Typed: March 24, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held Thursday, February 27th, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the Township Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were the following: Mike Sorokach, Bob Ryan, Joseph Smulley, John Pritz, Chris Ternowchek, Sharon Wentz, Tina Skibiel, Lynn Schies, Lori McCarthy, Elvin Brennan, Ann Marie Studlack, and Andy Studlack.

Chairman John M. Walaitis called the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.


Evelyn J. Bergan – Administrative Assistant -- present.

Cass Township Police Department – Officer Gerard Daley – present.

John states that the January 2014 meeting minutes are at your seats. Please review them and inform the Board by the end of this meeting if you feel there are changes necessary. John asked for a motion to accept the minutes as typed. Mike made the motion. James seconds. Motion passed.

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

Tina Skibiel, Pine Knot – Asked the Board to explain agenda item / Resolution # 2014-05 – Cass/Minersville Police Cooperative Agreement. She asked if the part-time employees listed on the agenda for snow plowing would be driving the Township's vehicles. Tina – speaking to James - states that she is aware that the Township is once again plowing the former State road that runs in front of Scribbick’s residence in Pine Knot, and asked why (since the road does not belong to the Township and could be a potential liability issue) did the Township resume plowing the road – since Scribbicks already had someone plowing it before the Township resumed. James states that he deemed it a public safety issue, and added that the Township plows other areas for emergency services and school bus turn-arounds. Tina asked if the School District should be plowing for areas dealing with school busses. James states that they are a public safety issue as well, and asks if the Township stops plowing those areas, should they stop plowing for fire companies too. Tina stated they are a totally different status. Fire companies are emergency responders – they need to be able to get vehicles in and out of the buildings in case of fires/emergencies; fire companies serve the entire Community – that road does not, nor is it used by the every citizen in the Community. Tina states years ago, precedent was set because a Township Supervisor lived in one of the homes located in Pine Knot so Scribbick’s road was plowed -- along with all the properties that extended off that road. Tina states that if a public safety issue is being set as precedent for Scribbick’s road now,
shouldn’t the same precedent be set for all the homes in that location – as it was years ago. James disagrees – stating that if an emergency occurs at one of those homes, chances are, there won’t be an issue getting to them.

Joe Smulley, Forestville – Asked about the status of the Mackey case. John and Mike responded by stating there is nothing to report – and it’s been that way for almost a year. Joe asked what running tabulation for the amount paid to Attorney Brennan – specifically for the lawsuit brought against the Township by Big Diamond Speedway. Mike states that the Board wouldn’t know the exact number right off – a report would need to be run on that item. Joe states that James wouldn’t know what’s going on with it, but John and Mike should know the number since they have been here longer. He adds that he heard the Township has already paid Attorney Brennan over $85,000 in legal fees just for Big Diamond. Mike asked where he gets his information. Joe would not disclose where he obtained it, but asked about the annual amount budgeted for the Solicitor. Mike stated $30,000 is listed on the Budget – for all legal issues for the year. Joe states he wants to know (at the next meeting) what the Township paid Ed Brennan so far for the Big Diamond lawsuit.

John Pritz, High Road – States that he wants a detailed Treasurer’s Report – showing all of the expenditures.

Ann Marie Studlack, Forestville – Stated years ago, Irene used to provide a handwritten report of all income and expenses.

Elvin Brennan, Forestville – Stated he wants a breakdown of all expenses.

Joe Smulley, Forestville – States that the Board is fighting Big Diamond Speedway to obtain the 10% Amusement Tax, and if the Township would win, there is a chance that ‘Minersville’ would come in and possibly try to take 5% -- he states that the Township is fighting for ‘Minersville’. Joe adds that he knows the Township will lose in court. Mike asked where he got his legal degree.

NOTE: Mr. Smulley was referencing ‘Minersville’ which could be mistaken for Minersville Borough. The correct reference would be ‘Minersville Area School District’ which presently educates 236 Cass Township students making up 19% of the students in the School District.

Hearing no further questions or comments, John closes the audience discussion and moves on to the items on tonight’s agenda:

*Cherry Valley Waterline Project Overview Presentation by Karen Parish* -- Karen introduces herself, as well as, Michelle O’Connell, of Schuylkill County Grant & Demolition Program, who is attending the meeting on behalf of Gary Bender who couldn’t make it this evening. Karen explains that she works for Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc. which is a Planning & Development Consulting Firm, who will work with the Schuylkill County Commissioners throughout the Cherry Valley Waterline Project. She explained that Cass Township applied for this grant in 2007 but were denied at that time, however, after re-applying, the grant has finally been approved and Cass Township has been awarded the funds for this project. Karen explains the CDBG process and asks for questions. Hearing none, she thanked everyone for their time and concludes her presentation. John thanked Karen and Michelle for taking the time to attend the meeting this evening.
Resolution # 2014-05 – Cass / Minersville Police Cooperative Agreement – John explains that the Board would like to enter into an agreement that provides police coverage for issues at the Minersville Area High School by Minersville PD when Cass Township police are not on duty. This agreement will pertain to the High School ONLY – it does not pertain to the entire Township. John asked for a motion to accept the agreement (as discussed) pending Solicitor’s review of the document. James made the motion. Mike seconded. Motion passed.

IT and Website Hiring(s) – IT Township and Police Department Computer Administrator Hire – Tom Moran – John states that the Board would like to hire IT person Tom Moran for Township and Police computer systems. John made the motion. James seconds. Motion passed.

Township Website Administrator – Mario Carranatte – John states that the Board would like to hire Township Website Administrator Mario Carranatte for website uploading and updates. John made the motion. Mike seconds. Motion passed.

Contract Snow Plowing – (3) Independent Contractors Hired for Snow Events – James states that (2) of the initial snow plowing contractors stepped out of the agreement leaving the need to fill those vacancies. The most recent snow event, the Board contacted John Borzok, Mike Lisowski Jr., Pioneer Pole Buildings, and Tobin Excavating. The Board would like to formally hire (3) of those contractors to snow plow during the season as needed. John made the motion. Mike seconds. Motion passed.

Part-time Township Employees Hired to Assist with Snow Plowing – Gary Renninger and Thomas Graydus – John explains that the Board hired (2) part-time employees to assist with snow plowing. These (2) individuals will drive Township equipment and will be paid a rate of $15.50 per hour – no benefits. John made the motion to formally hire Gary Renninger and Thomas Graydus as part-time per diem employees at a rate of $15.50 per hour – no benefits. James seconds. Motion passed.

Municipal Authority Reorganization Meeting – 02/20/2014 – John states that the Municipal Authority held its reorganization meeting on 02/20/2014. The members are as follows: John Walaitis (Chairman); Charles Kostura (Vice-Chairman); Deb Klotunowitch (Secretary/Treasurer); John Lenick (Member); and Jim Garraway (Member). Meetings will be held monthly on the Thursday prior to the Board of Supervisor’s Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Dates will be advertised in the newspaper. John explains that there is a parcel of ground in Forestville owned by the Township. The Board would like to survey, split and deed the property to be sold to the land owners closest to the homes. James adds that the property is not developable – it’s just small areas closest to the existing homes. The deed will be turned over to the Municipal Authority for sale.

KRE Contract Renewal for 2014 – John states that the Board would like to renew the contract between Cass Township and KRE Security. Ann Marie Studlack asked what is KRE Security. Mike explains that this is a contract between Cass Township and KRE Security to obtain counts at Big Diamond Speedway as a way to accurately keep track of attendance so the Amusement Tax can be calculated and remitted properly. John asks for a motion. Mike makes the motion. After hearing no second to the motion, John seconds. Motion passed.

FEMA/PEMA Reimbursement – Line Avenue Culvert Project -- John states that the Township received the most recent reimbursement in the amount of $89, 305.00.
Municibid – Last month, the Board made a motion to sell the HARDER spreader and the Chevy Impala Police Cruiser. This month, we would like to add the old backhoe to the list and take action to advertise the sale as per recommendation by our Solicitor – he is not comfortable with an online sale of property. John asks for a motion. James seconds. Motion passed.

Planning Commission – John states there are no submissions; therefore, no March meeting.

Treasurer’s Report – Mike read the Treasurer’s Report. Mike asked for a motion to approve the report as read and to pay all outstanding bills. John made the motion. James seconds. Motion passed. *Reports are on file in the Municipal Office for review.


Correspondence – None.

Road Foreman Report – James read the report. He adds that road patching will start when the weather improves. He also reiterates that when the recycling bins are full, they are full...please do not overfill or leave items at the site if there is no room left in the bins. John makes a motion to accept the report. Mike seconds. Motion passed. *Reports are on file in the Municipal Office for review.

OLD / NEW Business –

Cherry Valley Waterline – John states Karen Parish explained the status of this project earlier this evening.

2014 DCNR Grant Application – John explains that the Board met with the County Commissioners regarding the parcel of land located in the Pine Hill/Black Heath area. The Board made an offer to purchase the property and we are awaiting a response. The Board’s intent is to purchase the land and apply to this round of DCNR grant funding (deadline is April 16th, 2014) to construct a “Rails To Trails” project on that parcel.

Fanelli Building – Highridge - John explains that Fanelli still did not apply for a zoning permit and does not have a zoning permit for their building located in Highridge Business Park. Fanelli is required to apply for the zoning permit and pay the enforcement fees/fine associated with not following procedure.

Reading Anthracite Explosive Depot – John explains that we working with our solicitor, as well as, zoning and code officers to make sure this issue is handled properly in order to ensure the safety and welfare of our residents and community.

With no further business at hand, John asks for a motion to adjourn. James makes the motion. Mike seconds. Motion passed; meeting adjourned.
Time Meeting Adjourned: 7:14 PM.

ATTEST: James A. Wentz, Vice-Chairman
Time of Adjournment: 7:14 PM

ATTEST: James A. Wentz, Assistant Secretary
Time of Adjournment: 7:14 PM

The next monthly Supervisor’s Meeting of the Township of Cass will be held on Thursday, March 27th, 2014 @ 6:30 PM at the Cass Township Municipal Building.