

*Typed: September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

*The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, August 26th, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.*

*Present at the meeting were: Mary Lou Bergan, Frank Angelo, Joe Cutler, Joyce Cutler, John Kalovcak, Chris Ternowchek, Ann Marie Studlack, Antoinette Purcell, Angela Mason, and Pat Mason.*

*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 - absent.  
Elvin E. Brennan Jr. - present.*

*Other attendance/attendees:*

*Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.  
Donald G. Karpowich, Solicitor – present.  
Michael P. Combs, Officer in Charge, CTPD – present.*

*Chairperson Helt states that she sees some new faces since the last meeting and she is aware there are a lot of questions being asked by residents relating to police – so she would like to let everyone know that Rick Clink is currently out on personal leave; Chief Combs of Minersville PD is present this evening since he has offered to step in as the Officer in Charge of CTPD until we get things straightened out.*

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

*Helt opens the meeting for public comment.*

*John Kalovcak, South Maple Ave. – states that he submitted a complaint form a few weeks ago about an area near his mailbox and asks if he is on the list for it to get done. Brennan replies yes, but we will not black top off the road. John responds it is the road – and it was done before. Elvin replies only about 2 foot is the road and if we fix the whole area by John's mailbox then we will have to do everyone else's. John states he doesn't care – he is a taxpayer – and the Township is patching potholes on the High Road and none on Low Road – and asks*

*what about them. Elvin replies what about Woodside and all the other roads. John replies that he used to drive around this whole township with 3 ton of cold patch and filled potholes – he didn't drive around in the truck all day. This discussion continues. Brennan tells John that he should run for Supervisor. John agrees - but states he doesn't need the aggravation – but Elvin ran for the position so he should accept the responsibility and do the job. Brennan states that he works – when he's at home, he knows what the guys are doing. John said he makes a complaint – nothing gets done – but he sees other things getting fixed in other locations. John states that when he worked for the Township he took care of a lot of people but he got reprimanded and wrote up for it - he knows how this goes and knows what goes on.*

*Antoinette Purcell, High Road – Asked if anything was done about the high grass/weeds, as well as, fixing vehicles and other complaints at 140 High Road. Evelyn asked if she completed a complaint form. Brenda states that is the way it is currently set up, a complaint form needs to be completed and submitted – then Shannon (code enforcement officer) will act on it.*

*Pat Mason, High Road – States that he sent everyone an email several weeks ago with complaints about an air b&b being operated out of a home near his residence. He explains that he has researched the ordinance and reads off several of the violations that he found relating to this property. Pat states that this has been going on since May and nothing has been done about it. Supervisor Helt states that we need to amend the ordinance to address the issues and we going to move forward with that tonight. The Solicitor explains why the ordinance needs to be amended and states that the zoning officer reviewed Pat's complaint and her determination was that the current ordinance doesn't address it – so he drafted an amendment to the ordinance. There was a lengthy discussion between Pat and the Solicitor. Supervisor Helt states that we are having a big issue in the Township with people not registering their rental properties. There are people coming and going and we don't know who they are – so the Township needs to address the issues – make sure the properties are being inspected – and become more aggressive with enforcement. The Solicitor states that the issues with these rental properties are a recurring problem throughout the Commonwealth and the Country.*

*Joyce Cutler, Oak Lane – asks the Board – with all the social distancing, masks, only so many people permitted in a place at a time – and all the rules that have been put in place by the Governor – how does Big Diamond get away with having packed crowds. Brenda states that she doesn't go to Big Diamond so she doesn't know what they do up there. Joyce states that every picture she sees the place is packed – shoulder to shoulder – no masks, no nothing. OIC Combs states that he is on the Schuylkill County COVID Task Force – and they have made complaints to the Governor that he/they passed all the regulations but unfortunately they haven't put any enforcement measures in place for law enforcement to utilize. OIC Combs states that this problem is not only in this area, it is across the State. The Solicitor adds that the only time there is any “teeth” is when there is a State license involved – if people do not comply with regulations, they can have those licenses revoked.*

*Frank Angelo, High Road – Asks for a status update on cable/internet situation. Chairperson Helt states that she has calls and emails out to about (4) companies and she is awaiting replies from all of them. She states again that she wants a company who will provide service for the whole Township – not pick and choose to provide to parts of it. Hopefully by next month's meeting she will have some more information for the residents. Antoinette Purcell states that she works in school system and comments about the difficulties of the families who live in our area that do not have access to internet to do their school work – and even though the schools are offering hot spots, it's very difficult for working parents to get their kids to the schools to use the hot spots. Chairperson Helt states that the Township has been trying to get improvements for the past several months, but the companies are stating they don't have their field work done yet – but maybe if they are looking at surrounding municipalities as well, maybe they are looking to bundle them together.*

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

*2021 MMO – Police Pension Fund - Helt reads the annual MMO explaining its purpose; and makes a motion to approve the 2021 for the Police Pension Plan (the contribution this year is zero). Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Memorandum of Understanding – MASD – School Resource Officer (SRO) – OIC Combs explains the annual agreement. Helt makes a motion to approve. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Scofflaw Ordinance - Motion for the Solicitor to Advertise – The Solicitor explains the Ordinance that has been recommended by the police department. Helt makes the motion to authorize the Solicitor to advertise the Ordinance. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

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

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

*Police Report: OIC Combs reads the report. He states that he is requesting that the Board of Supervisors hire all (5) applicants/police officers that he submitted to them. Those officers are: Walsh, Wehrer, Weaver, Murphy, and Searfoss – all to be hired as part-time Cass Township officers. Included with that, he is requesting approval of an advertisement to be placed in the newspaper for additional part-time officers. OIC Combs explains that what we are trying to do is make sure the Township is provided with coverage on a more regular basis*

*than what it has been - so he is looking to increase the staff. We are looking to make some changes in the police department and this is one of the first steps to either add some personnel or change some personnel around to provide service to the constituents of the Township. Helt makes a motion to hire all (5) officers and to place an advertisement in the newspaper as requested by OIC Combs. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Helt makes a motion to accept the police report as read. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Reports are on file in the Police Department for review upon request.*

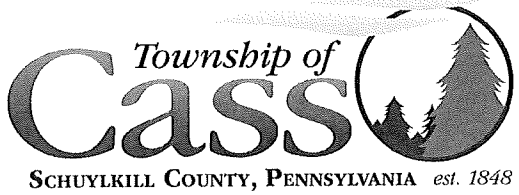
*Road Foreman's Report: Helt states that the report is placed at each seat and makes a motion to accept it as printed. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Correspondence – Helt states that the annual Schuylkill County fall clean-up and recycling event will take place in September. The closest location for drop-off is Minersville – the week of September 14<sup>th</sup>. Additional information and details can be obtained at the Township Office upon request.*

*Old / New Business: The Solicitor explains that the Board wishes to amend the zoning ordinance – he explains the amendments in detail. Helt calls for a motion to authorize the Solicitor to advertise the zoning amendment. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Part-time Police Officers – Helt states that their rate of pay will be \$18.50 per hour; no benefits. Chris Ternowchek asks if the Township will have (24) hour police coverage. OIC Combs explains that upon the Supervisors request, he did a review of the department and provided the BOS with some proposals that would best address the issues. Chairperson Helt explains that one of the options that was offered was to take CTPD on as part of Minersville PD – kind of like a contracted service. The Supervisors will discuss amongst themselves and with the residents to get their input. It would be (24) hour coverage and we would still have Cass Township officers but they will be working with Minersville. OIC Combs agrees – but states that there are still quite a few things that need to be worked out regarding a contract. Helt states that it won't happen this year because we did not budget for it – and we are not even sure if it will happen next year – but we are discussing it. This discussion continued.*

*Refund – Zoning Permit Reimbursement – (\$125.00) - The Solicitor states that we received a request for a refund of a fee from a zoning permit application that was denied – and then it was decided by the applicant not follow through with their project. It is his recommendation that the Board grant this refund – however, he also recommends that the Board authorize him to amend the permit fee schedule. Helt makes the motion to refund the fee – and to authorize*



**Cass Township Board of Supervisors**

1209 Valley Road, Pottsville, PA 17901

Telephone: 570.544.5370

Fax: 570.544.3158

www.casstownship.org

E-mail: supervisors@casstownship.org

*him to amend the fee schedule. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*The Solicitor states that there is an eminent domain case started by the Solicitor before him relating to Reading Anthracite Company and the Cherry Valley Waterline. An inspection is schedule for 09/15 at 9am.*

*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: 7:20pm*

*ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Vice-Chairperson  
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:20pm*