Typed: August 26th, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, July 31st, 2019 at the Township’s Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Mary Lou Bergan, Marian Twigg, Richard Twigg, Kayla Sep, Jeremy Slifko, Diana Sorokach, Chris Ternowchek, Barb and Joe Reichert.

Brenda Helt calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Meeting start time: 6:30pm.

Roll Call of Officers:


Other attendance/absentees:

Donald G. Karpowich, Solicitor – present.

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Richard C. Clink, Chief CTPD – absent.

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

Helt calls for discussion from the audience.

Barb Reichert, High Road – states that there was an incident at her and her husband’s residence where an unknown person – not from our area - was banging on their door and was trying to get into their home in the middle of the night. She called 911 and the police are involved, however, she states that it was a terrifying experience and she wants to make the community aware of this incident so everyone can take proper safety precautions at their homes to protect themselves. Officer Kattner states that the police have since identified the person and he was cited for disorderly conduct.
Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – asks the Board if they have come up with a road plan yet. Brenda Helt responds that all the information was submitted (for the loan), but we haven’t heard back. Chris asks Elvin why he installed the roll curb on High Road – and asks if it’s so she will get more water (on her property). Elvin states it was to stop water from going onto Purcell’s property. Chris responds that she will now get more. Elvin asks her if she got more (water) the last (3) times (it rained). She replies that she will when we get a really heavy rain. Elvin replies that we did get a heavy rain; he was there. Chris states that she is sure that she will get more water now than what she was getting. Elvin asks if the Township can install a swale. Chris replies that she would agree, but she is not allowing it to be placed entirely on her property; it would have to be shared between her and the neighbor’s property. She states that she paid to have her own swale installed because the water washed her macadam out and she was afraid it would lift in time and cause damage to the front of her garage. Supervisor Helt states that Chris would not have had to pay for a swale; the Township would have paid for it. Chris states that she knows, but she wanted Dinich’s to go half and half, but they would not because they want pipes installed. Elvin asks Chris why she didn’t tell the Township that she was having a swale installed on her property; the Township would have done it. Supervisor Wentz states that Elvin and Chris are talking about (2) separate swales/issues, but maybe the Township should approach Dinich again. Chairperson Helt states that the Township will approach Mr. Dinich again to see if a solution can be found. This discussion continues between the Board members, the Solicitor and Chris.

Robert Ellis, Sunbury Road – Asks why Cass Township does not have any internet providers in the area. He states that he recently purchased a house – he knows that it has been like this here for years – and that the contract lies with J.B. Cable Co. – he states that he spoke with Comcast and they stated they would be more than happy to speak with the Township to explain what would need to be done. Robert states that he knows there is grant money available from the State to improve infrastructure. Comcast stated that it is up to Cass Township to allow Comcast to come in – but since J.B. Cable services the area, Comcast cannot come in. The Solicitor states that J.B. Cable has the infrastructure – so if Comcast wants to come in, they would have to do their own infrastructure unless they go wireless. Robert states that he spoke to Dan Muesser’s office and they stated they would help and work with Cass Township to obtain grant funding. A lengthy discussion continues on among the Board members, the Solicitor, and several residents. Chairperson Helt asks Robert to please forward the information he obtained to the Township and the Board members will look into it.

Diana Sorokach, High Road – States that she also spoke with Comcast and they told her that they would come into the area but in order for them to do so, J.B. Cable would need to sell out and they will not do it. She states that she spoke to someone from the
Township about starting a petition and was told that the Solicitor was going to do all the leg work and nothing was done. Diana had several complaints about vehicles speeding up and down High Road. She also has complaints of tractor trailers traveling High Road and she doesn’t understand why when there is a weight limit on that road. Officer Kattner states that in the State of Pennsylvania, the local police are only permitted to use Robic for speed enforcement – which requires the police to paint lines on the road and sit. The problem with High Road is that there is really not a decent place to sit without being seen. Diana states that she used to see police sitting/parked in certain places but she hasn’t seen that in years. This discussion gets into the use of radar – Officer Kattner states that Pennsylvania is only one of two states in the United States that the local police cannot use radar – the State Police can, the local police cannot. This discussion continues. Supervisor Wentz states that he doesn’t want to diminish the conversation – and he knows there is a problem - but there have been times when police have run speed in Forestville, Low Road, etc. – and it’s surprising that when sitting still, cars traveling at 25mph seem like NASCAR – he’s not saying they (the vehicles) aren’t speeding, he’s just saying they aren’t all speeding. The discussion continues. Officer Kattner states that he will go out again to see if he can find any places on along High Road to paint lines, but he is not making any guarantees. Chairperson Helt suggests police presence in the area even if there is no place to paint lines. Officer Kattner states that hopefully legislation passes that will allow local police to use radar; it will be a great help.

One of the residents asked the Board if Cass Township has a contract with J.B Cable. The Solicitor states that he would assume there is a franchise agreement although he has not seen it, but every municipality has one. Diane Sorokach states that it’s something with the lines – J.B. Cable owns the poles...

Barb Riechert, High Road – Had complaints about vehicles traveling fast around “dead man’s curve” near her home to avoid pot holes and creating a dangerous situation. She asks for placement of a mirror along the road to improve visibility.

Mary Lou Bergan, Valley Road – Had complaints about traffic (vehicles and tractor trailers) speeding on Valley Road (from Gordon Mountain to Gap Rccks) – she states that it’s a roadway. Officer Kattner states that he sits on Valley Road; it’s a big Township; the police were very busy this month with accidents, calls, etc., but they are doing the best they can.

Jeremy Slifko, High Road – Asks if the reason why (2) police officers are not on at the same time is because the budget will not allow it – and asks why can’t there be more presence. Officer Kattner states that this is a part-time police department; a lot of the guys who work here also have full-time jobs; he works Branch Township full-time so he is there (40) hours a week. Officers can only be so many places at one time. Supervisor

Chairperson/Asst. Treasurer
BRENDA M. HELT

Vice-Chairperson/Asst. Road Foreman
JAMES A. WENTZ

Supervisor/Road Foreman
ELVIN E. BRENNAJR.

Secretary-Treasurer/Manager
EVELYN J. BERGAN
Wentz replies that there is not a surplus in the budget to allow for expanded police coverage; we don’t have extra money to throw at it; the Board tries to cover all the bases with the roads and the police – and as you can see, everything is stretched. Chairperson Helt states that the Board is trying to do their best to run the Township with the funds they have without raising taxes; since the taxes have not been raised in many years, they are trying to keep it that way. Jeremy also has complaints about vehicles speeding on High Road past his residence. Chairperson Helt states that she has discussed with police that there are many complaints regarding speeding on 901 and High Road; and they reassured her that they will increase patrols and presence. Officer Kattner states that both he and Officer Brown have sat on 901 for several hours over the past few weeks. Jeremy states that he has another question about something he asked at the last meeting - he asked Officer Clink to stop and speak with the Preacher – and the other day, the Preacher stopped Jeremy and asked if he ever asked Officer Clink to stop and talk to him. Chairperson Helt states that she will discuss it with Chief Clink.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – Had complaints of speeding on Schaeffer’s Hill Road.

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

Helt moves onto the items on the agenda.

Resolution # 2019-09 – RE: Right-to-Know Requests – Helt states that this is the resolution that was discussed at last month’s meeting. The Solicitor states that people are and have been harassing local government/municipalities with vexatious requests – so the municipalities would like the lawmakers to consider amending the RTK law so that it would provide a remedy for municipalities that have been abused by these type of requestors. The Borough of West Easton sent out an email asking all the municipalities who have been harassed via RTK requestors to create/approve this resolution and forward it to our representatives asking for their help in stopping this activity. Helt makes a motion to accept the resolution as discussed. Brennan seconds. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Treasurer’s Report: Chairperson Helt states that both the Public Summary and the List of Transactions for the month of June 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.:
Nothing to report.

**Police Report:** Officer William Kattner reads the July 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:**

Minersville Area Historical Society – Helt reads aloud a flyer received in the mail regarding a historical program to be presented by Dr. Thomas Boran, Sr. on Thursday, August 15th, 2019 at 7pm at the Mountaineer Firehall, Minersville, PA. It’s free admission; and a copy of the flyer can be provided upon request.

**Old / New Business:**

**Schuylkill County Commissioners** – Helt states that since the Township received several complaints regarding traffic going behind the Preacher’s home on High Road, a letter was sent to the Commissions requesting permission to block the entrance; however, no response was received. This morning, an email was sent to the Commissioners asking for a follow-up on the request. A response was received from Lisa Mahall stating that the Commissioners had agreed to grant permission to the Township to block the entrance. The entrance will be blocked to address the safety concerns of the residents in that area.

**Planning Commission Member Vacancy** – Helt states that there is still a vacancy. Anyone who is interested can inform the Board.

**506 Tunnel Road** – The Solicitor states that there was an executive session held prior to this meeting to discuss potential litigation; he asks for a motion to allow him to file for conservatorship of this property (506 Tunnel Road). Wentz makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.
Amusement Tax – The Solicitor states that this issue was brought up last month so he researched; the AMT is paid to the entity where the amusement fee has been paid – or the port of entry – so in the case of quads/ATV’s – the tax is paid where the riders paid for their passes to ride - not in the areas they ride through.

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

Meeting Adjourned.

ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:12PM

ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Supervisor
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:12PM

The next regular monthly meeting of the Cass Township Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, August 28th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.