Jefferson Township, LaGrange Township, and Central Cass Fire Board Special Meeting
April 15, 2024

Supervisor Wright called the special meeting of the LaGrange Township Board, Jefferson Township Board, Central Cass Interlocal Fire Board, and Village of Cassopolis to order at 5:30pm. The meeting was held at the LaGrange Twp Hall. Pledge of allegiance was given in unison. Roll Call found LaGrange Township Supervisor Rob Wright, LaGrange Township Treasurer Naomi J. Criswell, LaGrange Township Clerk Tasha E. McCoy, LaGrange Township Trustee John Juroff, LaGrange Township Trustee Paul File, Jefferson Township Supervisor Dean Hass, Jefferson Township Treasurer Karla Mendenhall, Jefferson Township Clerk Jenny Brunner, Jefferson Township Trustee Jeff Gilliam, Central Cass Interlocal Fire Department Chief Jeff Locke, Central Cass Interlocal Fire Board Trustee Harold Eltzroth, and Village of Cassopolis Police Chief Todd McMichael present. Jefferson Township Trustee Della Bundle absent. Additional Attendees were the Village of Cassopolis Clerk Tonia Betty, Village of Cassopolis Treasurer Jacqueline Collins, and Oliver Fiala.

Supervisor Wright made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Supervisor Hass, motion carried at 5:32pm.

Supervisor Wright opened Agenda Items Only Public Comment at 5:32pm. Agenda Items Only Public Comment closed at 5:33pm.

Review of the Cass Fire District boundaries within Jefferson and LaGrange Townships by all Boards. Clerk Brunner provided a large map to show the boundaries. The Village of Cassopolis Clerk Tonia Betty confirmed that Penn Township does collect the Emergency Services taxes for parcels annexed by the Village per the 425 Agreement recorded 8-26-2020 in Liber 1178, Page 2437-2446. Discussion followed. In an attempt to clarify fire response 911 Dispatch needs to be notified that Penn Fire should be listed as Primary in an emergency and Cass Fire will respond as mutual aid. Chief Locke stated that he will contact 911 Dispatch to correct the "Primary" fire department. Also, Chief Locke completed the fire inspections at Hydro Aluminum Plant in Cassopolis and an agreement in writing between the Village, Penn Twp, and CCIFD was requested stating that Penn Fire gave authority to Cass Fire to complete those inspections on their behalf. This is necessary to appease any future liability since Penn Township is the tax collecting unit of such parcels.

A review of the current mechanism for Cass Fire Department funding commenced. Clerk Brunner asked for a transition from a percentage of taxable value to a set one mil that may be designated each January to allow easier planning for CCIFD. Fire Board Trustee Eltzroth explained how Edwardsburg Fire Department funding has worked. Discussion followed. Jefferson Township and LaGrange Township plans to look into such a transition of the percentage to one mil designation for the future.

Supervisor Wright opened Non-Agenda Items Only Public Comment at 6:17pm. Non-Agenda Items Only Public Comment closed at 6:17pm.

A follow-up meeting between the Boards was discussed. It will either take place at Jefferson Township Hall or Central Cass Interlocal Fire Department. Day and time are yet to be determined.

With there being no further business to come before the Boards at this time, Supervisor Wright made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Treasurer Criswell, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Tasha E. McCoy Tasha E. McCoy, LaGrange Twp. Clerk