

Canosia Township

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Town Board: Chair Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Kevin Connick, Supervisor Dan Golen
Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: ANTI-BLIGHT ORDINANCE & FINE SHARING

November 15, 2017

Attending: Chair Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Kevin Connick, Supervisor Dan Golen, Clerk Susan Krasaway, and Township Attorney Michael Orman. Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and explained its purpose: to discuss two issues with the township attorney (the draft anti-blight ordinance and the fine-sharing program).

Anti-Blight Ordinance

The board reviewed each of Orman's suggested edits to the draft ordinance. There are a few points which Orman will research further and report back to the board. This includes the sentence referencing Minnesota Statute 463.15 and 463.26.

Orman also asked the board to explain their reasoning for developing an ordinance at this time. The supervisors said they would like to have some recourse for enforcing the clean up of properties that have potentially unsafe or hazardous conditions (i.e. burned out structures). They also shared a few photos of current properties with solid waste issues and discussed the ultimately unsuccessful steps taken in the past to encourage these property owners to fix the issues.

The board also discussed various ways to enforce the ordinance once approved. As it is currently written, the township (acting under the ordinance) would have the authority to initiate a civil action against the property owner or occupant if they are unresponsive to the township's repeated (and thoroughly documented) requests for clean-up and related citations.

In the case of a civil ruling in the township's favor, Canosia would be authorized to proceed with cleaning up the property as necessary and certifying all related costs (possibly including reasonable legal fees) to the homeowner's property taxes as a lien. Orman stated that pursuing civil action would be the least risk for the township since a judge's ruling would effectively eliminate claims that we overstepped our authority. The clerk and Brooks will work together to draft a step by step enforcement procedural checklist that township would follow for each property in question (i.e. send initial letter, send follow up letter, etc). This sequence will be outlined in the ordinance.

Next steps: The board will aim to approve the draft ordinance at the January meeting. The public hearing will likely be scheduled for later that month and final approval coming in February. There will be published notices of both the public hearing and ordinance adoption. Information will be posted on our website and winter newsletter as well. It will also be mentioned at the Annual Meeting.

Fine Sharing

The board and Orman discussed the fine-sharing program and reviewed a relevant document from Carver County that Golen had provided. Golen was not able to find out how to get the required "O.R.I." number; Orman will have his paralegal research this process on our behalf.

Motion by Connick, seconded by Golen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Susan Krasaway, Clerk
November 28, 2017

Kurt Brooks, Chair
December 6, 2017