Typed: August 28th, 2018

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

Present at the meeting were:
Chris Ternowchek, Mary Lou Bergan, Antoinette Purcell, and Michael Machita.

6:35 pm - 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.


Chairperson Helt states that the minutes from the June 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. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Helt calls for discussion from the audience.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – mentions to the Board that the ditch at the bottom where it goes underneath the road needs to be cleaned out; and there’s grass/weeds growing in it that needs to be cut because it creates visibility problems while driving. Chris also states that with the most recent rainfall, there was water in her basement and at her first step at the front of her house; she explains the path the water runs and mentions again that pipes or something need to be installed in that area to fix the water/run-off issues. Supervisor Wentz states that the Township looked at it previously and it’s a pretty extensive project to pipe it. Chris states that the water comes from a drain on High Road, then goes down underneath the road and spills onto the neighbor’s field - spreads out, and comes onto her property. Supervisor Brennan states that the Township was going to place a swale there, but the neighbor (Mr. Dinich) doesn’t want anything to do with it because he has intentions of building a home and placing a driveway there at some point in time.
This led to a lengthy discussion between the Board members and the audience. Supervisor Brennan states that it is a big job; it’s not an easy fix. Chairperson Helt states that the Township can look at it again to see if anything can be done to help. Supervisor Brennan suggests the possibility of Chris (Ternowcheck) building up her property with dirt to try and keep the water off of her property.

Antoinette Purcell, High Road – Thanks the Board for getting the burned structure at 140 High Road demolished, but suggests that an ordinance be put in place so this doesn’t happen to someone else - where they won’t have to be tortured like she was for over a year – which would put a time timeframe on the owner (when there is a fire/burned home) to get the structure down and the property cleaned up. The Solicitor states that there is an ordinance. Supervisor Wentz states that it’s sensitive to go to someone right after a fire. Antoinette states that she understands, but it was left go too long. Chairperson Helt states that it fell through the cracks and became a big mess, but it’s over now and moving forward, they will try to stay on top of things so something like this doesn’t happen again. Antoinette asks if the owner will be fined for not having a demolition permit. The Solicitor replies no. Antoinette asks why. The Solicitor states that he believes the philosophy is to correct but not to punish. Antoinette states that if she did things without a permit, she would get fined for it, but he gets away with it. Attorney Karpowich states that he did have a permit. Antoinette replies yes, but it expired – so he did demolish the structure without the use of a permit. The Solicitor states that the decision is up to the Board, but he wouldn’t recommend it; he feels that the problem is resolved and things were accomplished so he would let it go. Supervisors Wentz and Helt both agree. Chairperson Helt instructed Antoinette that the owner of the property was notified that he cannot live in the garage – but if he does something wrong, she is to notify the Township to have it corrected. Supervisor Brennan asks if there are time limits that the owner can and cannot be at the garage because now there is no water and no sewage on the property – it’s like having a shed – and as he understands it, there are people there at all hours of the night. This leads to a lengthy discussion among the Board members, the audience, and the Solicitor. The Solicitor states that he can be there as long as they don’t take up residency – which means sleeping there, cooking there, etc. – although it’s a fine line. Antoinette mentions that there are also several vehicles on the property that she believes are not licensed. The Solicitor suggests that we wait to see what the owner will do because when he visited the property, it was mentioned that the property may be listed for sale. He also states that as a citizen, Antoinette has the right to file complaints with the zoning officer and if the zoning officer makes a determination that she disagrees with, she also has the right as a citizen to appeal it with the zoning board – and she also has the right to enforce the zoning laws privately if the zoning officer doesn’t enforce them as they should be enforced – he states again that those are her rights as a citizen. The Solicitor advises Antoinette to document the activity and to make complaints; the Township will deal with them as they come.
Hearing no further questions or comments; Supervisor Helt closes the discussion.

**Employee Resignation** – Supervisor Helt states that John Pritiskutch has submitted a resignation letter - his last day will be Friday (July 27th). She calls for a motion to accept his resignation. Brennan makes the motion. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

**Employee Vacancy** – Supervisor Helt states that the Township now has a full-time employee vacancy. The Township’s part-time employee (Matthew Harris) has submitted a letter showing his interest in the full-time position. Helt makes a motion to hire Matt Harris for the full-time position starting at $15.25 per hour. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Brennan – aye. Helt – aye. Wentz – states that he will abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Chris Ternowcheck asks if the Township hired any summer help. Brenda Helt replies that there was no summer help hired. Matt Harris was the part-time employee who was hired to work (30) hours a week, however, he didn’t always put in (30) hours a week, but he expressed an interest in the full-time position. Chris asks if he will work (40) hours a week. Brenda replies yes, she believes he will; he will start full-time on Monday (July 30th). Michael Machita asks if the part-time position will be posted. Supervisor Helt responds that it will – and that the Township is still looking for summer help if anyone knows of any kids that are interested.

**Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau – Parcel # 05-05-0005.002 (366 Valley Road)** – Solicitor Karpowich states that the County is selling this property at repository sale – the assessed owner is Kendra and Craig Deeter – and the bidder was Jonathon Kintzel of Pottsville in the amount of $1,036.00. Schuylkill County is asking for the Township’s consent to sell to the bidder. Helt makes a motion to approve the sale. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. The Solicitor states that whenever the Township gets these notices, it’s always good to check for any code violations and let the buyer know so they know what they are buying.

**Update Police Pension Account – Charles Schwab** – Supervisor Helt explains that it was found that a former Supervisor’s name is still listed on the account as a Trustee – and she asks if any of the other Supervisors would like to be added or if she should be listed as Chairperson. Solicitor Karpowich states that Evelyn should be on the account as a Trustee. Evelyn explains that she already is - but (2) Trustees are required. It was decided that Chairperson Brenda M. Helt would be added - and James D. Thomas will be removed from the account as a Trustee. Helt makes the motion. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Chairperson Helt 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. Wentz 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:

There was no meeting held in July; there is nothing to discuss.

Police Department: Officer William J. Kattner reads the July 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: Supervisor Helt states that the Road Foreman’s report has been placed at each seat. Helt makes a motion to accept the Road Foreman’s report. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Copies of all Road Foreman reports are on file in the Township office for review upon request.

Correspondence: None.

Old / New Business:

The Solicitor states that the Township has received the Pagnotti – York Tunnel Sportsmen Minor Subdivision; he instructs the Board to make a motion to accept it so the (90) day clock starts; he also recommends the Board waive the Engineer’s review. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. The Solicitor asks the Secretary to send copies to County and to be sure that the Planning Commission members are notified and have copies for their review. He suggests that the Board keep it on the agenda with today being the date that the Township received it.

DCED – Municipal Authority – Attorney Karpowich states that the Township received documents from DCED requesting audit/financial information relating to the Cass Township Municipal Authority; he will write to them to notify them that the Authority is defunct.

Police Vehicle Purchase – Supervisor Helt states that the Police Crown Victoria was in an accident and was deemed totaled by the insurance company; the Township needs to purchase a replacement vehicle - an SUV is $36,000 and an F-150 pick-up truck is $42,000. The police department requests the F-150 pick-up truck. The insurance company is going to pay to transfer some of the equipment from the old/wrecked vehicle to the new one. Officer Kattner states that the police need a truck to house all of their equipment and to perform truck detail. It will take approximately (9) weeks for the vehicle to be ready if purchased from Kovatch. This led to a
lengthy discussion in which a decision was made to make a motion to order/purchase the F-150 pick-up truck from Kovatch under the condition that Kovatch is a COSTARS participant. Helt makes the motion. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Motion to Adjourn: With no further business, Chairperson Helt announces that the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:05 PM

SEAL:

ATTEST: James A. Wentz, Vice-Chairman
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:05 PM

The next regular monthly meeting of the Cass Township Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, August 29th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.