Typed: May 29th, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, April 25th, 28th, 2018 at the Township’s Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were:

Randy Lindenmuth - Reading Anthracite Company, Chris Ternowchek, Mary Lou Bergan, Robert Helt, Frank Zukas - SEDCO, and Joseph Smulley.

6:45pm - Brenda Helt 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 – present.

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

Chairperson Helt states that the minutes from the March 2018 Board of Supervisor’s Meeting have been placed at each seat and she calls for a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes and to accept as printed if there are no corrections or omissions. Wentz makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Helt calls for discussion from the audience.

Joseph Smulley, Forest Lane – Asked if the roller that was purchased in January was received and/or is being used. Brenda Helt replied that is has been received, but it has not been used yet. Joe asks when it will be used. James Wentz replies when the weather is conducive to road repairs. Joe then addresses the Solicitor and states that he submitted a Right to Know Request for a letter that Solicitor Karpowich had sent to former Chairman John Walaitis relating to the Concerned Citizens Group; he asks the Solicitor who was the group that he was representing and who paid him to represent them. Solicitor Karpowich responds that he doesn’t know anything about the letter Joe is referring to, or the right to know request, and asks to see the letter and asks when it was written so he can respond. Joe states that he accepts the Solicitor’s answer and asks
to move on that he has no further questions, but adds that the Solicitor should have a copy of the letter. This led to a brief discussion between Joe Smulley and Solicitor Karpowich.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – Asks what happened to the stop sign that was going to be installed on High Road. James Wentz responds that it’s in the works - they met with then engineers quite awhile ago – and it’s actually (2) stops signs. Chris asks if the engineers are doing a study on it. James Wentz responds that they gave a rough draft, but he wants them to precisely show where the signs should be placed and goes on to explain the issues with sign placement in the area.

Randy Lindenmuth, RAC – Had several questions about the Reading AnHracite Company/Milowicki Lot Annexation Plan. Solicitor Karpowich states that approval of the plans is an agenda item, however, it isn’t the Township’s policy to sign plans before the owner signs them. This led to a lengthy discussion between Mr. Lindenmuth, the Solicitor and the Board members.

Hearing no further questions or comments; Supervisor Helt makes a motion to close the discussion part of the meeting. Wentz seconds. Motion passed.

Helt moves onto the items on the agenda.

**Appointment – UCC Appeals Board Member:** Helt states there is currently a vacancy of the Township’s UCC Appeals Board and she asks for volunteers stating that there is a hearing on May 3rd and we need to appoint a member. Solicitor Karpowich explains that is best to have three members to meet quorum - so that if one of the members doesn’t show for hearing, it can still be held with the remaining two members. Chris Ternowchek volunteers to fill the vacancy. Helt makes a motion to appoint Chris Ternowchek as UCC Appeals Board Member. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. (The hearing is scheduled for May 3rd at 6:30pm here at the municipal building).

**DEP (Bureau of Abandoned Mines) – Consent for Right of Entry:** Solicitor Karpowich states that he reviewed the request and the deed – the property is owned by Cass Township. It was acquired by tax claim deed on August 10th, 1955. After a brief discussion amongst the Supervisors, Chairperson Helt makes a motion to grant permission for right entry by DEP for said property as requested. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer states that both the Public Summary and the List of Transactions have been placed at each seat for review. Helt makes a motion to accept both of the Treasurer’s reports as printed and to pay all outstanding bills as can be paid at this time. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. All Treasurer Reports are kept on file in the Township Office for review upon request.
Planning Commission:

Chairperson Helt states that the Township’s Planning Commission and ARRO Consulting, Inc. both recommend the following motions by the Board of Supervisors:

Highridge Business Park Lot 5 and 5A Subdivision Plan – Helt calls for a motion to approve the Highridge Business Park Lot 5 and 5A Subdivision Plan. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Reading Anthracite Company/Milowicki Lot Annexation Plan – Helt makes a motion to approve the waiver of Section 401.1.3 for the Reading Anthracite Company/Milowicki Lot Annexation Plan. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Reading Anthracite Company/Milowicki Lot Annexation Plan – Helt calls for a motion to conditionally approve the Reading Anthracite Company/Milowicki Lot Annexation Plan. Wentz makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Police Department: Chief Richard C. Clink reads the April 2018 report. Helt makes a motion to accept the report as read. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Copies of all police reports are on file in the department for review upon request.

Road Foreman’s Report: Helt states that Road Foreman Brennan is absent this evening so the report is tabled until next month’s meeting. Copies of all Road Foreman reports are on file in the Township office for review upon request.

Correspondence:

Rally in the Valley Poker Run – Chairperson Helt states that Junior Troutman was in attendance at last month’s meeting to announce the date for this year’s annual poker run - however, it has since been canceled.

Old / New Business:

Solicitor Karpowich states that he will need a motion from the Board to allow him to send a zoning comment letter to the State regarding Reading Anthracite’s recreational plan. He states that through the engineering company, the zoning districts were identified based on Reading Anthracite’s maps which are located on their website. The Solicitor states that he needs to send a review letter based on the zoning review letting them know of all of the requirements the Township has before they can implement their plan. Helt makes a motion to authorize the Solicitor to draft the letter as requested. Wentz seconds. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.
The Solicitor states that an executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel. He also states that lot annexation plans were also discussed – to possibly amend the ordinance to exempt them from subdivision requirements to make it easier on the people; he then explains the process. The Solicitor requests the Board make a motion to authorize him to amend the SALDO to be considered at the next BOS meeting. Helt makes the motion. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Solicitor Karpowich states that another item that was discussed during the executive session was to implement a policy by resolution for minor subdivisions - the Township would look at them on a case by case basis to determine if engineer’s review could be waived so the applicants don’t have the cost of engineer’s review since most of the minor subdivisions are simple. Helt makes a motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare the resolution as explained. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Frank Zukas of SEDCO regarding the Green-Light-Go Program – Frank explains that as we are all aware, the grant has been approved and accepted by the Township. HIDA was the entity that processed all of the paperwork for obtaining the grant and he states that they were able to get an allocation of funds from the County so there will be no need for participation at a local level for the 20% match, however, when the bids go out for solicitation, the bids will run back with the Township and not with HIDA. Frank states that they tried to get PennDOT to use HIDA as an agent of the Township rather than have the Township deal with all the paperwork, but PennDOT states they didn’t think they could do that - so even though the official word has not been received, it is believed that will be the answer. This will be a reimbursement program so basically, the money will need to be spent and then a reimbursement requested. In an effort to make it easier on the Township, HIDA thought that as the Township pays out the payments, HIDA would simultaneously cut the Township a check from the HIDA account so the Township is basically writing a check and getting a check – it’ll save time and effort doing it that way. In the meantime, if the State comes to the conclusion that they will allow the Township to assign HIDA to be the contract agent, HIDA is asking for the Township’s consideration to do that to simplify the process. Frank adds that there are (2) lights on the Cass Township side and (1) on the Foster Township side. James Wentz asks if it’s (2) separate contracts. Frank replies that it is (2) separate contracts. Wentz asks if HIDA will be handing all the advertising, etc. Frank states that yes, they will handle everything again and get it off the Township’s plate; he adds that the lights that are currently there are almost (20) years old and explains improvements that will take place with the installation of the new lights.

Frank states that he has one more item – he has a mylar set of annexation plans that were just approved by the BOS with him this evening; he is asking that each municipality sign the mylar plans (as the original set) and when County approves them, copies will be made and redistributed to the Townships as they are recorded. Frank requests that the Supervisors sign the plans tonight.
Motion to Adjourn: With no further business, Chairperson Helt makes a motion to adjourn. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:08 PM

ATTEST: James A. Wentz, Vice-Chairman
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:08 PM

The next regular monthly meeting of the Cass Township Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, May 30th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.