Typed: September 22nd, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, August 30th, 2017 at the Township’s Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were:

Marian Twigg, Richard Twigg, Mary Lou Bergan, and Brenda Helt.

James Wentz calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:


Other attendance/absentees:

Donald G. Karpowich, Solicitor – present.

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary / Manager – present.

William J. Kattner, Patrolman - Cass Township Police Department – present.

James states that the minutes from the July 26th, 2017 Board of Supervisor’s Meeting have been placed at each seat and he makes a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes and to accept as printed if there are no corrections or omissions. Lynn seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

James calls for discussion from the audience on the agenda items.

Marian Twigg, 640 Forest Lane – States that in an article she read dated August 10, 2017, the Schuylkill County Commissioners approved an updated waste management plan that included the recommendation of one day eliminating drop-off recycling collection programs; they are in favor of a curbside servicing in every municipality. It went on say that there are some municipalities that already have recyclable pick-up once a week naming Rush Township, East Union Township, St. Clair Borough, and New Philadelphia. Marian asks the Board if they have any plans to implement curbside recycling for Cass Township. James replies, at this time no, but it is an interesting point and states that the Supervisors could talk it over and look into it. Marian
goes on to explain that her and her husband also live in Florida where they have weekly curbside recycling pick-up. It works very well and is very handy because not everyone is willing to drop-off their recycling items. She states that there would also be more compliance with curbside pick-up.

Brenda Helt, Forest Lane – States that she switched to County Waste and when she did, she inquired about curbside recycling pick-up and they told her that they won’t offer it because it has to go through the Township. James states that he also went with County Waste and at the time, they told him they would provide a recycling container, but then they didn’t. He goes on to state that he assumes this would be something that would go out for bid so maybe the Board could contact some haulers and see what they offer; it’s something the Board may want to look into. Marian states that it seems that it will someday become mandatory so it may be good to have plans in place before it does. Solicitor Karpowich asks Brenda Helt what she pays per year and she responds $240. The Solicitor asks the Board members if they would like to put out a request for bids for garbage and recycling pick-up to see what comes back. Lynn asks if the bids will be for garbage and recycling or just recycling – stating that the Board can’t mandate the residents. The Solicitor explains that the Township would put out a request for bids for garbage and recycling; if a bid comes back with an affordable number and the Supervisors think it would be a cost saving measure to the residents of the Township, then an Ordinance can be adopted to make recycling mandatory, but the only way you could get a price to take recyclables is if the hauler takes the garbage as well. He states that typically among other municipalities, the annual cost for garbage pick-up is anywhere between $160-$220 per year (which includes recycling). The haulers who pick-up individually will cost more so if you get a Township-wide hauler, it will cost less; and County Waste even provides a container. Brenda adds that is what she was told by County Waste - her price could go down if more people in the Township would hire them. James states that he feels that curbside pick-up would cut down on litter and illegal dumping. The Solicitor states that the Board could put it out for bid, but they don’t have to accept the bids. James states that he thinks everyone is sensitive to this issue because the Township has a local garbage hauler. Lynn agrees and states that he could put a bid in as well. The Solicitor goes on to explain that in some municipalities, he has reduced the insurance and bonding requirements for the waste companies. Marian adds that the article states that the County Commissioners would need to adopt a county wide curbside recycling ordinance before it would be mandatory for the municipalities. James states this may be something to consider for next year. The Solicitor states that the request for bids could be put out now for October and then there is two months left to decide whether or not it would be something for next year – as an exploratory measure – and asks if they Board would like to make a motion. James makes a motion to advertise for bids for a single hauler for curbside garbage and recycling service. Lynn seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Hearing no further questions or comments, James moves on to the agenda items:
2016 Audit Summary Advertisement -- James states the 2016 audit is complete and the summary now needs to be advertised in the newspaper. Lynn makes the motion to advertise the summary. James seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. James asks Solicitor Karpowich if he sees any issues with the audit. The Solicitor replies no, he reviewed the audit report and sees no issues; the report indicates that the group is doing a good job.

Resolution # 2017-8 – Planning Commission Alternate Board Member – James states that the Township is running into issues with getting members for the boards and committees in order to have quorum - so in an effort to keep the submissions moving along, he (James) has volunteered to be an alternate member for the Planning Commission. Lynn makes a motion. James seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Resolution # 2017-9 -- Employee Handbook Revision – James states that as discussed at the last meeting, the Board has been going over the revisions/additions to the Employee Handbook for the last few months. Solicitor Karpowich states that there will be a resolution prepared for its adoption. The Handbook will be kept electronically with bound paper copies going to each of the employees with an acknowledgment for each of them to sign. James makes a motion to approve Resolution # 2017-9 to adopt the revised Employee Handbook. Lynn seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Treasurer’s Report: Lynn reads the report. James makes a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as read and to pay all outstanding bills as can be paid at this time. Lynn seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.
All Treasurer Reports are kept on file in the Township Office for review upon request.

Planning Commission:

James states that under guidance from ARRO Consulting, Inc., there are (2) motions that need to be made this evening. The first is a motion to approve waivers for sections 302.1.3, 302.3.1, 702.1.1, 703.2.1, 802.1.1, 1128.2, 1132.4.4, and 1212.1 for the Tyson Foods, Inc. Land Development Preliminary/Final Plan. James makes the motion to grant those waivers. Lynn seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. The second motion is to accept an extension to the 90-day review period for the Hammer Land Development as granted by the developer’s agent by correspondence dated August 2017. James makes a motion to accept the extension. Lynn seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Police Department: Officer William Kattner reads the July 2017 and the August 2017 police reports which were prepared and submitted by Chief Richard Clink. James makes a motion to
accept both reports as read. Lynn seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. All police reports are kept on file in the Police Station for review upon request.

Road Foreman’s Report: Nothing reported.

Correspondence:

2017 Schuylkill County Fall Clean-up & Recycling Event: James states the schedule announcement was received. The location that affects the Township the most is held in Minersville Borough (Monday, September 18th through Friday, September 22nd, 2017). There is a list of accepted materials and fees; this information will be posted in the office for anyone that’s interested.

Old / New Business:

Reading Anthracite Company – Solicitor Karpowich states that the Township had met with Reading Anthracite Company in regards to the dilapidated homes that need to be demolished which are located on their properties; there are approximately (12). Based on the discussion with their counsel, they will be demolishing (3) homes every (6) months which is (6) homes per year so within the next (2) years all (12) should be down. It is required that the Township condemn the homes first so the Solicitor will be working with the Code Department to condemn them (3) at a time through Notice of Violations in order to get the houses razed. The Solicitor states that there was also a discussion regarding the possibility of having the land on which this building sits upon subdivided and donated to the Township as opposed to the Township leasing it. Reading Anthracite Company will be working with their engineers and surveyors because they do have mining operations and need to stay so many feet away from a property line - so we are trying to overcome that because the Township’s idea is, if the title to the land on which the building sits can be obtained, then they can then look into possibly obtaining grant funding to renovate this building to make it more practical to serve as a municipal building.

Motion to Adjourn: With no further business, James calls for a motion to adjourn. Lynn makes the motion. James seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Meeting adjourned.
ATTEST: James A. Wentz, Chairman
TIME MEETING ENDED: 6:48 PM

ATTEST: Lynn M. Schies, Treasurer
TIME MEETING ENDED: 6:48 PM

The next regular monthly meeting of the Cass Township Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, September 27th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.