

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, Roger Noonan – Trustee, Tad Carter - Trustee
Member(s) Absent: None
Staff Present: None

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA – The board briefly discussed the agenda. Library Board Appointments was moved to the beginning of Unfinished Business. **T. Carter moved to approve the agenda as amended. Noonan seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kathy Drabik – She just completed eight years on the library board. The June minutes of the Township Board brought attention to the process for the nomination and approval of the trustees and advisors of the Library Board. Over the winter, she spoke with numerous potential candidates for trustees and advisors from Kasson Township. She has spoken with both Linda Shimek and Kathy Hy, the two candidates for advisor to the Library Board. She recommends Kathy Hy for her background and competency. While she is happy with the work of the Township Board does with gravel mining and the fire station, she feels that it is better to allow the library board to recommend candidates, as the Township Board does not have a full understanding of what is required to serve on the Library Board.

MINUTES – The board discussed the minutes from the regular meeting on June 12, 2024. **Noonan moved, J. Carter seconded to approve the June 12, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.** The board discussed the minutes from the special meeting on July 1, 2024. **Noonan moved, T. Carter seconded to approve the July 1, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.**

PERTINENT COMMUNICATIONS: None

PRESENTATION: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a) **TREASURER’S REPORT:** J. Carter had previously submitted the treasurer’s report to the board. Receipts total \$6,851.39. Disbursements \$23,102.04. Balance \$978,329.69.
- b) **BUDGET REPORT:** Boomer presented a budget report for June. The board briefly discussed.
- c) **BILL APPROVAL** – Boomer presented the updated check detail. The board briefly discussed. **Noonan moved to pay the bills as presented; seconded by J. Carter. All in favor, motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. **Library Board Appointments** – The board has recently been made aware that the *Michigan Public Library Trustee Manual - 2022 Edition*, along with the MTA, recommends that Township

Board members not serve as voting members of a library board, due to a conflict of interest. In light of this, Julian has stepped down from his position as a Trustee and is recommended to be re-approved as an advisor to the Library Board. **Boomer moved to appoint Greg Julian as an Advisor to the Glen Lake Library Board. Noonan seconded. All in favor, motion carried.** This leaves a trustee position open. Julian stated that there has been a diligent search for candidates for these positions. The two candidates for the position are Linda Shimek and Kathy Hy – both are present tonight. Julian has met with the two other Supervisors from Glen Arbor and Empire Townships, and they all feel that the Township Boards need to take a more proactive approach in approving these positions and working with the Library Board. The Library Board has recommended Kathy Hy for the Trustee position. Julian opened the floor to the public on this topic.

Linda Shimek – She was born and raised in Maple City, and remembers the bookmobile from the Traverse City library coming into town every two weeks. She has been a resident of Kasson Township her entire life, as are her three adult children and all of her grandchildren. They have a vested interest in making Kasson Township a better place to live. She may not have the librarian credentials, but she does have life experience that she feels would be of use to the library board.

Kathy Hy – She has only been a permanent resident of Kasson Township since 2019, after buying their home in 2012. She retired as a librarian in 2011, after working at a private school for 23 years. She loved coming to the library up here, and uses it often.

Boomer asked how many members of the library board are currently librarians. Cynthia Taggart, current President of the Library Board, stated that one of the members is a retired corporate librarian, but none of the trustees or advisors come from school or community library backgrounds. **Noonan moved to approve Linda Shimek as a Trustee for the Glen Lake Library Board. There was no second, the motion died.** Boomer stated that on the Fire Board, it has been extremely useful to have retired fire chiefs, due to their background and experience. She thinks that Shimek could be a valuable member, but given the lack of librarian backgrounds on the board she feels that Hy could contribute valuable knowledge. Shimek stated that she was honored to be considered as a candidate, but she will withdraw her nomination. She would like to be considered for positions in the future. Julian thanked Shimek for putting her name forward. **Noonan moved to nominate Kathleen Hy as a Trustee for the Glen Lake Library Board, through 2027. Boomer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

Chris Nelson, previous President of the Library Board, stated that it is interesting that after 20 years, the appointment process had gone somewhat astray. The board and library board staff determined that better communication was needed and would be attempted in the future.

- b. **Cemeteries** – The first batch of new corner markers has been picked up from Leelanau Redi Mix – Boomer and Hulbert will be working on installing these.
- c. **Mining/Gravel Legislation** – Julian reported that the legislature has taken no action on the gravel legislation. Julian has been continuing to be in contact with local and state politicians to make sure they are aware of the gravel issues. This item will be removed from the agenda unless and until additional action needs to be taken. Julian stated that he has been told that there may be additional shared revenues coming through in the 2024/45 state budget.

- d. Sidewalk & Parking Ordinances** – Julian has been continuing distribute the information from Gosling Czubak to local concrete companies for the sidewalk work. He has received one bid so far for the sidewalk work. He has talked to four additional companies, and is expecting additional bids. He would recommend waiting to see if additional bids come in before August, with the goal of having the sidewalk work completed before the end of the construction season. The board determined to wait August to see if additional bids are received. J. Carter asked to have the sidewalks re-trimmed, as some of them are getting regrown. The board had consensus for Julian to ask Complete Outdoor to trim the sidewalks back.
- e. Enduro Circuit Court Case** – On July 1, the Circuit Court judge ruled in favor of the Township on all counts. Boomer is in the process of applying for insurance reimbursement for as much of the legal fees as possible. This item will be removed from the agenda unless additional information is received. Cypher thanked Boomer for her help through the very complicated ZBA process, with huge amounts of paperwork.
- f. Olivia Drive Waterpoint** – Boomer has continued research into this topic, and is in contact with Tom Grier. The board discussed the issue. Lanham likely has records regarding when the township took over plowing snow – he will share those with Boomer. Boomer has received the final Master Deed and Master Deed Amendment from the Register of Deeds. The board and staff briefly discussed how to move forward with this issue – it was determined that Boomer will continue working with Grier, Cypher, and any other necessary parties to continue to find new information and a potential path forward.
- g. Road Projects 2025/2026** – Julian still expects to have additional information to share by the August meeting.
- h. Fire Station Design RFP** – Boomer is still waiting on a draft contract from Environment Architects, which she will then forward to Grier for review. The board will then hold a special meeting to finalize the contract and hold an initial stakeholder meeting. Boomer stated that a letter of intent had been received from Roger & Beth Noonan regarding their interest in donating a 5-acre parcel of land near the intersection of M-72 and Maple City Road. The board thanked Noonan for his interest in donating a parcel. Julian stated that the board still had not determined a final location for the fire station, and that he is still interested in looking at the Burdickville Road area. J. Carter asked if there were additional parcels of land that the township had received written offers of donation for? Boomer answered no. Boomer reminded the board of the service area assessment released by Cedar Fire staff prior to the June meeting. She feels that assessment points to the M-72/Maple City Road intersection as the best location for a station. Julian stated that past discussions had always focused on the Burdickville Road area as a good location for a new station. J. Carter requested a formal letter of recommendation from the Fire Chief regarding the best location for a new station. The board tabled the discussion until a recommendation letter was received from the fire chief.
- i. Other Unfinished Business** - None

NEW BUSINESS –

- a. **PC Recording Secretary** – Marsha Wolf has resigned as the PC recording secretary, effective after the July meeting. Boomer has developed an advertisement for a new recording secretary, and that is set to run in the Leelanau Enterprise on 7/18, 7/25 and 8/1. Tim Cypher has also offered recording secretary services through his firm at \$30/hr, so this is another option. Cypher stated this would be an addendum to his current contract, to run for the length of his current contract. **Noonan moved to contract with Cypher Group, Inc. for recording secretary services at \$30/hr. Boomer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.** Boomer will pull the ad from the Enterprise.

- b. **Other New Business** - None

CAPITAL PROJECTS – EXPLORATION

- a. **Maple City Improvement Project** – This was previously discussed.

- a. **Township Hall Renovation** – The exterior painting has been completed. Leelanau Construction will be preparing a bid for interior painting of the hall after the summer season.

- b. **Fire Department Capital Improvements** – Previously discussed. All capital project exploration items will be removed from the agenda and added to old business if necessary.

REPORTS: Planning Commission (PC) – At the June meeting, public hearings were held for a Verizon tower in the M-72 Elmers gravel pit and a rezoning request for a property in the village of Maple City. The Verizon Tower was approved for 199’ with other conditions. The rezoning request in the village of Maple City was withdrawn before a decision was made.

Zoning Administrator (ZA) – Cypher had previously submitted written reports to the board. He has begun using a new online portal for permitting, which is substantially decreasing processing times for permits. He will be working with Boomer to get the link for this on the website.

Supervisor – Julian summarized his activities for the month. He is continuing to work with other local supervisors and the library board on strengthening processes and bylaws.

Assessor – Standard assessing business is ongoing. There will be a Board of Review meeting in July. There will be an open position on the Board of Review as of December.

Fire Board – The Fire Board meeting was held last week. The department was quite busy in June. The department sent an engine to participate in the Glen Arbor 4th of July Parade.

Clerk/Elections Report – Boomer reported that 354 absentee ballots have been sent out so far. She is working on conducting preliminary testing of election equipment. There is an election commission meeting after the regular meeting tonight to appoint election inspectors; at that meeting they will also be setting a date for the Public Accuracy Testing. One of the office computers (the one used by the assessor) is malfunctioning and Boomer has not been able to get it to start-up properly. She recommended the purchase of a new Windows 11 compatible computer that could be used for both assessor and clerk business, as a follow-up to the discussion last month. She would work with the county IT department to choose an appropriate computer for these uses. **Noonan moved, J. Carter moved to purchase a new computer for the township hall. All in favor, motion carried.** Julian is

working with Spectrum regarding the potential for fiber internet at the township hall. The board briefly discussed the phone system at the township hall – currently the landline routes to an answering machine that gives cell phone numbers for various township officials.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Hall Use and Buildings and Grounds Reports – The hall was used Saturday for a funeral. There will be no other hall use prior to the election other than the Board of Reivew meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chase Pasicznyk – He thanked the Kasson Township residents who attended the Erik Florip 5k, which raised about \$5,500. The Lake Ann Homecoming Festival is this weekend, hosted by the Almira Township Historical Society. It will be a fun event for everyone. With a new phone, it is possible to set up a voicemail system that would route calls to individual voice mail boxes that were remotely accessible. Lake Ann is seeing a new fiber optic service, Cherryland Communications, which might be moving north into Kasson Township.

Linda Shimek – She was at the PC meeting when the cell tower was discussed. She gave a public comment at that meeting about the potential effects about the electro-magnetic fields and health concerns of these towers. Her whole family lives within a half mile of that tower, and if there are potential health concerns, they will all be impacted. It did not appear that there was much avenue for townships to deny tower requests. She does not know what a township can do about these towers. The tower attorney stated that the FCC does not allow denial of a project based on health concerns. She contacted Elmers regarding their approval of the lease for the tower, and they stated that the contract has already been signed. She was told that if she had called them two years ago, it may have made a difference. She would like people to be aware and think about the effects of the towers.

BOARD COMMENT: Noonan stated that Kathy Drabik said that the township didn't support the Library Building Fund. While the Township Board didn't support the Building Fund specifically, Kasson Township tax dollars still support the Library.

J. Carter – She has had an eye-opening week with the tax bills, regarding the school collecting their taxes during the summer instead of the winter and residents concern and confusion regarding the changes. She encourages the residents to be aware of what is happening in the community. The school board approved this change back in December, and the township had nothing to do with the approval.

Boomer – She also received some of these calls regarding the tax bills, although nowhere near as many as J. Carter. Boomer and J. Carter have discussed a potential need to send out an information flyer with the tax bills if changes like this happen in the future, although it is unfortunate that the township would have to pay for these even it if is another entity making the change.

Julian – Julie Krombeen also received a number of calls about the tax bills. He will be on vacation for most of the rest of the month.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, August 14 at 7 pm. There will be an Election Commission meeting prior to the end of the month for Public Accuracy Testing of election equipment; the date for that meeting has not been set.

Motion by Noonan to adjourn, second by J. Carter / **All in favor, motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Submitted by:
Dana Boomer, Township Clerk