

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
July 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Lynn Gierke

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

MINUTES: Motion by Bethany Baetsen supported by Lynn Gierke to approve the May meeting minutes,

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

AGENDA: Motion by Curt Judson to approve the agenda supported by Andrea Aho, with the addition of adding "Lawn Meter Policy" to New Business. M/C

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: A resident asked how to get to the online bill pay via the Chassell Township website. It was noted that online bill pay is located at the top of the website. Once this option is clicked, they will be automatically directed directly to the BSA bill pay page.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you cards have been received. One from DHHS & UPKids, expressing gratitude for the waived pavilion rental fee for their annual foster care picnic. The other card was from a resident of Chassell with praises regarding the boardwalk and pickleball ball courts.

SUPERVISOR: drainage issues, park and town issues, HCRC meeting, grant reimbursement, audit questions

CLERK: Absentee ballots went out. The accuracy test is set for 9am on July 15th.

TREASURER: Andrea Aho stated that she outsourced the summer tax/newsletter mailing. Outsourcing this mailing not only saved time, but most importantly, it saved the township over \$600. Next, she spoke about our online bill pay and stated there has been a complaint regarding the tax information. According to a Chassell resident, there is too much information for the public to see. Andrea said she can make this private as per person. She would need to be contacted by the residents who want to pay online, to know if they would like their information limited. Lastly, Andrea petitioned the board for 8 additional hours to work with the previous Treasurer, Kelly Holmes. There are still additional questions/training she'd like to go through. Motion made by Bethany Baetsen, supported by Dan Palosaari, M/C.

FIRE DEPARTMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS: FD, Jason Schaaf reported 3 calls and 18 to date. Also, they would like the board to approve a new member to the fire department; Barb Jarvi. Motion by Bethany Baetsen supported by Dan Palosaari to accept Barb Jarvi as new member. Lastly the FD will be cooking chicken at the Strawberry Festival, Rain or Shine. Lastly the FD will be cooking chicken at the Strawberry Festival, Rain or Shine. FR, Matt Moore reported 7 calls with 59 to date. He also stated that the two MTU first responders are doing great and cover a lot of the calls and Chassell is in need of more. There are two MTU first responders that have joined and are doing great, but Chassell is in need of more.

TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE: Craig Austin reports: There have been 5 leaks. Still have 1 left to fix. October 1st we should get info to EGLE regarding Lakeshore Dr. The volleyball court at the park is completed. Baraga telephone is working on cameras. We need 6 to 7 more cameras put up around the park. Once summer is over and the raft gets pulled in, it will need to be fixed over the winter. The pickleball court "rules" sign is being worked on. One of the mechanisms to one of the nets had been broken. It is fixed now. Two bids have been received for work installing the 9 Half Moon Beach pumps and control panels. Motion made by Lynn Gierke to accept the bid from Bay Electric, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

ZONING: Lynn Gierke talked to the zoning administration regarding the long grass at a resident's home. A letter had been sent to the resident stating that their lawn needs to be maintained. First offense fee \$25, second \$50, then if still not maintained, the fee will be \$100 per month. Keith Meyers asks the board to consider the modification process that "neighbors work with neighbors..." in the ordinance should be reworded. The planning commission feels there is no consistency. Some neighbors do not negotiate very

well. We need to also establish jurisdiction/ boundaries. The planning commission will work on ordinance language.

ASSESSOR: No July meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): Keith Meyers reported the Canoe/Kayak Launch work will be beginning soon. An Eagle Scout project will be done at the dog park. The MEDC, redevelopment annual report will be given by the PC at the next meeting. Keith brought up that he spoke with Kelly Olson-Juvenile court employee and the county magistrate about the issues we are having at the park and in town. They want the township to turn in names of delinquent juveniles.

UPEA: Reported the force main project has been slowly progressing. Preconstruction meeting is scheduled. Permits are being submitted with EGLE and MDOT. Soil borings were done last week. The RD Loan will be at 3.125% interest.

REVIEW BUDGET: None

WEBSITE: Julie Judson reported that the website has gone live. There are just a couple visual updates that still need to be done, but all in all, it is going well.

Office Building Drop Box-Update: Still in progress. Cement has been poured. The rain gutter needs to be installed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Garbage Collection**-Discussed renting 2 dump trailers for at least 3 Saturdays to see if it will be cost effective. Discussion about recycling options to make it more cost effective. Motion made by Bethany Baetsen supported by Andrea to purchase bags for the new PAYT system. M/C.
- B. **Employee Handbook**- Bethany Baetsen is looking into this and will be working on this. Plus a social media policy.
- C. **Dust Control Agreement**-Dan Palosaari stated that a bit more than 8,000 gallons were used for dust control this year. Everything went fairly well. It took approximately 4½ hours to complete the job.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Bids for Wastewater Sewer Mapping**- Discussion took place regarding the maps needing to be updated. They are from 1970. Three bids were received. A couple proposals received included field work, one did not. Proposals also included a GIS program. The board feels a GIS program would be a good investment. Motion by Dan Palosaari to accept bid from OHM supported by Bethany Baetsen. M/C.
- 2) **Lawn Meter Policy**- Discussion took place regarding a letter going out to those who purchased their own meters. This letter will state that this policy will be discontinued. They will receive a one-time credit on their bill of \$50 upon return of their meter. Motion by Bethany Baetsen to discontinue the lawn meter policy supported by Andrea Aho. M/C.
- 3) **Water Sewer Ordinance-PC**:- In progress.
- 4) **Township Drainage**:- Discussions took place regarding the drainage issues. In progress.
- 5) **Burning Ordinance**:- Chassell Township has a burning ordinance, it states no burning in town.
- 6) **Park Issues**:- Discussions took place regarding negative juvenile behavior, vandalism, etc. We need to start reporting to the sheriff names and incidents. The police have been called at least twice for kids riding their fourwheelers and dirt bikes within the park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm per motion by Curt Judson, supported by Andrea Aho, M/C.

Lynn Gierke, Supervisor

Bethany Baetsen, Clerk

