

# Canosia Township

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Town Board: Chair Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Kevin L. Comnick, Supervisor Daniel J. Golen  
Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2021

ATTENDING: Chair Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Kevin Comnick, Supervisor Dan Golen, Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Fire Chief Gene Stevens, Rec Director Mike Ellingson. The meeting was virtually due to the pandemic with Comnick, Stevens and Borndal attending at the town hall. All votes were taken via roll call. Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

### AGENDA, MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT & BILLS

- A. AGENDA: Motion by Comnick, seconded by Golen, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Comnick: aye, Golen: aye).
- B. MINUTES: Motion by Golen, seconded by Comnick, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting (1/6/2021). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Comnick: aye, Golen: aye).
- C. TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Comnick, seconded by Golen, to approve the Treasurer's Report (1/1/21 –1/31/21). Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Comnick: aye, Golen: aye).
- The Treasurer will research CD vs. checking account interest rates for discussion next month; our CD is coming up for withdrawal/renewal in early March.
  - Copies of all our CARES Act files are now compiled in one place; the Treasurer did so to ensure the township has an easy reference point if there are ever questions/audit of our CARES expenditures
- D. PAY BILLS: Motion by Golen, seconded by Brooks, to pay bills (checks #21178 – 21209) and EFT2021-2. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Comnick: aye, Golen: aye).

### SPECIAL TOPICS

- A. SCI Franchise Agreement: Ron & Scott Savage of SCI Communications Inc. dialed into the meeting to discuss the renewal of our franchise agreement with expires in March.
- Ron explained that the agreement only pertains to their cable tv services, not the phone or Internet. Currently 9% of the homes in the Canosia service area use SCI's cable TV, while much a higher percentage use their Internet. The cable portion of the business is remaining flat or declining as they compete with the various television streaming/provider options.
  - Ron explained how the franchise fee is collected and allocated to the township: on each bill sent to customers, there is a line item showing that a 5% franchise fee is added to the cable portion of their bill. That amount is then tallied by their automated accounting system and a check is periodically sent to Canosia.

- Both the board and SCI would like to keep the franchise agreement going. At Ron’s request, the board agreed it should be valid for fifteen years instead of ten. The board would also like the agreement to state the “Township shall require Franchisee to pay a fee in an amount of five percent of its Gross Revenues” (Instead of “up to five percent...”). The clerk will contact our attorney, asking for the proper procedures for renewing and amending the agreement/ordinance to reflect these changes.
- SCI is planning to expand their Internet services within our area, but the density issues make it challenge. However, expansion to Seville Rd is in the near-term budget. They will continue to seek out additional funding opportunities; the supervisors said they would be happy to send letters of support, etc. as they pursue options.

B. Fredenberg Request: This month, Fredenberg Town Board Supervisor Clay Cich contacted the township, asking for a letter a support related to their gravel pit zoning debate. Fredenberg is currently in the midst of a legal battle, as they try to take back a portion (gravel pits) of their zoning authority from St. Louis County. Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick, to table this issue indefinitely. *Discussion*: the board did feel they had enough information about what they would be supporting and did not feel comfortable putting Canosia in the middle of a legal debate. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Connick: aye, Golen: aye).

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

2021 FIRE DEPT. RESPONSES			
Call Type	JANUARY #'s	Notes	Total for 2021
EMS	7		7
Medical MUA	0		0
Twp Fire	1		1
MUA Fire	2		2
Service	0		0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>

Various updates: This month, the FD finished their CPR refresher course and started their annual calendar fundraiser. Several members also received their second covid vaccine shots. The protective gear purchased with CARES funding has arrived, as have the new FD jackets. The FD currently has 22 members total including one new person.

Trailer for side by side: motion by Connick, seconded by Brooks, approving the purchase of a trailer for the side by side, at a cost up to \$4,000. *Discussion*: there is a chance the FD may get grant funding through the DNR for the purchase. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Connick: aye, Golen: aye).

False Alarm Ordinance: Motion by Connick, seconded by Brooks, approving Ordinance 2021-1 False Alarm Service Charge Ordinance and the official summary to be published in the paper. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Connick: aye, Golen: aye).

B. **ROADS**: There were a few residents’ snowplowing that have since been taken care of.

C. **RECYCLE SHED**: the grant application has been submitted.

**D. AIS/CD3**

SLC recommends we receive our full \$30,000 grant request. The county board approval is still pending. Connick has contacted last year's inspectors and several are hoping to return; we may need 1-2 additional inspectors.

**E. NEWSLETTER**

The board reviewed the draft articles received thus far; the clerk will finalize the newsletter and have it mailed out in the coming weeks.

**F. PLAWCS:** Connick has a zoom call scheduled with the sanitary district to discuss the I/I reports

**G. BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

The locks were changed into the township/PLAWCS garage after the push button code stopped working.

Pinewood has been having trouble unlocking the garbage dumpster; the clerk will make sure they are using the right key. It could be a cold weather issue as well.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. NERCC NOTIFICATIONS**

SLC's "Northland Alert" community notification system will now be used to send alerts about NERCC escapes. Residents can subscribe at [northlandalert.com](http://northlandalert.com). This information will be added to newsletter and to our website.

**B. TAX FORFEIT PROPERTY**

The board had been considering acquiring a tax forfeit property to use as a secondary location for a fire truck/rescue vehicle. However, Brooks learned from SLC that the owner is planning to repurchase the property. The county will let us know if that changes.

**C. ANNUAL MEETING FORMAT**

Motion by Connick, seconded by Golen, to hold a "hybrid" style Annual Meeting in which residents can attend in person or virtually. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Connick: aye, Golen: aye).

Motion by Connick, seconded by Golen, to approve Resolution 2021-1, which details the statutes/rules authorizing the board to have virtual component to the Annual Meeting. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Connick: aye, Golen: aye).

**D. LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION**

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Connick, to hold the LBAE meeting virtually with written appeals only. *Discussion:* the board conducted the meeting in this format last year and it worked well. Although residents are required to submit their issues in writing, the county does an excellent job of contacting each appellant and discussing their issue prior to the meeting and conveying that information to the board so they can make an informed decision. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Connick: aye, Golen: aye).

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**E. COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING EVENT**

Sathers would once again like to use the town hall parking lot for the annual free paper shredding community event. The board is fine with the event and proposed May 22 date.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

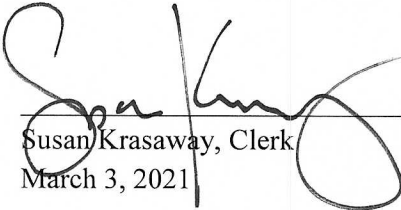
- Newsletters from surrounding townships
- Notice of tax forfeit property procedures

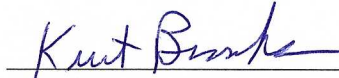
**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Golen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0, via roll call vote (Brooks: aye, Comnick: aye, Golen: aye).

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

  
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Susan Krasaway, Clerk  
March 3, 2021

  
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Kurt Brooks, Chair  
March 3, 2021