

Typed: June 23rd, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, February 26th, 2020 at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Frank Angelo, Mary Lou Bergan, Amanda Jocken, Tom Krupo, Mike Sorokach, John Kalovcak, Michael Kulpcavage, Chris Ternowchek, Brittany Oup, Nick Buchanan, Janna Androshick, Matt Joy, Devan Joy, Ron Bowers, Ann Marie Studlack, Tina Skibieli, Steve Skibieli, Kayla Sep, Jeremy Slifko, and Antoinette Purcell.

Brenda Helt calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:

Brenda Helt – present.

David W. Califf - present.

Elvin E. Brennan Jr. - present.

Other attendance/attendees:

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Donald G. Karpowich, Solicitor – present.

Richard C. Clink, Chief CTPD – present.

Chairperson Helt states that the minutes from the January 2020 Supervisor's Meeting have been placed at each seat. Helt calls for a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes and to accept them as printed if there are no corrections or omissions. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Helt opens the meeting for public comment.

Mike Sorokach, Owl Road – Asks Supervisor Brennan as per the Township ordinance what can and cannot be burned; he is asking because Elvin is a fire guy. He goes on to explain that there was a fire near his home (on Monday) and there was a lot of black smoke; he states that a fire truck (South Cass) was there, but when it left, whatever it was burning, was still burning omitting very heavy black smoke. Elvin states that he didn't hear anything about it – but complaints like that would have to be reported to the cops and they'll investigate it – but if South Cass was there - the Chief should have a report. This discussion continues. Later in the meeting, the Solicitor read verbatim the Ordinance/section of the Township Code that refers to burning (to answer Mike's questions).

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – Asks Supervisor Califf if the Township has been patching and where. Califf responds yes –pretty much the better part of every road in the Township. Chris mentions an area by Quandel's. Califf states that they have been working on as many of the bigger potholes first and then return to fill in the smaller ones – but first taking care of any that will do damage to vehicles – using cold patch as a temporary patch until spring when the Township can get hot patch again. Chris then asks if someone owns a house that they want to rent out, does the Township do an inspection on it before anyone moves in. Chairperson Helt states that the Township does have a rental inspection ordinance. A lengthy discussion ensues among several audience members, the Board, and the Solicitor.

Steve Skibiell, Pine Knot – states that he attended the last meeting providing statements regarding the off-road vehicles and shooting, etc.; he will now move onto to take pictures as evidence – but his question is, is there a reason why Cass Township did not have representation (either Supervisors or the Solicitor) at the New Castle Township zoning hearing for the Reading Off Road park – he states that he is aware that notifications of the hearing were sent out – so he would like to know why the Township did not have representation at that hearing. Helt states that she believes the Board members talked about it, but she was not able to attend. Califf states that the location is in New Castle Township, it's not coming into any part of Cass. Steve states that there were people there from Foster Township, as well as, Foster's Solicitor; and there were residents there from Cass who are being brutally affected by the park – and the point he is making is, the residents have no representation from our Township. He states that he comes to one of two conclusions – either the Solicitor was instructed by the Board to not to have anything to do with it and/or someone has their own private agendas with Reading Anthracite – but he warns that it's going to get a lot worse than it is now. Steve also states that the taxpayers of Cass Township should not be paying to police an extension of Reading Anthracite's business – and that local EMS should not have to respond to injuries that occur in their park. Steve states that for those of us that have Minersville Water - he has seen pictures of quads in the overflow at the Minersville Water Dam and asks what happens when one of their tanks rupture into the water supply – let alone, all of the destruction that these vehicles are causing all over. He asks again - why there was no representation for Cass residents at the zoning hearing. Steve explains that he also heard shooting again and it was coming from their parking area right off Gordon Mountain Road. The riders also continue to ride the roads - and it's going to get worse. He asks who is going to patrol their business – and asks why should we, the taxpayers, have to pay our law enforcement to patrol their business. Steve states that their riding area encompasses all residential areas. The cost of your home does not matter – but it is your castle and your solitude – you worked for it – but there isn't even a buffer zone. Steve states that there are ATV's – loud and with no headlights – in the middle of the night – traveling up and down the legislative highway (Valley Road). He asks the Board members if they are for or against the park. Brennan asks for or against what? Steve responds, the ATV park and all that is going on in the Township. Califf responds that he is 100% against it. Helt responds that she is not for it. Solicitor Karpowich states that before RAC went to New Castle Township, they came to

Cass and asked us to support them in writing a grant because they wanted to put it here and, at the direction of the Supervisors, he offered a (5) page letter explaining why it wasn't allowed here – so it is on record from that time – that the Supervisors were against it – and that's why RAC went to New Castle. This led to a very lengthy conversation between Steve and Tina Skibiel and the Solicitor relating to the events that took place New Castle zoning hearing, as well as, other issues/concerns relating to policing/patrolling the off road park.

Supervisor Brennan states that he stopped and asked RAC security to chase the people/riders that were parking at their building across the road from Water Dam Road because it's not a designated parking area.

Ann Marie Studlack, Gray Lane – States that she read an article in the paper – it pertained to State Police working with Township Police and fees being charged for each person. She states that she has 1100 per capita in her book and the article states 1800 for Cass Township. Ann Marie talks about the occupancy permits that used to be completed years ago when Jack Harley was Chief of Police – he used to stop at the homes and find out who was living at the residences and then those people were all counted. Ann Marie states that the school calls her with names of people that move in and out of the Township – but those are only the people that have kids enrolled in school. She states that we are losing tax money because we don't know who all is living in the residences. Supervisor Helt states that the Board will need to discuss this and see what can be done - because Ann Marie is right – there are people who live in the Township that don't pay their taxes and it's not fair to the people that do. This led to a lengthy discussion...

Amanda Jocken, S. Maple Avenue - Had complaints of a street light being out. She also explains vehicles frequenting the area that she assumes are related to drug activity. Amanda asks for more police patrol around her neighborhood – stating that the high school is near and there are a lot of children and elderly people that live in the area. She also has complaints of garbage thrown about, and speeding (by high school kids and school buses) on South Maple Road, as well as, drivers blowing through stop signs. Chief Clink states that he will have patrols increased in the area. Evelyn explains the process of how to handle burned out street lights – the residents can call them in themselves – or make the Township aware of the (2) numbers on the metal bands located on the poles and we can/will call it in. Since not all Township employees work at night, we rely on the residents to report street lights that are out. Amanda also states that she constantly hears gun shots at her home – and in speaking about the Reading Anthracite off road park – she states that people pay for permits to ride on their land - so they receive money that should be used by them to patrol their park – because she doesn't appreciate that the police who should be patrolling her neighborhood (for drug activity, etc.) would be patrolling their business.

Mike Kulpcavage, High Road – States that at the last meeting there was discussion of GPS units being installed on the Township vehicles – he was wondering if there was any further

discussion about that and how does the Board members feel about it. Chairperson Helt states that they have not had a meeting to discuss it; she did some research but that is as far as it went. Mike asks if the other Board members have an opinion on it. Supervisor Brennan states that they have to see what it costs. Mike states that it is a big safety issue – especially if someone would get hurt. Helt agrees, but states that the Board would have to see if it's in the budget. Mike Sorokach adds that you can't put a price on safety when someone's life is involved.

Matt Joy, N. Maple Ave. - Makes a request for police coverage/presence specifically on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings – especially now when the weather is warming up – he explains the issues with the traffic and states that it's the lack of respect that these people have for the locals, as well as, the garbage and drug activity at his neighbor's home(s) – the vehicles have New York, New Jersey, Maryland and PA plates – there are quick visits to home – this is all day and night long. Chief Clink explains how officer patrols are scheduled – he tries the best he can to get weekend coverage. This discussion leads to several complaints from several residents relating to the traffic in/out of the gate on High Road, as well as, police coverage shifts/availability on weekends and evenings.

Jeremy Slifko, S. Maple Ave. – States that if the Township were to get rid of the police department and rely on State Police, they will only be reactive instead of proactive. He feels that we need to do something else – and if raising taxes would provide the coverage we need to make people feel better and not prisoners of their own homes, he thinks people would be agreeable to pay a little extra money in their taxes. This leads to a lengthy discussion about police coverage/full-time officers vs part-time officers – the cost – as well as - delinquent taxes. Chairperson Helt states that if the people who owe their taxes would pay them, maybe we could hire full-time police without raising taxes.

Antoinette Purcell, High Road – Asks if the person who damaged the gate and stops signs will be held responsible and have to pay for the damage. Chief Clink explains that an investigation was done and the person who damaged the gate was identified and will be charged – with restitution (for the repairs of the gate). The stop sign damage is being investigated by the State Police.

Hearing nothing further, Helt closes the public discussion and moves on to the agenda items.

Resolution – Sign - Pine Lane (Duncott) – Helt states that the Township was contacted by 911 stating that first responders could not find a residence because there was no signage; she reads the resolution which states that the Township has erected a sign for a road known as Pine Lane, however, the Township does not own or maintain Pine Lane - but did so for the sole purpose of naming a private road for 911. Helt makes a motion to accept the resolution. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Treasurer's Report: *Helt states that the public summary and the list of transactions for the month of January 2020 have been placed at each seat. Helt calls for a motion to accept both reports as printed and to pay all outstanding bills that can be paid at this time. Brennan makes the motion. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

Planning Commission / Engineer's Report – *Helt states there is nothing to report.*

Police Report: *Chief Clink reads the February 2020 report. Helt calls for a motion to accept the report as read. Brennan makes the motion. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

Road Foreman's Report: *Helt states that a copy of this month's report has been placed at each seat; she calls for a motion to accept the report as printed. Kayla Sep asks for last month's report – because it was tabled. After a lengthy discussion, it was discovered that last month's (tabled) report was not provided – but it would be next month. Helt calls for a motion to approve this month's report – and next month, the Board will provide January's, in addition to, next month's report. Brennan makes the motion. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

Correspondence –

Fee Schedule – Helt asks the other Board members and the Solicitor if there is a new fee schedule relating to ARRO Consulting, Inc. The Solicitor states that he believes they should have to go by the old fee schedule unless the Supervisors want to adopt a new one. Helt questions if it is staying the same. The Solicitor responds that is his understanding unless the Board wants to adopt a new one – otherwise leave it the way it is and ARRO has to follow it. He asks if everyone is in agreement with that. Helt states that she thought the other two Supervisors wanted 15% - that was the big thing with appointing ARRO. The Solicitor states that we didn't get that last year, we only got 10%. Helt responds she knows, but that's supposed to be why we changed.

The Solicitor explains some amendments to the Township Code that he feels needs to be clarified regarding the tenant registration and rental inspections, as well as, the police raising an issue about the penalty provision; he feels these items could be cleared up a little bit. After a lengthy discussion, Brennan makes motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare/draft amendments to the Code for the Supervisor's review. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

The Solicitor states that we may have a conditional use hearing coming up (for LaBar/Lengle); he explains that the application was submitted, but it was incomplete so it got kicked back - but if it's re-submitted between now and the date of the next meeting, he will advertise a public hearing for 6pm. The Board is in agreement.



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Old / New Business: *None.*

Motion to Adjourn: *With no further business, Chairperson Helt makes a motion to adjourn. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.*

ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson

TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:52pm

ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Vice-Chairperson

TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:52pm