed.

Brief Public Comment

Safety issues still a concern with speeds and mixed traffic on roadways.

Concerns about property taxes not being fairly assessed and property cards not being consistent throughout the township.

Cost of fire contract and if it can be negotiated in the future.

Speakers/Guests:

Commissioner Howard Lodholtz- the Sheriff's department has received five grants for training. The planning board still needs two members. The equalization director resigned today.

Chase Township
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 16, 2024

Library representative- Board member Joyce Beach gave update on what the library is working on. Phone service was successfully changed to Vonage and AT&T service was cancelled. The library is hosting a monthly book club and hoping for participants. The library needs A/C and the windows need to be looked at due to age. The library is also having book sales.

New Business

Assessor- Assessor Marlene Whetstone from Great Lakes Assessing has submitted her letter of resignation to the township board. She will transfer all township information to the new assessor. Her office has gotten through all the farm and commercial properties but was unable to get through many residential properties due to hostile residents. She recommends a total township reevaluation.

The township has already begun to look for a qualified replacement.

BOR- Due to the resignation of the assessor chase township will no longer be able to save money by conducting the joint board of review with Pinora Township. The supervisor of Pinora Township sent a resolution adopted by their township board to dissolve the joint board of review. Due to this Chase Township needs BOR members for all future meetings and will have the full costs again.

Sound system for hall- Janel mentioned that she received a phone call from Rosie Brown who is part of the band that performs at the hall for square dances commending the new paint and sound panels. The hall acoustic panels have been installed and work well. The cost for 12 panels was \$627, Ken offered to buy 12 more out of his own pocket.

Ken got a quote for a microphone system for the hall and it was over what the township could currently afford. It was suggested to use a karaoke machine.

Old Business

Workers compensation audit- Clerk Amy Patterson is still working on getting the audit adjusted.

Roads- The county road commission is still working with MDOT to extend the reduced the speed limit on US 10 between Frank Smith rd. and Depot St, with a flashing light sign with posted speed limit. It still has not been approved by MDOT.

Road Brine- discussion on if the roads need to be brined due to increased pressure from EGLE which is still aggressively fighting at the state level to do away with salt based road brine. At any point in the near future the county brine license can be revoked. Currently they do a double width brine on all road within the township. Ken will speak for the road brine will address budget adjustments to make it work at the next board meeting. Total cost is \$17,160.00 and the townships portion is \$8,580.00.

Road repair funding- Rob Creek wants the township to set aside money from the township budget to use towards the county match funds. He is trying to find funding but has not found any.

Chase Township
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 16, 2024

Ken Pollaski explained that the County Road Commission operating budget is down 25% and while they would be available for road projects, the match amount of \$15,000 per year over 3 years still would not even begin to cover the cost for one mile of chip and seal. Amy Patterson explained that the township budget is already operating at a negative with the upcoming assessor changes, added BOR expenses, and road brine contract.

Rob Creek would also like to have a better breakdown of how the fire department and City of Reed City determine the contracted costs. He has been contacting Rich Saladin and other people to find what he's looking for.

Election- Clerk Amy Patterson reiterated again that she needs election workers for early voting and Election Day for the August and November elections. Interested people need to fill out an application and attend training.

Ken Pollaski will not be running for township supervisor this election cycle. If anyone wants to run for any office or position they can find a plethora of information on the secretary of state website, can contact the Lake County Clerk, or Township Clerk Amy Patterson.

Natural gas expansion- A representative from DTE was doing a viability count in our area with the next step being an engineering study. Route will be from near the intersection of 230th Ave and US10 where the main gas line is located, proceeding along US10 into Chase. Currently the projected dates for studies and more information is in May or June.

Speed Trailers- Amy Patterson will change the wording in previous minutes to clarify that the township owns the two speed trailer signs and that the Lake County Sheriff's Department is just in possession of the signs so they can help with correct placement for speed monitoring, winter storage, insurance purposes, and gathering the data to use for enforcement. The speed trailers were purchased by the township and continue to belong to the township.

Egle Radar Scan- Egle will be conducting the radar scan of the township property where the cinderblock building was removed to check for historic tanks. This was discussed at prior meetings and to note again, this will be no cost to the township.

Citizens Time

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn meeting by Joyce Beach. Seconded by Phil Lodholtz. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Patterson
Chase Township Clerk