Typed: May 29th, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held Thursday, April 25th, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the Township Municipal Building, Duncott, Pa.

Present at this meeting were the following: Bob Ryan, Tina Skibiel, James Wentz, Chris Ternowchek, and Paul Lohin.

Chairman James D. Thomas called the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.


Evelyn J. Bergan – Administrative Assistant, present.

The March 2013 Supervisor’s Meeting Minutes 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 nothing, Jim asked for a motion to approve the March 2013 Supervisor’s Meeting Minutes. John made the motion. Mike seconded. Motion passed.

Audience Discussion: Please raise your hand; state your name & address for the record.

Jim opens the floor for questions and comments regarding items listed on tonight’s agenda...

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – Asked if the Board is planning to do something this year with the pipe under the Low Road.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Jim concludes this portion of the meeting and moves onto the items on the agenda.

Articles on the Agenda this month:

Taxpayer Bill of Rights Ordinance # 2013-02 – Jim states that we have been working on this Ordinance with our Solicitor for some time and it is now time to adopt. The Ordinance basically states the rights of businesses within the Township, as well as, the rights of the Township. Jim asked for a motion. John made the motion. Mike seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call of Officers: C. Michael Kulp Cavage – aye. John M. Walaitis – aye. James D. Thomas – aye.

Authorize Atty. Hobbs to Petition the Court for Conservatorship of Mary Grace / O’Connor Property -- Jim states that this particular issue was turned over to Atty. Hobbs due to a conflict of interest presented on our Solicitor’s part. The Board would like to authorize Atty. Hobbs to move forward with petitioning the Court for conservatorship so that we can accomplish getting this property demolished and cleared as it is a health and safety hazard. Jim asks for a motion for Atty. Hobbs to petition the Court. John makes the motion. Mike seconds. Motion passed.
Refinance USDA Loan / Resolution # 2013-7 – Jim explains that several years ago, the Township took out a loan from the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). At this time, there is approximately $77-78,000, as well as, seven (7) years left on the loan. We have researched the interest rates and found that now is an opportune time to refinance to receive a better rate which will save the Township a good amount of money. The First National Bank of Minersville is giving us the best option. To move forward with the refinance, the Bank requires that we pass a resolution. Jim asks for a motion to approve Resolution # 2013-7. John made the motion. Mike seconds. Motion passed.

County Burn Ban – Schuylkill County has called a burn ban to be in effect for 30 days – Cass Township follows the County in relation to the bans – it will lift on May 5th if County foresees no further threat.

Planning Commission:

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

April PC Meeting was held on 04/11/2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Grant Conditional Approval to Brooks Rentals on Annexation Pending Solicitor Review of the Deeds – Jim states that the Board agrees to give Conditional Approval pending Solicitor approval of the annexation. Jim asks for a motion to grant Conditional Approval pending Solicitor approval of the annexation. John makes the motion. Mike seconds. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Mike read the March 2013 Treasurer’s Report. Jim made the motion to accept the March 2013 Treasurer’s Report as read and to pay any / all outstanding bills at this time. John seconds. Motion passed. The Treasurer’s Reports are on file at the Township office for review upon request.

Police Report: In the absence of OIC Clink, Jim reads the April 2013 report. Jim then asks for a motion to accept the report as read. John makes the motion. Mike seconds. Motion passed. All Police Reports are on file in the Police Department for review upon request.

Note: OIC Clink asks that all electronic devices, as well as, items of value that are in vehicles be stored out of sight with the doors locked. There have been many cars broken into lately in the Minersville area. Also, he states that the Township has had many street signs vandalized and stolen over the past months. He urges residents to call the police if they feel something is not right or they see anyone causing vandalism.

FYI -- The best way to get in touch with an officer on duty is to call the Schuylkill County Communications Center. For emergencies — call 911. For all non-emergency issues – call 570-628-3792. The calls will be recorded so if there is an issue that arises later, it is documented by the County. You can leave a message on the Police Department voicemail (570-544-5631) for informational purposes but not if you need assistance.

Correspondence:

Friends of St. Kieran’s are holding “Heritage Day in the Valley” on June 9th from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Clover Fire Company grounds. All are invited to attend. There will be food, music, dance & more.

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. Kyle is also working with our Solicitor to accomplish getting the dilapidated structures / homes within the Township demolished – as they are viewed as a health & safety concern for the Community.
Jim runs through a summary of issues noted on the monthly Benesch Property Maintenance Report and urges residents & property owners to please maintain your properties; Code Enforcement Officers are out driving around the Township a few days a week checking on property maintenance issues and issuing violations if necessary.

Jim also adds that some of the current code issues that are being enforced / addressed by code enforcement officials are the rental housing inspections, demolition permits, as well as, building permits.

*Heckscherville Playground* – Project is almost complete except for lighting.

*Woodside* – Currently working on the PEMA storm damage and the storm water grant project will follow.

*Line Avenue Culvert Project* – This project will go out for bids most likely after the May meeting.

*FEMA / PEMA Work* – Finishing up all requirements and projects.

*Reading Anthracite Dilapidated Properties* – Jim Thomas, Kyle Kehoe and Ed Bosack met with Gretchen Sterns and RA representatives today. Working on all efforts to have the 8 remaining properties demolished.

**Supervisor’s NOTE:** John Walaitis states that there is a lot of nuisance littering that continues at our Recycling site and asks that residents to be aware of these issues and correct them. Jim Thomas adds that anyone found in violation of the recycling ordinance will be subject to fines!!!

*Adjournment* – Jim asked for a motion to adjourn. John made the motion. Mike seconds. Motion passed.

*Meeting adjourned.*

ATTEST: James D. Thomas, Chairman
TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:47 PM

ATTEST: John M. Walaitis, Assistant Secretary
TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:47 PM

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