Typed: April 22nd, 2014

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

Present at the meeting were the following: Joyce Cutler, Lynn Schies, Mike Sorokach, Tina Skibiel, Bob Ryan, Joseph Smulley, Chris Ternowchek, Fritz Roehrig, Sharon Wentz, Robert Wentz, Andrew Studlack Jr., Joe Geles, Daniel Sborz, and Elvin Brennan Jr.

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 – Chief Rick Clink – present.

John states that the February 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. All in favor say “Aye”.

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

Tina Skibiel, Pine Knot – Asked the Board for an explanation of the Old/New Business item on the agenda stating possible land purchase from Lazarchick. John states that he will get into that towards the end of the meeting; however, he explains that the Board is considering moving from this building.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – Asked about the hiring of a new employee and asked the hourly rate. James responds $14.50 per hour.

Joseph Smulley, Forestville – Asked where the new guy is from and if it was Llewellyn. John responded he is from within the school district and yes, he resides in Llewellyn.

Joyce Cutler, Oak Lane – States that she called about two issues recently – a house collapsing and garbage left a vacant home and asked the status. John states that he received the complaints and is working on both, but it takes some time to get done.
Lynn Schies, Forestville – Asked about the completion of the Line Avenue Culvert Project – stating that rocks have been left on her property, and she’s concerned whether a pipe or drain will be installed to handle storm water; and if it is scheduled for macadam any time soon. John responded that the contractor has not fully completed the project and will be coming back to pave and finish the work within the next few weeks.

Joseph Smulley, Forestville – Asked about the contract the Township has with KRE Security and the rates they have been getting paid to count admissions at Big Diamond Speedway. Mike responds the rates are $16.00; $17.50; and $18.00 – and to date, he believes the Township has paid KRE Security approximately $9,000 since they have been hired to obtain accurate admission counts for Big Diamond Speedway. Joe then asks for the total the Township has paid the Solicitor in legal fees for representation in the lawsuit brought by Big Diamond Speedway. Solicitor Brennan attempts to respond but Joe states that he doesn’t want Ed to answer the question – he wants ‘these guys’ (referring to the Board members) to answer because that’s who he voted in. Ed addresses Joe and states that his question will be answered, but he doesn’t get to pick who answers it. Ed goes on to say that he is hired to represent the Board and he will answer the question. Ed states that when he bills the Township, the invoices are not broken down – he doesn’t just bill for Big Diamond Speedway – he bills for every issue collectively. To find out what is billed and paid for every item relating to any one issue is going to take time. Ed reminds Joe that Big Diamond has (2) two lawsuits against the Township – which means there are other parties and lawyers involved. Joe becomes argumentative. Ed states that he is assuming every individual in the room has paid their taxes and explains that Big Diamond Speedway has paid nothing in amusement tax in the year 2013. Joe states that people fall on hard times. Ed states that people may fall on hard times, but still manage to catch up at some point and pay their taxes. Big Diamond has paid nothing in the year 2013 and they don’t feel they need to. Joe then stands up and begins to show the Board members, as well as, the audience a photo on his cell phone – stating that there is a picture of a KRE Security counter at the most recent race which he states appears to look like she is intoxicated and passed out (or sleeping on the job) in her vehicle. Rick Clink stands from his seat and asks Joe to be seated or he’ll be asked to leave. Joe makes a comment that he can’t ask a question. Rick’s response is that he can ask a question, but he cannot disrupt the meeting. Joe continues to show the picture and make comments. Solicitor Brennan states that this time is for public comment – not public debate. After hearing enough, John strikes the gavel to bring order back to the meeting, and states that will end the audience discussion to move onto the business at hand which is this evening’s agenda items.

**Cass Twp Rails To Trails DCNR Application – Resolution # 2014-06** – John states that in order to move forward with the application process for the Rails to Trails Project, the Board needs to pass a resolution required by DCNR. John makes the motion to adopt Resolution # 2014-06. Mike seconds. Motion passed. All in favor say “Aye”.

**FEMA Hazard Mitigation Buyout Program – Approve Hiring of a State Certified Appraiser to Appraise the (3) Properties and Provide the Calculated Closing Costs of Each Property** – John explains that the Board would like to take formal action this evening to approve the hiring of a State certified appraiser as required by the Program to appraise the (3) properties that have been approved by the FEMA / Hazardous Mitigation Program – which are: Rinker (Oak Lane); Hoenig’s (Oak Lane); and Rinker (Valley Road). John made the motion. James seconds. Motion passed. All in favor say “Aye”.

**Municipal Authority Stipend Determination per Meeting** – John explains that the Board would like to set the stipend for the Municipal Authority Board Members at $50.00 per member per meeting;
Township Supervisors on the Authority will not receive a stipend. John asked for a motion. Mike made the motion. James seconds. Motion passed. All in favor say “Aye”.

**Cherry Valley Waterline Project** – John explains that this update is informational only – no action is required by the Board this evening; however, the Board received RFQ’s and RFP’s from the engineering firms. The Board will review the proposals and meet with Karen Parish, grant consultant, in the near future to discuss and choose a suitable engineering firm for this project.

**Forestville Playground Lighting Project** – John explains that we received a zero cost change order from J.B. Electric Company for an extension on the completion date. It’s the recommendation of our engineering firm to accept it, and the Board is in agreement. John made the motion. James seconds. Motion passed. All in favor say “Aye”.

**Mark Mitchell (Township Employee) Retirement** – On behalf of the Board members, John thanks Mark for his service and wishes him well in his retirement.

**Hiring of Maintenance / Road Crew Personnel** – John states that to fill the vacancy left by Mark Mitchell retiring, the Board has hired Robert Bertasavage. He goes on to explain that the Board had interviewed quite a few applicants and Robert was the best suited candidate for the position. Robert will be hired full time with benefits at a rate of $14.50 per hour – formal hiring date will be today – start date will be Monday 03/31/2014. John made the motion. James seconds. Motion passed. All in favor, say “Aye”.

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

**Municipal Authority Report** – John states that the Authority has met and took formal action to hire Bob Lehr to survey and subdivide (6) parcels from parcel # 05-16-0100 which is located off of Forest Lane. John states that the parcels will be appraised and the homeowners closest to the parcels will get first chance to purchase.

**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. All in favor say “Aye”. *Reports are on file in the Municipal Office for review.*

**Police Report** – Chief Rick Clink is in attendance. Rick reads the March report. John makes the motion to accept the March 2014 Police Report. Mike seconds. Motion passed. All in favor say “Aye”. *Reports are on file in the Police Department for review.*

**Correspondence – None.**

**Road Foreman Report** – James read the report. He also thanks Mark Mitchell for his time served working on the road crew. James then welcomes Robert Bertasavage to the team. John makes the motion to accept the RF report. Mike seconds. Motion passed. All in favor say “Aye”.
*Reports are on file in the Municipal Office for review.*

**OLD / NEW Business –**

**Code Enforcement/Engineer’s Report** – Nothing to report.

**Rails To Trails** -- Since the Board has met with Schuylkill County Commissioners and submitted an offer to purchase the 5.1 acre railroad tract, the offer is still pending and we are awaiting a response. There is nothing more to update on this item.
Appraisal of Current Municipal Building and Property – John explains that the Board has had the current building appraised with the intent to sell it. The vision is to then build at the property that is already owned by the Township which is located at, and also known as, Fannie’s Field. This project would include a new home for the Municipal Office, Police Department, and Road Crew.

Lazarchick Property / Possible Land Purchase by the Township – John explains that the parcel where the Cass Township High School previously stood is owned by John Lazarchick – he is currently looking to sell it and has offered the Township first opportunity to purchase. Joyce Cutler asks if the Board is considering building on Fannie’s field or where the old high school was. John states that is a decision the Board has not made yet – which is the reason for the announcement. This information is being given to the Community tonight for its input. This project is only being discussed at this time, and there is a lot to consider – whether to purchase the Lazarchick property is one of those considerations. Joyce states she feels it would be best to stay away from Fannie’s Field because it means a lot to the older residents in the Community, as well as, the ones who no longer live here, but visit from time to time. James states that he feels the Township owns enough land at the location – we don’t need to buy any more. He feels we can keep the field, but possibly re-arrange it to suit the municipal needs as well. He asked Joyce if her opinion was to buy the property or not. Joyce said she is for purchasing the property if it means leaving the field alone. James then asked if the field is currently in the same place as it was years ago – because he has researched and viewed photos where it does not appear to be in the same location as when the school was still there. None of the residents were sure if was the original lay-out or it was changed over the years. Dan Sborz states that it could be a historic field and it should be researched. Solicitor Brennan states he doesn’t think it’s a historic field because it appears to have been moved and was re-built in the footprint of the original. Tina Skibiel asks what the building/school was appraised at. Mike Kulpcavage states the appraisal came in at $160,000. Solicitor Brennan states that the current Township building sits on Reading Anthracite property – which would take down the value of the building – however, the Board is going to try to negotiate with Reading Anthracite for options of buying the property with the intent to sell both the building and the land it sits on. Elvin Brennan states he doesn’t think we’ll be able to build on the old high school property yet because it hasn’t settled. Mike Kulpcavage states that it is solid in the back area of the property. Dan Sborz states that getting rid of the field could cause a lot of friction, so if the Board could accommodate keeping the field, he feels it would be a better option.

After a lengthy discussion and no further business at hand, John asks for a motion to adjourn. Mike makes the motion. James seconds. Motion passed; meeting adjourned. All in favor say “Aye”.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 7:04 PM.

SEAL:

ATTEST: James A. Wentz, Vice-Chairman
Time of Adjournment: 7:04 PM

ATTEST: James A. Wentz, Assistant Secretary
Time of Adjournment: 7:04 PM

The next monthly Supervisor’s Meeting of the Township of Cass will be held on Thursday, April 24th, 2014 @ 6:30 PM at the Cass Township Municipal Building.