The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held Thursday, April 26th, 2012 at 6:30 PM at the Township Municipal Building, Duncott, Pa.

Present at this meeting were the following: Joyce Cutler, James Wentz, Bob Rizzardi, Chris Ternowchek, R. J. Wentz, R. Bowers, Larry Gleason, Jessica Holley, Tina Skibiel, Margaret Doyle, Marybeth Matz, Diane Lenick, Joe Geles, and Bob Ryan.

Chairman James D. Thomas called the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.


Chief Anthony M. Kuklinski, Cass Township Police -- present.

Evelyn J. Bergan – Administrative Assistant, present.

Edward M. Brennan – Solicitor, present

The March 2012 Supervisor Meeting Minutes have been placed at each seat for review. Jim asked the audience to please read them and if there are any corrections, please bring them to the attention of the Board before adjournment. Jim asked for questions and/or comments. Hearing none, he then asked for a motion to approve the March 2012 Supervisor’s Meeting Minutes. John made the motion. Mike seconded. Motion passed.

Articles on the Agenda this month:

Summer Employment: Jim explains that the Board would like to retain summer / seasonal employee Greg Haney as a member of the road crew – he has been an employee of the Township for the past two seasons and has worked out well. Jim asks for questions and comments. Hearing none, Jim asks for a motion to hire Greg Haney at an hourly rate of $7.50 per hour; no benefits. John made the motion. Mike seconded. Motion passed.

Police Laptop Purchase: Jim explains that last year, Chief Kuklinski obtained a grant award in the amount of $700.00 for the purchase of a laptop computer for the Police Department. Former Board Member and IT Consultant for the Township, Brian Canfield, has done the research for the purchase and has found that we can purchase the computer, service agreement, accessories and software for $1,334.22. Jim asked for questions and comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to purchase the laptop as discussed. Mike made the motion. John seconded. Motion passed.

Patton & Lettich Audit / Advertise Summary: Jim states that the annual third party audit of financial records for the year 2011 is complete and the Board is now required to publically advertise the summary in the newspaper. Jim reviews the summary and asks for questions or comments. Hearing none, Jim asks for a motion to advertise the Public Summary one-time in the Republican Herald newspaper. John made the motion. Mike seconds. Motion passed.
**Shady Lane / Green Avenue Land Compensation:** Solicitor Brennan states that in order to move forward with the opening of Green Avenue, compensation is necessary to the land owners whose properties will be affected in this process. Appraisals (completed by Tony Natzol) of the portions of property have been done and will be paid fair market value by the Township as follows:

- Parcel # 05-13-0051.000 -- Elizabeth Halderman = $167.00 / Shady Lane
- Parcel # 05-13-0035.000 -- Milton Snyder = $346.00 / E. Elk Lane

Jessica Holley, Forestville – Had several questions and comments relating to the Green Avenue Project – stating she doesn’t know where Green Avenue is located but wanted to know why it was being opened. After a lengthy discussion between Solicitor and the audience, Ed informs the audience that while residents / attendees are permitted to make comment at a meeting; they are not permitted to continuously interrupt the Board and make comment while the members are trying to conduct the business of the meeting. Solicitor Brennan states that this Board allows public comment after every item discussed; however, that is not a necessary requirement, and they are not obligated to do so. Jim states that he (as Chairman) prefers to follow the forum that we always have for the meetings -- with resident input and questions -- but he will change the meeting forum if the behavior does not improve – that will only allow comments to be heard at only one point during each meeting. Jim asked for any further questions and comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to authorize the fair market value payment for the Halderman parcel as discussed. Mike made the motion. John seconded. Motion passed. Jim then asked for a motion to authorize the fair market value payment for the Snyder parcel as discussed. Mike made the motion. John seconded. Motion passed.

**Big Diamond Raceway / Speedway:** Jim explains that last month the Board hired counters to be placed at the entrance gates of the Speedway in order to get an accurate head count of admissions into the events. The Board feels this is necessary due to the fact that when the business was being leased, the Township received over $20,000.00 per year in amusement taxes. However last year, the resident owners had taken the business over again and the Township received approximately $4,100.00 – which does not seem to be an accurate tax collection. Jim states that last Friday, there was an incident at the Speedway where their staff interfered with the placement of counters at their stations. Jim asked for questions and comments. Jessica Holley, Forestville – Commented that she does not feel paying $17.50 per hour / per worker is efficient – the Board should hire an employee from CareerLink to count at a cheaper rate. Hearing nothing further, Jim made a motion to authorize Solicitor Ed Brennan to pursue any / all means to have Big Diamond Speedway comply with the (AMT) Amusement Tax Ordinance. Mike seconded. Motion passed.

Solicitor Brennan then stated that he recommends the Board revise the AMT Ordinance to add revenue / tax projections to determine accurate collections. Ed states that he will continue to work with Roehrig’s attorney to find resolve to this matter.

**Planning Commission:**

*Note: All decisions are based on recommendations from the Planning Commission to the Board of Supervisors.*

**James V. Ryan / Coal Castle Fuels, Inc. Subdivision:** The PC has recommended Final Approval for this plan to the Board of Supervisors. Jim asked for a motion to grant final approval. John made the motion. Mike seconded. Motion passed.

**Mine Hill Subdivision:** The PC has recommended Final Approval for this plan to the Board of Supervisors. Jim asked for a motion to grant final approval. John made the motion. Mike seconded. Motion passed.

**Ceganick Subdivision:** The PC recommended that the Board grant Final Approval. Jim asked for a motion to grant final approval. John made the motion. Mike seconded. Motion passed.
Treasurer’s Report: Mike presented the March 2012 Treasurer’s Report. Jim asked for questions and comments. Hearing none, Jim made the motion to accept the March 2012 Treasurer’s Report and pay all outstanding bills as can be paid at this time. John seconded. Motion passed. The Treasurer’s Reports are on file at the Township office for review upon request.


Jim states that Chief Kuklinski has asked for permission to sell or trade a Colt pistol owned by the Department / Township. Jim states that permission was previously given to the prior Chief of Police a few years ago, but the transaction had not been completed. Jim asks for questions or comments. Hearing none, he asks for a motion to grant approval to sell or trade the pistol described. John made the motion. Mike seconded. Motion passed.

Please remove all abandon vehicles from your properties. The Police Department will continue to move forward with having them tagged and removed during the upcoming summer season.

Correspondence:

Schuylkill County Burn Ban: Schuylkill County has called a burn ban enacted on 04/20/2012 – Cass Township always follows in their direction. In 30 days from that date, they will re-access the situation and either lift the ban or announce its continuance. Do not burn during the ban; you will be cited.

Old / New Business:

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement Officer Kyle Kehoe of Benesch continues to work with Cass Police Department on several code-related issues throughout the Township.

Jim runs through a summary of issues noted on the monthly Benesch Property Maintenance Report and urges residents & property owners to please cut their grass and maintain your properties.

FEMA / PEMA Hazardous Mitigation Program Update: Jim states that a walk-through has been scheduled for tomorrow morning (Friday, April 27th at 8:00 a.m.) to determine cost of repairs from damage. Jim will be in attendance on John Walaitis’ behalf.

Township Drop-Off Recycling: Jim states that we have an ongoing problem with the recycling bins / center. People are blatantly ignoring the signage and are consistently throwing items into the bins that are not recyclable such as: paint cans, Styrofoam, sneakers, electronic devices, wood items, and most recently, a satellite dish. Please read the signs and only put into the bins what is clearly noted on the signs as recyclable; otherwise, you will be videotaped on the camera / security system and you will be cited.

Discussions from the Audience:

Note: If you do not raise your hand and clearly state your name and address for the Board, your comment or question will not be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

Jamie Wentz, W. Elk Lane: Had questions and comments regarding fairness of the Ordinances in relation to all residents.
Robert Wentz, Low Road: Had questions about his trucks on the Low Road – referring to the Heavy Hauling Ordinance and the location of his business at his residence.

After a lengthy discussion between the Board, Solicitor, Chief of Police, and Audience members in regards to the heavy hauling issues on Township roads; business owners (also residents) with heavy equipment traveling on Township roads; posting of roads for local deliveries, hauling permits and their inconvenience; permit fees; bill of lading; weight limits based on State regulations; signage on Township roads posting “No thru traffic” or “No Shortcuts”. Jim Thomas states that the Weight Limit Ordinance is currently being revised and he is looking for direction on how to enact an ordinance that fits the Community. He adds that if Jamie or anyone else would like to sit down to meet to offer suggestions to the Board, they are welcome.

Jim also states that if he sees a contractor that he knows requires a permit, he will instruct the contractor to obtain a permit at the Township Office, however, if a police officer stops a contractor that does not have a permit -- it is a different situation entirely – since the Board members do not have the power to cite for a violation.

Jessica Holley, Forestville – Asked if a police officer could check with a homeowner to verify if a permit was obtained or not.

Ron Bowers, Condor Lane – Had questions and comments about the 10 ton weight limit and driving his truck to and from his residence.

Joyce Cutler, Oak Lane – Asks Jim if he will look at the creek during the walk-through Oak Lane. She stated that the dirt is very high and it won’t take much more water. She also stated that the railroad has to clean out under the bridge.

Joe Geles, Duncott – Asked if the Board has ever tried to get the speed limit on Valley Road reduced – especially during Child Development’s school hours when buses are coming back and forth.

Ron Bowers, Condor Lane – Asked if he were to leave his home in his truck this evening, would he get pulled over.

**Adjournment** – Hearing no further discussions from the audience, Jim asked for motion to adjourn. John made the motion. Mike seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

**ATTEST:** James D. Thomas, Chairman
TIME MEETING ADJOURNED:  7:46 PM

**ATTEST:** C. Michael Kulpcavage, Vice-Chairman
TIME MEETING ADJOURNED:  7:46 PM

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CASS TOWNSHIP WILL BE HELD ON Thursday, May 31st at 6:30 PM AT THE CASS TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, DUNCOTT, PA.