Typed: October 18th, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Thursday, September 25th, 2016 at the Township’s Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Chris Trapani, Craig Schies, Bob Ryan, John Olenick, Mary Lou Bergan, Sandy & Bill Wanniski, and Diane Kanezo.

Chairman James A. Wentz called the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:


Also in attendance were:

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary / Manager – present.

Richard C. Clink, Chief of Police, CTPD – present.

James states that the minutes from the August 25th, 2016 Board of Supervisor’s Meeting have been placed at each seat and calls for a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes and to accept as printed if there are no corrections or omissions. Elvin makes the motion. James seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous favorable vote.

James calls for discussion from the audience.

Diane Kanezo, 105 Thomaston Road – States that she is here tonight to ask what will the Township workers be doing next on Thomaston Road - so far they have tarred up to the old railroad tracks but haven’t touched up the rest of the macadam road to the dirt turn-around. She states that patching needs to be done. Elvin asks where the area is located. Diane states upper Thomaston Road – from Tom Griffin’s home up to the turn-around.

Chris Trapani, 20 Line Avenue – States that he spoke at the last meeting about the idea of having full-time police in our Township and adds if you want to keep families in this Township and then tell them they only have part-time police coverage, it’s not going to keep them here. James replies that as he stated last month, the Board will consider it, but it’s not on their radar at this time and apologizes to Chris. Chris asks what will put it on the radar and states that he has had multiple issues in the neighborhood and called the State Police; they got back to him (40) minutes later. He explained to them that the person he was calling to report had already left the location. The State Police indicated that they then would not be responding to the call. Chris
states that there is times when there is lack of coverage – for which he is not blaming the police – because if they are only permitted to work part-time hours, they cannot respond to issues if they aren’t on shift when things happen. Out of all the things that we think are needed, one would think security is at the top of the list. James states that he understands. Elvin states that his concern with having (1) full-time officer is what shift is that (1) officer going to work – you will then have part-time officers (to work the rest of the hours/shifts), but it will be same situation as we have now. Chris asks what is wrong with having a full-time officer. Elvin asks Chris what shift would the Officer be scheduled to work. Chris states it doesn’t matter to him but he would be able to call and get in contact with that full-time officer rather than having a complaint and a lapse of time getting a hold of the part-time officers. He goes on to state that he doesn’t know what it would cost to hire a full-time officer, but asks if it would be so detrimental to hire just (1) full-time officer who will make sure our Township is safe. James responds that Chris’ point is taken and the Board will look into it further. Chris asks if the Board will really consider it because he is trying to raise a family here, but asks why would he want to stay here if he has an issue and calls the police but doesn’t know whether they will show up or not because we are relying on an outside police force. He asks how much are we paying the State Police. Rick Clink states that he understands Chris’ frustration when calling the Department and expecting someone to show up when they may be out on patrol or not on duty - especially when the call may be returned a few hours later or the next day. Rick goes on to explain how to contact the police department – if it’s an emergency, dial 911 – if it’s not, and you don’t reach anyone at the police station number (570-544-5631), call the Schuylkill County Communications Center non-emergency number at 570-628-3792 and they will dispatch to the State Police if Cass Police are not on duty at the time. Chris states that he did try that route and still had issues. He again states that he’s not putting blame on the part-time police force, but the issue he has is that the Township has a part-time police force; and asks why are we not finding the funds or entertaining the idea of having full-time police. He goes on to state that he’s sure there are important items on the agenda but if we are not going to have a secure neighborhood, what’s the point. He states that he works in an industrial environment and safety is number one – so what are we doing to keep our neighborhoods safe – because calling the State Police is not the answer since they pretty much said unless someone is dead, don’t call them – not the exact words verbatim but the idea is the same. He asks the Board what their response to his request is because it’s very important. James responds that the Board will soon be working on the budget and they will see how it relates to the income side of the budget – everything is tax-based and all about dollars and cents – so they will look into the cost for full-time coverage and see if the Township’s tax base can support it - that is all he can offer at this time. Chris asks when they will be looking at the budget. James states in the upcoming weeks, but he isn’t saying that a full-time officer will hired next year – he’s just stating they will look to see where there’s room on the budget for this item. Chris states that he is curious to see what will be more important than a full-time police force.

Sandy Wanninski, Line Avenue – States that she is in agreement with Chris – she lives by him and they have been having a lot of issues in the area so if the Board isn’t going to do anything
to help, where else can they go - because it’s fine when the members are sitting there shaking
their heads, but if you’re not having the problems yourself then it’s no big deal, but they are
having problems and having problems for a long time. Chief Clink asks Sandy where
the problems are occurring. She responds in Forestville on Line Avenue; it’s been an ongoing
issue for about (3) years but it’s been really terrible the last (6) months, and when she and her
husband call the police, they get the same response as Chris.

Chris Trapani states that he spoke to one of the part-time officers the other day and he stated that
he will do whatever he can for the residents when he is on duty, but some issues like these are
the reason why full-time police are needed – to stake out properties and sit on them - with part-
time police coverage, it’s like flipping a coin.

Hearing nothing further from the audience, James moves on to the items on the agenda.

Resolution # 2016-11 – PennDOT Business Partner Agreement – James states that in
conjunction with the Cherry Valley Waterline Project, the engineers have recommended that the
Township register as a PennDOT Business Partner for applications for a Highway Occupancy
Permit (HOP). James states that a resolution was passed at the last meeting, but the paperwork
was incorrect so rather than change it, the Board will make a motion to approve Resolution #
2016-11. James makes the motion. Lynn seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous
Favorable Vote.

Tax Collector Commission - James states that this is the commission paid to the Tax Collector.
In the past, the allowance was lowered and it hasn’t been until the last few years that the
Collector has actually reached the allotted amount, but with the increase in tax over the last few
years, the Board would like to raise the commission for the tax collector for the 2017 budget.
James states that it’s currently $6,827 and asks for a recommendation for the increased amount.
Elvin states $9,000. Lynn makes the motion. James seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous
Favorable Vote.

Sale of Surplus Vehicles – James states that this is in regards to the sale of the 2006 Ford F-250
with plow and salt spreader and the 2008 Ford Explorer (retired police vehicle). James states
that he would like to take action to advertise both vehicles in the Pottsville Republican for sale
through bids to be received until 6:30pm on Thursday, October 20th, 2016. Bids will be opened
during the regular Township Meeting. The Township reserves the right to refuse or reject any
and all bids. Lynn makes the motion. James seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous favorable vote. Reports are kept on file in the Township Office
for review upon request.
Planning Commission – James states that there was (1) submission for August from James W. Quandel & Sons for High Road. He states that upon recommendation from the Planning Commission and ARRO Consulting, Inc., he would like to make a motion to approve the waivers associated with the subdivision plan and approve the land development plan. Elvin seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Favorable Unanimous Vote.

Police Department – Chief Rick Clink reads the report for September 2016 for a motion to approve the report as read. Lynn makes a motion. Elvin seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous favorable vote. Police reports are on file in the Station for review upon request.

Road Foreman’s Report – Elvin reads the report. James makes a motion to accept the report as read. Lynn seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous favorable vote. Reports are kept on file in the Township Office for review upon request.

Correspondence: Nothing.

Old/New Business:

Shredding Event - James states there is a shredding event scheduled on October 27th, 2016 to be held at this location (1209 Valley Road) from 1pm to 3pm. Residents may bring personal financial documents that are no longer needed, credit card applications, canceled checks, pension information, bank statements, etc. – they will be shredded on site and safely disposed.

Trick-or-Treat Night – James states that trick-or-treat night will be held in Cass Township, Minersville, and other surrounding areas on Sunday, October 30th, 2016 from 6pm to 8pm.

James calls for a motion to adjourn. Lynn seconds. Motion passed.

Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Meeting adjourned.

Time meeting adjourned: 6:48pm

STREET: James A. Wentz, Chairman
Time of adjournment: 6:48pm

ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan, Vice-Chairman
Time of adjournment: 6:48pm

The next monthly meeting of the Cass Township Board of Supervisors will be held on Thursday, October 20th, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Cass Township Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.