

**Caseville Township Board meeting
June 3, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Ben Willenberg.

Present: Ben Willenberg, Michelle Stirrett, Chelsey Dufty, Laurie Marrocco.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Jerry Platko.

Motion by Stirrett second by Marrocco to approve the agenda, the May 6, 2024 Board minutes, Treasurer's report and invoices. **Motion carried.**

Public Hearing opened at 4:05 p.m.

Purpose of Hearing: To take comments on the proposed Main Channel dredging special assessment project for the Beadle Bay Main Channel.

Marshall Gettel: Explained that the main channel dredging committee has been assessing the channel levels for the past two years. The committee was to have representatives from each affected homeowner's association to present information and distribute petitions to have the main channel dredged. Two quotes for the dredging work were received and the committee accepted the professional bid. The bids were similar in pricing.

Larry Miller: Supports the project but expressed concerns regarding the bidding process, costs, and allocations. Stated he wants an equitable distribution of costs for larger parcels. He would like to examine the bid documents.

Victor Johnson: In favor of project and here to learn about the process.

Todd Cooper: Questioned the bid process, the petition process and information given to the HOA's. Wants to have a session where he can ask questions. Concerned about the secrecy of the project and the fact that not everyone got a petition. Bidding process should be public.

Sherry Bellissimo: Shares Cooper's concerns. Lack of transparency in the bidding opens the Township to investigation. The public should be notified when the Township takes on a project. Procedures should be more transparent.

Jerry Adams: Concerns with speeding on the canals. Questioned why only taxpayers were footing the bills. Similar to a highway, the State and Federal governments should be involved when making improvements.

Scott Meyersieck: Is not personally affected by the project but represents South Shore Civic Association and is upset because they were left out of the loop regarding the project. Last fall the project was in talking stages only and feels his association was intentionally disregarded. They were not informed about the project until the Township sent out letters. He is disappointed in the committee and the Township.

Melissa Glowniak: Only informed about the project when she got the Township letter. She's not opposed but feels she was excluded from the petition process. She has two lots and would have combined them to avoid two assessments. She is concerned that BAC and the marina,

who have 3,960 and 2,068 feet of frontage are being assessed at the same rate as property owners. Requested the two properties be looked at differently.

Mark Hoskings: He doesn't recall signing the petition, but the assessor shows him as having signed in favor. The formal bid process was not done correctly, and he objects to the process. Washington Township did a bridge replacement and informed property owners each step in the way.

Barb Tolles: Never received a petition and was never approached or informed of the project.

Tom Tolles: Questioned who the members of the committee represent.

Jack Gleason: In favor of project and signed a petition but had no contact since then. Concerned about the lack of transparency and feels his representative failed him. Disappointed in the process and wondered if it was legal with no public input.

Robert Mathis: Agreed with other comments. What other funding is available? Township has not provided support. This is a State waterway and open to all tourists. The Township should do it right and help the community.

Tom Burkhart: Feels he was blindsided and denied the right to vote. This is an illegal millage. An assessment needs to be voted on. Disappointed with the way this was done. A similar project was done on a north shore channel and the costs were lower. It is only maintenance that needs to be done, not digging a new channel.

Arthur Meier: Supports the project and here to get more information.

Jason Gorsegrner: Supports the project and here to listen and learn.

Jan Quaine: Agree to need for dredging but needs more information.

Doug Kashin: Stated he has been on the channel maintenance committee for eight years and they are doing the best they can. South Shore Civic Association was notified of the project and didn't let the members know. They looked at both bids and took the best one.

Sandy Kashin: The channel needs to be dredged and is dangerous.

Jeff Warden: Would like to see the breakdown of the bids. Payment could be made through HOA fees. The State and Federal governments should help out. The two large lots should be assessed equitably.

Stephanie Buckey: Owns two lots and is opposed to the costs. She can't afford the assessment.

John Connor: Has been on the committee for 15 years. South Shore didn't want to get involved. The president of the association was notified a year ago. The committee meets routinely on the process and the timing. A special assessment was the way to make collection easier.

Rich Drew: The project is needed but asked for consideration on the way the marina is assessed.

Rich Olson: Is in favor of the project but feels residents were kept in the dark. The channel is dangerous right now.

Correspondence:

Stephanie Buckey: Opposed to project.

Larry Schuldt: Opposed to project.

Larry Miller: Requesting information regarding project costs.

Tim and Melinda Glowniak: Protesting project and allocation of the assessment.

Stirrett explained the special assessment process to the public and the ability to protest the assessment to the Tax Tribunal.

Hearing closed at 4:40 p.m.

The regular meeting was opened with the same Board members present,

Public Comment on agenda items:

Robert Mathis questioned if the previous comments would have any bearing on the Board's decision to move forward with the dredging.

Committee Reports:

Thank you note from Jean Platko.
Fire Association - May 15, 2024
Planning Committee - May 7, 2024

Planning Commission

Resolution 2024-06 by Marrocco second by Stirrett approving the 2024 Master Plan and authorizing distribution of the document to reviewing agencies. Roll Call: Aye: Marrocco, Stirrett, Willenberg, Dufty. Nay: None. **Resolution adopted.**

Motion by Stirrett second by Marrocco appointing Jim Klein to the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. **Motion carried.**

Ordinance 2024-01 by Marrocco second by Dufty creating a moratorium on residential pole structures until December 3, 2024 to study regulations and make necessary adjustments to the zoning ordinance. Roll Call: Aye: Marrocco, Dufty, Willenberg, Stirrett. Nay: None. **Ordinance adopted.**

Zoning Enforcement Officer: Motion by Willenberg second by Stirrett appointing Steven Watkins as Zoning Enforcement Officer. **Motion carried.**

Township Trustee: Motion by Stirrett second by Marrocco appointing Steve Watkins (effective June 10, 2024) to the Trustee position with the additional duty of Recreation Director. **Motion carried.**

Beadle Bay Channel Dredging

Resolution #3 by Marrocco second by Willenberg determining to go forward with the Beadle Bay Channel Dredging Special Assessment District. Roll Call: Aye: Marrocco, Willenberg, Stirrett, Dufty. Nay: None. **Resolution adopted.**

Resolution #4 by Stirrett second by Willenberg setting a Public Hearing on July 1, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. to take comments on the Beadle Bay Main Channel Dredging Special Assessment distribution of costs. Roll Call: Aye; Stirrett, Willenberg, Dufty, Marrocco. Nay: None. **Resolution adopted.**

Building Inspector Report given.

Fire Report given.

Supervisor Update: Understands the frustrations with the dredging project and hopes things work out. Two Fire captains are currently under medical care.

Public Comments:

Sheri Bellisimo: Happy with moratorium on pole barns. She wasn't notified of the size of the building and wanted to know if the current building will be stopped? Feels there is a lack of transparency with the Building department. Moved here to get away from the City and now there is a new campground and too many burnouts on cruise night. Feels the Township needs to be accountable and transparent.

Tom Tolles: Hopes everyone shooting fireworks has a permit and uses caution in the event of a burn ban.

Daryl Steinert: Why a moratorium after the pole barn was built? Make the pole barns look like they fit into a residential district rather than a commercial building. Did the owner build a home inside just to keep the Inspector happy? Where is the zoning enforcement on this issue?

Kathy Rolls: Was told that there would be a nice garage built with 2 rooms upstairs for living quarters. Not what was built and does not fit into a residential district. Encourages the Building Inspector to look closely at plans from the beginning and be aware of what's going on. She appreciates Board action for future buildings.

Ray Stoney: Residents were not informed about the building. A moratorium is a good thing.

Donna Stoney: The building is an eyesore. Concerns about the corrugated steel on the building and proposed paving and lack of green space. Who keeps track of these buildings?

Sandy Kashin: Was told they could not build a pole barn and had to buy commercial land.

Hank Clabuesch: Any action on the removal of the DTE poles? Suggested the Township get an attorney involved. Is the Township going to act on commercial activity (dog groomer and cabinet shop) in residential districts?

Larry Miller: Would like to meet with Channel committee to get details.

Board Comments:

Stirrett: Explained the Master Plan approval process.

Marrocco: Suggested residents meet with the dredging committee to discuss concerns. Purpose of hearings is to get information to residents. Appreciates concerns and participation. Some people don't communicate or participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

Michelle Stirrett
Caseville Township Clerk


Ben Willenberg
Caseville Township Supervisor