Typed: June 25th, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, May 29th, 2019 at the Township’s Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Mike Sorokach, Kris Boyle, Deanna Eamest, Mike Boyle, Mary Lou Bergan, Joyce Cutler, Eric J. Eichenberg, Bob Helt, Rober: Gill, Chris Ternowchek, and John Olenick.

Brenda Helt calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Meeting start time: 6:38pm.

Roll Call of Officers:


Other attendance/absentees:

Donald G. Karpowich, Solicitor – present.

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Richard C. Clink, Chief CTPD – present.

Chairperson Helt states that the minutes from the April 2019 minutes have been placed at each seat. Helt makes a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes and to accept them as printed if there are no corrections or omissions. Brennan seconds. Motion passed.

Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

The Solicitor states that the Public Hearing that is to begin at this time will be postponed until the end of the meeting due to the stenographer being late to attend at the start time.

Helt calls for discussion from the audience.

Mike Sorokach, Owl Lane – notifies Supervisor Brennan that there is a large pot hole on Owl Road that needs to be filled. Also, Mike states that in reading last month’s minutes that someone asked if there were any plans for road projects; he asks if there have been
any discussions since then about road projects for this year to be done by contractors. Supervisor Helt replies that the Board members are in the process of discussing it.

Eric Eichenberg, Oak Lane – states that he lives across from the former Duncott Fire Company and there is a drainage pipe located in the parking lot that needs to be addressed because it’s falling apart; undermining and deteriorating the road. He states that he doesn’t know who is responsible for it – maybe the State needs to be contacted – but it needs to be corrected.

Joyce Cutler, Oak Lane – states that the property owners on Oak Lane believe there is some kind of problem because there is water running from Eric’s property to Gulas and down onto theirs – and they never had this problem before now.

Eric Eichenberg – states that there is a lot of unfamiliar vehicles (trucks) and traffic that drive slowly through Oak Lane looking into the properties. He doesn’t know what they want, where they are going or what they are doing, but they are not welcome there. He asks the police for increased patrols on Oak Lane.

Joyce Cutler – agrees with Eric; stating that there has been a lot of strange vehicles driving through lately - increased traffic and slowing down at their properties. She also states that the 4 wheelers are flying back and forth on Railroad Lane; she states that the road isn’t Reading Company (permitted) property as may be assumed. She asked the police to drive through Oak Lane on their way into town and then again on their way back from town just to show their presence. Chief Clink states it’s time of year when the ATV’s and quads are going to start getting bad again. He states that the police will increase patrols/presence in the area.

Eric Eichenberg – also states that ATV’s are being driven on Oak Lane and Railroad Lane. He states that he realizes that Gula may be selling them at his garage along Valley Road, but it is necessary to test drive them on the roads all day long.

Joyce asks if there is an ordinance about grass. She states that there are several homes in the Township with grass not being cut; she adds that she feels that it’s ridiculous to have to fill out a complaint form in order to get somebody’s grass cut – it’s totally ridiculous. The Solicitor responds that according to the ordinance, the grass needs to be over 6 inches before it’s in violation. Joyce states it’s a law – if you don’t cut your grass – you’re breaking the law - let’s get this Township shaped up.

Eric Eichenberg – agrees with Joyce. He doesn’t feel complaint forms should have to be completed and signed. The Solicitor states that if the code enforcement officer goes out to a property and finds a violation, he is witness to the violation so no identity would be
disclosed. The only time an identity would be disclosed is if you had to testify in court – like if it’s zoning violation happening inside a garage – and you are the only one that sees it happening – then you would need to testify in court as a witness to the activity.

Joyce Cutler – asked if we know who is running on a write in yet for the election.
Supervisor Helt states that the information isn’t available from the Election Bureau yet.

A discussion continues between Eric, Joyce, the Solicitor, and Supervisor Brennan regarding code enforcement, demolition of dilapidated homes, as well as, other issues.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – asks what the Board does with the Liquid Fuels money that is received from the State. Helt responds it goes towards the roads, filling potholes, vehicle maintenance, rock salt, etc.

Hearing no questions or comments; Supervisor Helt closes the discussion.

Helt moves onto the items on the agenda.

**Rob Gill – Keystone Insurance** – Rob states that the insurance renewal date is coming up on June 16th; he gave an overview of the highlights/changes/revisions/dividends of the policy as per the renewal, as well as, his suggestions related to additional coverage. The Solicitor asks about adding this property after it has been deeded to the Township. Rob explains that it should be added but an appraisal should be done prior to doing so.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Chairperson Helt states that both the Public Summary and the List of Transactions for the month of April 2019 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/Engineer’s Report/ARRO Consulting, Inc.:**
Chairperson Helt states there is nothing to report this month.

**Police Report:** Chief Richard Clink reads the May 2019 report. Helt makes a motion to accept the police report as read. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Copies of police reports are on file in the Department and the Township office for review upon request.
Road Foreman’s Report: Chairperson 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 as printed. 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:

2020 Census – Helt states that information has been provided to the Township regarding jobs being offered to help complete the upcoming census. They are paying $19.50 per hour; additional information is here at the office if anyone is interested.

Old/New Business:

Request for Donation for Fireworks by Minersville Little League - Chairperson Helt states that a request was made for donations for the fireworks display. Helt makes a motion to donate $100 to Minersville Little League for the fireworks display. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Reading Anthracite Plans – The Solicitor instructs the Board members to make a motion to approve the subdivision with Reading Anthracite Company for the municipal building property. He provides a copy of the plan for the Board members to review; and states that the owner has now signed the plans – so the Board should make a motion to approve the plans and sign them – then they should ask the Planning Commission to also sign the plans – then it can be recorded to get a deed. Chairperson Helt explains that the Township owns the Township building, but does not own the property. Reading Anthracite Company is giving the Township 6.34 acres. Mike Sorokach asks how much did it cost. Helt states that they gave it to the Township for free – the Township only had to pay for the subdivision. Mike states so if down the road the building was ever sold, the property can now be sold with it and states that it’s a good deal. The Solicitor replies no, it’s in the deed that it can only be used for government purposes. Helt states that the Board is okay with that because the Township didn’t own the property before – at least we own it now so maybe we can fix this building up – or build something newer here on this property – something more feasible. Helt makes a motion to accept the Reading Anthracite Plan as discussed. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. (These plans were dropped off at the Township building by the attorney for Reading Anthracite Company prior to the start of this meeting).

Buggy Subdivision Plan – These plans were already approved and signed by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors in May of 2018; however, it was...
requested by Mr. Buggy’s attorney (Mike Fox) that the plan be re-approved by the Board members because he would like to record the plan, but the deadline to record it at the courthouse has passed. The Solicitor recommends that the Board approve the plans again this evening – and that will change the approval date to May 29th, 2019 which will allow Attorney Fox to have the adequate time to get them recorded. Helt makes a motion to approve the Buggy Subdivision. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Eric Eichenberg – had comments that Reading Anthracite doesn’t give anything away for free. They have this off-road park now – $175.00 a permit – and when this gets huge and you want to talk to them about the Amusement Tax (like with Big Diamond), they are going to say they gave you the property. The Solicitor states that is not how it works – one has nothing to do with the other – there are no back door deals. Chairperson Helt states that the Board didn’t agree to anything to get this property. The Solicitor states that if the Township didn’t get it, what would someone else have done with it anyway. Eric states that he is just trying to open everyone’s eyes because it’s going to be huge. The Solicitor states that RAC did ask the Board to support a grant application involving not only in this Township but in others and he wrote a (5) page letter in response to their request stating why it was not permitted and stating that the Township was not going to support the application – citing all the sections of the Ordinances that would require them to get approvals – so you’re not telling us anything that will surprise us – and after they received the letter, they still gave us the property. Eric replies because they want to be nice. The Solicitor states no, because we asked for it.

Motion to Adjourn: With no further business, Chairperson Helt makes a motion to adjourn; Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned.

ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:15PM

ATTEST: James A. Wentz, Vice Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:15PM
Helt opens the the Public Hearing for Ordinance #2019-2 – The Solicitor states that the Chief of Police requested an ordinance establishing hours of operation for Cass Township facilities; he reads the drafted ordinance aloud. He asks if the public has comments before the Board considers adopting the Ordinance. Hearing no comment, Helt calls for a motion to adopt Ordinance #2019-2 as explained. Brennan makes the motion. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

7:20PM:

Public Hearing – Deanna Earnest – 9 Branch Road – Conditional Use Application – Salon - There was a court stenographer in attendance for this hearing (Sargent’s Court Reporting Service, Inc.); there is a verbatim transcript on record for this hearing if ever needed. After hearing no questions or comments, Brennan makes a motion to close the record. Wentz seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Vote. Wentz then makes a motion to approve the request for conditional use. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Cass Township Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, June 26th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.