

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
August 13th, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Lynn Gierke

PRESENT: Lynn Gierke, Bethany Baetsen, and Curt Judson, Andrea Aho, and Dan Palosaari.

MINUTES: Motion by Bethany Baetsen to approve the previous month's minutes, supported by Lynn Gierke. M/C.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to approve the June Treasurer's Report by Dan Palosaari, supported by Curt Judson. M/C.

AGENDA: Motion by Curt Judson to approve the agenda supported by Lynn Gierke. M/C

PAYMENT OF BILLS: The payment of bills was approved per motion by Bethany Baetsen supported by Andrea Aho. M/C

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kim Maki inquired about Dan Palosaari's personal property projects.

Lynn Artman made the Board aware of the ongoing drainage issues on Lakeshore Drive and that she along with other residents are disappointed in the response from the Road Commission and the Township Board. Lynn informed the Board that she is coordinating a coalition of flood victims. Her contact info will be posted on the township website for inquiring residents. This coalition will file a formal complaint with the multiple agencies involved in the drainage issues along the Massie Rd. to Lakeshore Dr. corridor (HCRC, MDOT, DNR). There was discussion that a potential meeting amongst all these agencies is set to take place in the near future. The Board will find out when this meeting is scheduled and pass that info onto the coalition of flood victims.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was a thank-you note from the Lassila's pavilion rental. Lynn Gierke brought up the past correspondences about blight within the township and the Planning Commission informed the Board that they are still working on language for a Blight Ordinance.

SUPERVISOR: Lynn Gierke is continuing to work on drainage issues with HCRC, grant reimbursement, and audit questions.

CLERK: Bethany Baetsen reported that the August 5th Election went smoothly and that we will not have a November Election in Chassell.

TREASURER: Andrea Aho reported that lawn meter policy letters went out to meter holders. Tim Luoma will be visiting some properties within the township to update description cards for the State Zoning Law. Andrea also reported that there have been sightings of some men taking pictures of houses around town; they could be part of the recent issues with rental scammers. Andrea is considering switching the water/sewer bills to postcards as it would save the township 6 cents per mailing. She also informed the township of a cyber security presentation by the Michigan State Police on September 24th. Lastly, Andrea discussed the mistake by the water/ sewer clerk which led to the mailing of the wrong water/sewer bills to all residents. The Water/sewer clerk has to do a second mailing to correct the issue.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: Matt Moore shared that there have been 4 calls since the last meeting and 21 YTD for the Fire Department. He requested the Board approve two new members, Brandon Schwandt and Jake Elenich. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to approve the new recruits, supported by Andrea Aho. M/C. First Responders have had 14 calls since the last meeting and 70 YTD.

TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin reported that the township needs more signage especially during these past heavy rain events. He is hopeful to purchase more through the ParPlan safety grant. He informed the Board that the normal amount of water pumped in July is around 50-60,000 gallons. During these past storms, the pumps handled 400,000 gallons!

There are 3 cameras left to install at the park. The curtains for the pavilion need replacement or complete overhaul as they are not serving their intended purpose.

Dan Palosaari made motion to allow Craig Austin to take the township truck home when he is on-call, Bethany Baetsen supports, M/C.

Craig also wanted to reinforce to the Board and its partners that his time is obligated towards daily township maintenance and he is not able to drop those projects at a moment's notice pending actual emergencies. If there are projects and/or activities that the board, planning commission, or other township partners need his assistance with they need to schedule that with him with at least a week's notice.

ZONING: No report.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): Keith Meyers requested the Board approve the next terms for Brian Waters and Rich Smith. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to approve their 3 year terms, supported by Dan Palosaari, M/C. Keith Meyers discussed the Blight Ordinance and working with a local Eagle Scout to do some improvements at the Bark Park. Lynn Gierke made a motion to approve funds from the Rec Millage to support these improvements not to exceed \$5,000, supported by Curt Judson, M/C. Keith also discussed the DNR Waterways Grant program and that the Marina project wouldn't be a high priority for grant funds since it is a new project. The Waterways funds are more often used for revitalizing older assets and therefore might be a better fit for boat launch improvements. Bethany Baetsen requested that the planning commission table the splash pad idea for now. Curt Judson made a motion to accept the Planning Commission's annual report, supported by Lynn Gierke. M/C.

Bethany Baetsen made a motion to approve a RFP for work to replace decking on the Pike River Trestle Bridge upon more information about funds and contributions to the project, supported by Andrea Aho. M/C.

ASSESSOR: See Treasurer's note about Tim Luoma property visits.

WEBSITE: No report

OFFICE BUILDING: The Dropbox will be installed tomorrow August 14th.

ENGINEERING: Chris Holmes presented plans to expand the boat launch and add a removable dock. He also discussed plans to lower the existing dock. Chris mentioned that Portage Township Sewer Authority will lower Chassell residents' water/sewer rates if the Board lifts the moratorium on land applying biosolids in the current Zoning Ordinance. The Board discussed. MJO will begin work on the sewer project on the 25th on the Lakeshore Dr. Lift Station. The permits are being submitted for the Forcemain for EGLE, MDOT, and the Army Corps of Engineers. The HCRC would like the 4th street project paved before it is deemed complete which is needed before Oct 1st. Chris said he would obtain bids. Chris reiterated that in order to become grant eligible for the bulk of the water project, the township will need to raise water/sewer rates \$27. Rural Development obligated the sewer project loan.

REVIEW BUDGET: Our Audit was completed as "substantially compliant"

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Lynn Gierke made a motion to approve the purchase of a garbage trailer and roll off containers at a cost of \$38,295, supported by Andrea Aho. M/C. Craig will do compactor repairs and post it for sale shortly. The grant for NextCycle Pay As You Throw Seed Grant was submitted. The Board will use those funds to purchase garbage bags.
- B. The township's personnel policy/employee handbook will be tabled until the next board meeting.
- C. The Planning Commission will continue to work on reviewing the Water Sewer Ordinance updates.

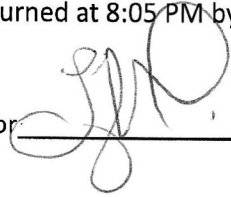
NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Bethany Baetsen made a motion to accept all DP Contracting bids for the 3 township drainage projects, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C. Dan Palosaari abstained.
- B. Sig Rho representative, Thomas Narva, requested that the township pay the roughly \$20/month costs they will incur associated with the updates to the Lakeshore Drive lift station. The Board thanked Tom and Sig Rho for all that they do for the township but declined their request.
- C. See note on Cyber security meeting in Treasurer's report.

- D. Lynn Gierke discussed the growing list of Township Recreational assets, their upkeep, and the need for volunteers to help take the burden off the township DPW employees. Keith Meyers said the PC will put out a request for volunteers for these types of "work days."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM by Curt Judson, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor



Bethany Baetsen, Clerk

