

LaGrange Township Regular Meeting
February 19, 2024

Supervisor Wright called the meeting of the LaGrange Township Board to order at 7:00pm. The meeting was held at the Twp Hall. Pledge of allegiance was given in unison. Roll Call found Supervisor Rob Wright, Treasurer Naomi J. Criswell, Clerk Tasha E. McCoy, Trustee John Juroff, and Trustee Paul File present.

Public Comment opened at 7:00pm. Cass County Commissioner Mary Howie greeted the Board with a reminder of the Cass County Public Transportation Authority Millage Proposal on the Presidential Primary Ballot on Election Day, February 27, 2024 and provided a Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Monthly Report February 2024 handout. Also, there is a Special Meeting scheduled for February 21, 2024 at 2:00pm at the Cass County Building for the purpose of approving the creation of a Law Enforcement Millage Committee. Ted Gogol greeted the Board about the upcoming joint meeting between the LaGrange Township Board and the LaGrange Township Planning Commission scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 7:00pm for the purpose to discuss short-term rentals in the Township and a Zoning Amendment. Public Comment closed at 7:03pm.

Supervisor Wright made a motion to approve previous meeting minutes of January 15, 2024, seconded by Treasurer Criswell, motion approved at 7:03pm.

Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board. Clerk McCoy made a motion to approve the Summer '23 Tax Settlement #6, Winter '23 Tax Settlement #1, and Winter '23 Tax Settlement #2, seconded by Supervisor Wright, motion carried at 7:03pm.

Communications were read by Supervisor Wright. A variety of funding types were read from the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) email for a call for projects.

Trustee File made a motion to approve the Current Month Warrant Report totaling \$33,670.57, seconded by Trustee Juroff, motion carried at 7:07pm.

Fire/Ambulance Report: Trustee Juroff and Trustee File updated the Board on a recent Fire Board meeting and the Fire Board's Audit went well. The Central Cass Fire Department Chief, Jeff Locke, agreed with the Fire Board update and praised the attention to detail by the Village of Cassopolis Clerk (Tonia Betty) and Treasurer (Jacqueline Collins). Beth Pompey informed the Board that Scenario 3 Contract was approved by the Ambulance Board with a Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance that began in February with a transition to a second Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance to our coverage area to begin March 1, 2024. This new Contract allows one ambulance to be in Jefferson Township at the Ambulance barn and the second ambulance to be at the City of Dowagiac Ambulance Barn. \$11,478.00 is the weekly cost of the 12-hour BLS ambulance for the remainder of February 2024. March 1st begins a new 90-day temporary contract to have two ALS ambulances in our coverage area and new Invoices will follow in March.

Zoning Administrator Report: Beth Pompey informed the Board that the Public Hearing on Jan. 25th for a new church was well attended and a lot of questions were answered at the hearing. Beth reported that there are currently three zoning violations and two of those are blight cases. ZBA needs to schedule a meeting for two variances that have been requested.

ZBA/Planning Commission Reports: Beth Pompey discussed the Joint meeting between LaGrange Township Board and the LaGrange Township Planning Commission that is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00pm as well, which is for the purpose of adding short-term rentals verbiage and to allow accessory structures to be placed anywhere on Agricultural Properties. Also, a prohibited dwellings ordinance is in the early stages. The McKnight Property Public Hearing is scheduled for March 21, 2024.

Electrical/Mechanical/Plumbing Reports were provided to the Board.

