

*The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on August, 29th, 2024 at 7pm 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 July 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.*

*Frank Angelo, High Road – Asked for the mileage from the road department vehicles to be provided with the monthly reports. Sorokach agrees. Frank comments in regard to police coverage by State Police; a bill may pass requiring municipalities to pay for coverage by PSP – and if that happens, he feels that the Township should compare it to what a local police force would cost. He then states that he knows a Constable – and if the Township isn't utilizing its police vehicles, he asks if the Constable can use them. Solicitor Semanchik responds that he will need to check with our insurance company to see if Constable is considered in the definition of law enforcement. Road Master Sorokach states that if the mileage was requested because the Township trucks are seen driving around – specifically first thing in the morning – it is under his direction – and he goes on further to explain the reasoning. Frank then reports a complaint regarding a drain by his residence that needs to be cleaned. He said that the road crew cleans the leaves off the top of the grate, but the box is filled with dirt and it will go into the pipe; he suggests the grate be removed and the box be cleaned out. Sorokach responds that he will mention it.*

*Mike Machita, Low Road – Asks what will be done with the funds that we're savings from not having a police department. Helt and Sorokach both respond that the money is currently in the General Fund; however, Helt goes on to explain that during last month's meeting there*

were questions, complaints, and comments about the police department and coverage. There were a handful of people that suggested that they wouldn't mind an increase in their property taxes in order to have a full-time police department. Helt states that taxes haven't been raised in the (7) years that she has been in office – but regardless, the Board has discussed it and decided that they would like to advertise for a full-time Chief of Police to see what candidates are interested, analyze the cost, and go from there. Helt makes a motion to authorize Solicitor Semanchik to advertise for a full-time police chief. Seconded by Sorokach. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – states that some people can't pay their taxes now - and we are going to raise them – asking if that's the right thing to do. Sorokach responds that there were a few residents at the last meeting who said to raise taxes – even though the Board is trying not to – in order to have police. Chris responds that our police were only on duty during the day. Supervisor Brennan responds that this would be a full-time department. Helt adds that this is what the people want; and they don't care if their taxes are raised.

Antoinette Purcell, High Road – has questions, comments, and complaints regarding occupancy permits as they relate to the number of people that occupy one dwelling within homes located in our school district. She goes on to explain that Minersville Borough requires new residents to complete a form and pay a fee. Evelyn explains that years ago, Jack Harley used to do the same for Cass Township – but since then, that practice has gone to the wayside on the Township's end. Chairperson Helt states that this has been going on for some time and prior to Ann Marie Studlack resigning, she had provided the Board with a list. Solicitor Semanchik agrees that Ann Marie's list was provided and that he and Nick Hazlett have been working on it. It was also stated that Barb Conville (Tax Collector) works for the school district – so she will be provided with a listing of names with addresses of residents when students are registered to attend school.

Ed Drasdis, N. Maple Ave. – Asks the Board to clarify if they are thinking about a full-time 24-hour police department or part-time like we had. Helt replies that the Board is looking at a full-time police department. That's what the people of Cass Township want. Sorokach adds that they will start off with a full-time Chief and build the Department from there. Ed feels that maybe having a full-time Chief working different shifts would be sufficient; we don't need 24-hour service. He addresses Chairperson Helt and states that it's irritating to him that she is using raising taxes to have a police department as a crutch – because she said the same thing was said years ago when he mentioned code enforcement. Supervisor Brennan states that one full-time police officer will cost over \$100,000 – and we'll need more than one. Helt agrees and states that she is not using raising taxes as crutch or a threat – the Board doesn't want to raise taxes because they know not everyone could afford an increase – but funding would have to come from somewhere. Ed then has complaints about the area where he built his home stating that he keeps his home nice but the properties near him do not. Several in the audience agree. Helt asks if he has reported those properties to the Township and/or Code

*Enforcement. Ed responds that he has not because he fears retaliation. This heated discussion continued among several residents regarding code enforcement problems on properties, police presence, raising taxes, creating committees to get things done, etc.*

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

*Payment – Martin Paving, Inc. - Schaeffer Hill Seal Coat Project: Sorokach explains that Martin Paving is not charging the additional amount that was approved by change order during last month's meeting. Helt makes a motion to approve payment to Martin Paving, Inc. for the original bid amount of \$29,897.00. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Zoning Permit Extension Request – RAC – St. Kieran's Solar Project: Solicitor Semanchik states that there are (2) choices: a (6) month extension under our zoning ordinance – or- a (1) year extension under the Uniform Construction Code; however, it is his recommendation that the Board approves utilizing the zoning ordinance. Helt makes a motion to approve the request for (6) months. Seconded by Sorokach. 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 Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Planning Commission/Engineer's Report –*

*Condor Lane Preliminary Estimate Task: Solicitor Semanchick states that Benesch has submitted a scope of service and estimated cost to begin the process of engineering, designing, and preparing bid documentation related to the Condor Lane Improvement Project. The amount is estimated at \$6,000. Helt makes a motion to approve Benesch's estimate. Seconded by Sorokach. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Road Foreman's Report: A copy of the report is placed at each seat. Sorokach reads the report. He provides an update on the truck which we have on order – hopefully by the end of October we will receive it. A preliminary walk through of Condor Lane is planned to identify problem areas and fix any issues that can be fixed so we don't have to pay a contractor to do so. There are numerous potholes throughout the Township, but currently the local plant is not making blacktop – so we may be looking into other plants – specifically one located in Leesport that other municipalities are using. He gives an update on repairs and upgrades that will be completed at the Forestville playground. Helt states that electrical repairs in the playground were necessary due to vandalism. Helt makes a motion to accept the Road*



**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

*Foreman's Report. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Code Enforcement Report: Nick Hazlett reads his August 2024 report. Helt makes a motion to approve the report. Seconded by Sorokach. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Solicitor's Report:*

*Executive Session – Solicitor Semanchik states that prior to this evening's meeting, he met in executive session with the Board of Supervisors; it started at 6pm and ended at 6:45pm - during which they discussed issues of personnel, property, the upcoming upset sale, and action taken to file judgements with regard to some of the interested parties.*

*Helt makes a motion to accept the Solicitor's Report. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Correspondence:*

*Annual Schuylkill County Fall Clean-up & Recycling Event: Helt states that copies listing locations, dates, and times are available for anyone wanting one.*

*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 7:31pm.*

*ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson*

*SEAL:*

*ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Supervisor*

Chairperson/Asst. Treasurer  
**BRENDA M. HELT**

Supervisor  
**ELVIN E. BRENNAN JR.**

Road Master/Assistant Secretary  
**MICHAEL SOROKACH III**

Manager/Secretary-Treasurer  
**EVELYN J. BERGAN**

08/29/2024  
BOS Mtg

PLEASE PRINT :

FRANK ANGELO

Donna & John Kalowcak  
~~John~~

Ann Bork

John Vintari

~~John~~ Tina Skibiel

CHRIS TERNOWCHAK

Michael Machite

KEN Koscil

Antoine de Purcell