

**Penn Township
Regular Meeting
June 10, 2024**

Board members present: Supervisor Oli Olafsson, Clerk Chelsa Greathouse, Treasure Paul Rutherford, Trustee Roger Leach

Supervisor Olafsson called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Prayer was given by Trustee Leach.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Trustee Leach presented the minutes from the May meeting, as prepared by Clerk Greathouse. Supervisor Olafsson moved to approve the amended minutes. Treasure Rutherford seconded, roll call unanimous yes and motion approved.

The Treasures Report was presented by Treasure Rutherford, as prepared by Treasure Rutherford. Trustee Leach moved to approve the Treasures report. Supervisor Olafsson seconded, roll call-unanimous yes, motion approved.

Supervisor News

The donated tiles to Village of Vandalia basketball courts will be installed by the company. They will be restriped for a basketball court.

New Business

Supervisor Olafsson discussed the additional road improvements around Diamond Lake. These additions are going to be a discounted rate because the Cass County Road Commission will already be doing road work out there. Trustee Leach moved to approve the additional road improvement cost. Treasure Rutherford seconded, roll call – yes, motion approved.

Supervisor Olafsson discussed the donation of land from the Village of Vandalia for the Penn Fire Department. Negotiations are ongoing for the purchase of the front 2 acres.

Donnell Lake Fireworks permit (July 6th, 2024) Trustee Leach moved to approve the requested Fireworks permit for Fire Chief Bogue. Supervisor Olafsson second. All favor, motion approved.

Supervisor Olafsson discussed the budget adjustment from marijuana licensing fees. The adjusted fee will increase the budget for the new fire department to 1.525 million.

Supervisor Olafsson discussed repealing the ORV Ordinance- Tabled, board will contact attorney

Supervisor Olafsson discussed the Cass County Master Plan and asked if the board has any specific concerns or comments. Clerk Greathouse questioned when was Penn's last Master Plan and if it is time for Penn to do one.

Supervisor Olafsson discussed the maintenance contract with Sprague Fitzsimons. Sprague would be hired as contract labor and would have a salary of \$800.00 a month. Supervisor Olafsson moved to approve the hiring of Sprague Fitzsimons. Treasurer Rutherford second, Roll Call – All in favor, Motion approved.

Supervisor Olafsson discussed the blight concerns in Penn Town. Supervisor Olafsson also discussed that the USDA insurance will pay for the Sampson clean-up.

Supervisor Olafsson gave thanks to Hydro, Community Mills and Dussel's for their recent contributions to the facility. There was 35 plus registered participated for the COA pickleball series.

Supervisor Olafsson also gave thanks to Boyer Well Drilling for their donations of materials and labor to run water to the outdoor spigot on the back of the hall.

Reports

Park & Rec Report – Provided by Wendy Grace, prepared by Lisa Fitzsimons

Clerk News- Provided by Clerk Greathouse. Upcoming election in August and November. 9 days early voting at the Cass County Road Commission Building.

Gravel for Island- Trustee Leach moved to approve the purchase of 2 loads of gravel for Diamond Lake Island. Supervisor Olafsson seconded. Roll call – yes, motion approved.

Fire Dept Report- Provided by Chief Bogue

CAUA Report- Provided by Trustee Leach, prepared by Diana McGrew

Ambulance Report- Provided by Scott Chris.

Assessor Report- Provided by Don Jollay

Zoning Report- Provided by Roger Leach

Building Report- none

Board Comments

Trustee Leach is glad to see Penn Township in a good position financially, without increasing taxes.

Public Comments

Resident 1- Lloyd Montgomery has concerns for ambulance response times. He feels that ambulance service at Penn Fire department is a good idea.

Resident 2- Kathy Atkins is proud of the Fire trucks at the Memorial Day Parade.

Resident 3- Matt Harrington thanked Supervisor Olafsson for taking time to recognize election workers and Clerk Greathouse for their hard work. Harrington requested the board to come up with a solution to address the concerns of the marijuana fields.

Resident 4- Peggy Biesboer endorsed the Friends of Penn Township Candidates running in the August election.

Resident 5- Attorney Josh Colton introduced himself and stated he works with a local marijuana grower.

Resident 6- Scott Peters addressed concerns of 3 new grow sites close to his home and concerns of any new grows coming to the area.

Resident 7- Mike Biesboer has concerns of a grower(s) on Fox St that has one parcel with 2 addresses. Biesboer voiced concerns for the chance of additional growers around Donnell Lake. Biesboer endorsed the Friends of Penn Township Candidates for the August Election.

Resident 8- Shelia Witous has concerns for the amount of money in the township bank account and if the bank has insurance to cover it. Witous has concerns for reimbursement procedures by the Penn Township Board.

Resident 9- Wendy Grace understands that Penn Township goes through regular audits and no concerns regarding reimbursements have been issued. Wendy asked if it was to become a problem, would the board address it?

Resident 10- Shannon Harrington feels that marijuana farms and the tarps / fences are eye sore.

Resident 11- Jody Bucher introduced herself and informed residents that she is running for Treasure .

Supervisor Olafsson closed public comments

The Bills were presented for payment by Clerk Greathouse. Checks 23316-23363 (23324 voided) for a total of \$195,355.10 will be disbursed. Trustee Leach motioned to approve the bills for payment. Supervisor Olafsson seconded, roll call – yes motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsa Greathouse

Penn Township Clerk