

Typed: July 30th, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Friday, June 28th, 2024 at 2pm at the Municipal Building – Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting: See sign-in sheet (attached).

Brenda Helt calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:

Michael Sorokach III – present.

Elvin E. Brennan Jr. – present.

Brenda M. Helt – present.

Other attendance/attendees:

Mark Semanchik, Solicitor – present.

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Chairperson Helt states that the May 2024 Supervisors Meeting Minutes have been placed at each seat. She makes a motion to approve the minutes if there are no corrections or omissions. Seconded by Sorokach. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Helt opens the meeting for public comment.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – Had questions and complaints regarding the recent Schaeffer Hill Road paving project asking why the road was not closed – because the dirt and dust created by traffic going through was terrible – the resident’s homes and vehicles were covered. She states that contractors did a good job – she doesn’t have a problem with that - but the dust was terrible for the residents who live there. Chairperson Helt states that the road was not closed so people could get to their homes – and in case of an emergency, first responders could get through. Road Master Sorokach said if people were traveling at the speed limit, the dust would not have been so bad – but regardless, the job is done now so Chris will not have to worry about this issue again. Helt states that people are complaining that the roads are bad - so we are trying to get them fixed and there are still complaints.

Mike Machita, Low Road – Asked for placement of ‘fire department ahead’ signs along 901 for South Cass Fire Company. He states that there were signs there, but they have disappeared. Supervisors are agreeable – and will check with PennDOT.

Joseph Kavanaugh, Minersville Police – Asked once again if he could obtain his personal property that has been held here since January 31st (6 months). Solicitor Semanchik denies the request stating that there is an ongoing investigation. Joe pleads with Solicitor Semanchik to be accompanied into the police evidence room to obtain his personal items. He states that the Township cannot withhold personal property and requests a check be cut to him to cover the cost of his items or he will be forced to take legal action. Solicitor Semanchik states that Joe left his property inside a police department evidence room that is now sealed. However, if the State Police would agree to come to the building and supervise access, allow Joe to remove items, and sign off on it – then they would allow items to be removed from an evidence room – and that would be fine. This turned into an extremely lengthy heated discussion. Chairperson Helt stated that Joe was in attendance at the Special Meeting when the Department was suspended – it was held on a Friday afternoon at 2pm and he was in his Minersville Police uniform like he is today. She asks him why he didn't ask to get his personal items at that time knowing that the Department was suspended. This discussion again became argumentative. Chairperson Helt ended it by stating she will not continue to speak about this issue.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Helt closed the public discussion and moves on to the Agenda items:

Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau – Parcels:

05-6-0077.001; 05-06-0078.000; 05-06-0078.001; 05-06-0104.000.

Solicitor Semanchik explains that the Township is in receipt of notification from the Tax Claim Bureau in regard to (4) leased ground improvements – which means that there is an owner of a structure on a piece of property owned by someone else. These structures have taxes owed so the Tax Claim Bureau is selling them to recover their costs. A bidder has come forward to purchase the structures (only). Solicitor Semanchik has reviewed all (4) of the requests; and it is his recommendation that the Board take action to approve the sale of each structure. Helt makes a motion to approve the sales of the parcels listed. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Treasurer's Reports – Copies of the Treasurer's Reports are placed at each seat. Helt makes a motion to approve the report(s) as printed. Seconded by Sorokach. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Planning Commission/Engineer's Report –

Solicitor Semanchik states that there are (6) items listed on the agenda this evening which the Planning Commission and Benesch are recommending the Board take action upon tonight; however, prior to that he states that Mr. Frank Zukas of SEDCO is in attendance this evening and asks Frank if he would like to provide a summary of the projects taking place in the Highridge Business Park. After hearing Mr. Zukas' summary, Solicitor Semanchik states that he has reviewed Benesch's comments that have been submitted as a result of the Planning

Commission Meetings – and it is his recommendation at this time for the Board to take the action as recommended by Benesch regarding each of the (6) items as follows:

- *51-day extension for the Lot # 3 Final Minor Subdivision*
- *51-day extension for the Lot # 3B Preliminary/Final LD*
- *Acceptance of waiver for combined preliminary/final submission for the Lot # 3 Final Minor Subdivision*
- *Acceptance of waiver for combined preliminary/final submission for the Lot # 3B Preliminary/Final LD*
- *Conditional preliminary/final approval of Lot # 3 Final Minor Subdivision*
- *Conditional preliminary/final approval of Lot 3B Preliminary/Final LD*

Supervisor Brennan makes the motion to approve all (6) items as discussed. Seconded by Helt. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Fire Assessment Funds – Highridge Businesses - Solicitor Semanchik explains that he has been asked to render an opinion on this matter and states that it is his understanding that initiation of these funds was to pay the worker's compensation insurance for the Township's emergency service providers responding to the businesses in Highridge Business Park. He asks Mr. Frank Zukas of SEDCO to clarify if his understanding is correct. Frank replies that yes, that is correct and he goes on to explain that years ago, one of the fire companies could not respond to calls since they could not pay their worker's compensation premium so one of the businesses wrote a check to cover the premium. After that occurred, discussions took place which created the concept of asking for a voluntary assessment from the companies that are located in Cass Township. The assessments are based on the square footage of each company's building. The funds would come back to the Township on an annual basis with the assurance that they would be used to pay the worker's compensation for any and all fire companies and/or emergency responders so we didn't run into the situation again where someone wasn't covered. Frank doesn't recall the exact year the fire assessment requests were started, but it was quite a few years ago. Solcitiior Semanchik states that he was researching and believes it may have been started in 2014. He thanks Mr. Zukas for his explanation. Chairperson Helt adds that Evelyn does the work to obtain that money every year and the efforts are appreciated by the Board.

Road Foreman's Report: A copy of the report is placed at each seat. Sorokach reads the report. He also gives an update on the paving and seal coat projects on Schaeffer Hill Road, as well as, work being done at the Forestville Playground. Helt makes a motion to accept the Road Foreman's Report. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Code Enforcement Report: Nick Hazlett is absent again this month; his report is tabled.

Solicitor's Report:

Executive Session – *Solicitor Semanchik states that he met in executive session with the Board of Supervisors on June 17th for the purpose of discussions as well as the future with regard to firefighting services in the Township.*

Police Matters – *As a follow-up to the Board’s action during last month’s meeting to disband the police department, Solicitor Semanchik states that the appropriate notices have been sent to State Police and they agreed as part of the notice that they would be providing 100% service to the Township effective May 30th, 2024 – but they did submit a request. When PSP went into the MPOETC system, there were (9) individuals still listed as Cass Township police officers so they are asking the Board to take action this evening to authorize a Separation of Record form to be submitted to MPOETC for each of those officers. It is his recommendation that this be done because it allows the Pennsylvania State Police to fully step in to oversee all of the outstanding issues that remain and also what we have gone through in the last (6) months if not longer. He recommends that the Board authorize the officer separation forms to be completed and that Chairperson Helt signs and submits the forms to MPOETC. Helt makes a motion. Seconded by Sorokach. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

Correspondence: Nothing.

Old/New Business: Nothing.

Motion to Adjourn:

With no further business, Helt makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29pm.

ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson

SEAL:

ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Supervisor

06/28/2024
BOS Meg

PLEASE PRINT :

FRANK ANGELO

Tina Skibiak

John Kellman Jr

Jim Quinn

Ed Yakobosky

Connor Andrechek

CHRIS TERNOWCHAK

Mike Ondisco

John Korman

Sean Palmer

Tom Mochit

Rich King

MIKE PAVALL