Typed: January 22nd, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held Thursday, December 18th, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the Township Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were the following: Lynn Schies, Tom Graydus, Joseph Smulley, John Olenick, Ann Marie Studlack, Andy Studlack Jr., Sharon Wentz, Robert Wentz, Jake Smulley, Elvin Brennan, Joe Kowalchick, and Chris Ternowchek.

Chairman John M. Walaitis called the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.


Edward M. Brennan, Solicitor – present.

Evelyn J. Bergan, Administrative Assistant – present.

Dave Cromyak, Patrolman – Cass Township Police Department – present.

John states that the November 2014 meeting minutes have been placed at your seats. Please review them and inform the Board by the end of this meeting if you feel there are changes necessary. John asks for a motion to accept the minutes as typed. Mike makes the motion. James seconds. Motion passed. All reply aye -- in favor.

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

Joe Smulley, Forestville – Asked the Board if they are under Oath at these meetings. Solicitor Brennan states there is no sworn testimony; and a court reporter would need to be present.

Lynn Schies, Forestville – Asked if the storm drains in Forestville will be done next year. James replied yes.

Joe Smulley, Forestville – Asked about the increase on the line item for the secretary salary on the budget; asking if we are getting a new secretary or is she getting a raise. John states the secretary is getting a promotion. Joe then asks about line item 386.10 of the budget listed property sales and asked why that is zero if the Board is selling the properties in Forestville. John states they are for sale this year. Solicitor Brennan states that some are scheduled for this year but may not all take place this year, some next. Joe asks where that money goes. Mike and Ed both respond the general fund. Joe again asks why the funds aren't listed - stating this is a proposed budget so you can propose to get that money.
Solicitor Brennan states that it’s miscellaneous income so it doesn’t need to be put in the budget; it’s not something you receive annually. Joe states that the people (buying the properties) haven’t been contacted. Ed and John both state that the land has been surveyed and they have been contacted.

Lynn Schies, Forestville – Asked when is this building getting sold and who’s buying it. Mike and John reply that it’s not known yet. Mike states the financing has been filled out. Lynn asks how are we going to afford two buildings; and if all the expenses will be put out to the public so they can see them. Mike said the expenses will be available.

Tom Graydus, Primrose – States that the Board will not sell this building, and addresses John stating that it’s in the minutes that John said the Board will not go forward without this building being sold first. John states he does not recall stating that and asks what month it was. Tom states he doesn’t recall. Tom asked if the Board was going to kick the kids out. Mike replies CDI has the right to first refusal when offered to purchase the building.

Elvin Brennan, Forestville – says he thought it was $30,000 a year to heat this building; how are we going to heat this building and another one. Mike states that the new building will be much more efficient than this one.

During this discussion, Mr. Graydus or Mr. Brennan asked if the rent pays for the heat. Solicitor Brennan replies barely. Mike agrees. Then it was asked how much CDI pays in rent annually. Mike replies $37,000 this year.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – Stated she thought we had back-up people to plow and asked where they are. James states that for various reasons, either they have moved on or won’t work for the Township, but they aren’t with us any longer.

Joe Smulley, Forestville – Asks Mrs. Studlack why the proposed budget lists her tax collector supplies at $800. Ann Marie says she gets paid $7,000 plus half of her envelopes; that’s all they pay for.

Tom Graydus, Primrose – Asks who in their right mind would buy this building. Solicitor Brennan states that many people buy homes on leased ground in this area – you wouldn’t think so, but they do.

Lynn Schies asks what we are we going to do with this building, we can’t have two buildings going.

Tom Graydus asks why don’t you just keep this building and forget about the new one.

A discussion between the Board and the audience regarding the road crew working in the building and not being able to weld or do certain work because of fumes, etc. that
negatively affect the children while they are in the school during the day. Mike states the kids are here all day, five days a week. Mike asks Tom Graydus if he thinks it is safe to be welding and working under the classrooms while the children are in school. Tom replies, no. James states it’s not about the road crew working, it’s about the office building costing over $500,000; we don’t need it; we can put a pole barn up in the lot here and they can work from there. Mike questions James – you think we should build another building on leased ground located in a floodplain. James does not reply.

Chris Ternowchek states this building has always been here, now we’ll have the Taj Mahal. Solicitor Brennan said the same was said about the Minersville Area School District and the High School. Chris said she marched for that. Ed said that the school district is in the same situation now with the elementary center; they try to make upgrades but because the building is aging, they are having problems.

Joe Smulley asks Solicitor Brennan if he feels that he should apologize to Big Diamond Speedway and to these people for lying to them and goes onto say everyone at the table are all liars. Ed responds by stating he owes nothing. At the time, the information he got was that there were no payments made. Jake Smulley asked about Berkheimer informing of the payments and asked who Ed spoke to. Ed states he doesn’t recall but at the time, his information was there were no payments. Jake asked how his money was lost and then found. Solicitor Brennan states that there may have been payments made but the delinquency was not satisfied; Jake still didn’t pay close to what was owed and he still owes the Township money. Ed states that when the Biener group was running the track, they paid the taxes. Jake asks if Ed found their money. Ed states theirs wasn’t delinquent. This discussion got heated and Ed ends the conversation by stating this is time for public comment, not public debate.

Lynn Schies asked why is the secretary getting a promotion and why is it such a big increase. John states she’s getting a raise. Mike states this will be discussed further at the reorganization meeting. Lynn asks if she can ask more about it then. John replies yes.

Jake Smulley, Forestville – Asked why the racetrack is subject to amusement tax. Solicitor Brennan states because an Ordinance was adopted by the Township in 1983.

Tom Graydus asks why Reading Anthracite isn’t paying amusement tax for all the four-wheelers. Solicitor Brennan states that there have been discussion with Reading Anthracite about this issue and it will come in the future. Joe Smulley says so you told Reading Anthracite that they’re going to pay amusement tax. Ed replies yes, they’re aware.

Jake Smulley asks what the racetrack gets for paying the amusement tax. Solicitor Brennan states police protection, access to the racetrack, and road maintenance.

Chairman Walaitis closes audience discussion.
**Adopt Ordinance # 2014-1225 – Light Tax Rate Adjustment** – John states that the ordinance has been advertised as required. The adjustment is 3.33 mills general purposes and 1.17 mills lighting – giving the total 4.50 mills. There has not been a tax increase in Cass Township in 19 years. John asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance. Mike made the motion. John seconds. All in favor; motion passed.

**Adopt 2015 Budget as Advertised** – John asked for a motion to adopt the budget. Mike makes the motion. John seconds. Mike – aye. John – aye. James – nay. James states there’s $100,000 more in the budget and none of it was allocated to road work – you keep saying it’s going to get done, but where’s the money coming from. John asks James what he told him. Mike states there is $80,000 in State Aid Reserve and another $60,000 is coming. James says that’s what he wanted to know.

**Amend Resolution #2014-11 to # 2014-12** – John asks for a motion to amend the number. James makes the motion. Mike seconds. All in favor; motion passed.

**Advertise Ordinance # 2015-0129 – Approval for Changes to Pension and Health Trust Agreements through PSATS** – John asked for a motion to advertise the ordinance. James makes the motion. Mike seconds. All in favor; motion passed.

**Approve Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau’s Real Estate Law Sale** – John asked for a motion to approve the tax sale of 140 Schaeffer’s Hill Road, Parcel # 05-06-0104.000. Mike made the motion. James seconds. All in favor; motion passed.

**Approve 2015 Meeting Dates** – John asked for a motion to approve the 2015 meeting dates for the Board of Supervisors and Executive Sessions, Planning Commission, Municipal Authority, and Zoning Board. John made the motion. Mike seconds. All in favor; motion passed.

**Advertise the 2015 Meeting Dates** – John made a motion to advertise all of the 2015 meeting dates. Mike seconds. All in favor; motion passed.

**Proceed and Authorize for Purchase of the 2015 GMC 3500 HD Truck and spreader to be purchased in 2015** – John asked for a motion to proceed with the purchase of a 2015 GMC 3500 HD Truck; and to authorize Mike Kulpcavage and Evelyn Bergan to sign all documents associated with the purchase. James made the motion. John seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

**Planning Commission** – The Commission meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Board has an opening – any interested resident may apply by Letter of Interest.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mike read the Treasurer’s report. John makes the motion to accept the report as read. James seconds. All in favor; motion passed. Any resident wishing to review the reports may do so during normal business hours as they are on file in the
Municipal Office. John makes a motion to pay all outstanding bills as can be paid at this time. Mike seconds. Motion passed. All reply "aye" – in favor.

**Municipal Authority Report:** No meeting was held; no action necessary.

**Police Department Report:** Patrolman Dave Cromyak reads the report. James makes a motion to accept the report as read. Mike seconds. All in favor; motion passed. Report is on file in the Police Department for review.

**Correspondence:** John states that any mining/blasting issues can be reported to DEP / Bureau of Mines at 570-621-3118.

**Road Foreman’s Report:** James read his report. James makes a motion to accept the report as read. There was no second. James – aye. John – nay. Mike – nay.

**Old/New Business:**

**Brick Donation Drive for New Township Building & Condors Complex:** There will be a brick donation drive for the new building. Any and all donations will be accepted. This project will move forward in the New Year.

After no further business at hand, John asks for a motion to adjourn. James makes the motion. Mike seconds. All in favor; motion passed; meeting adjourned.

Time meeting adjourned: 7:14 PM.

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

SEAL:

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, January 29th, 2015 at 6:30 PM** at the Cass Township Municipal Building.