Typed: January 30th, 2020

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

Present at the meeting were: Mary Lou Bergan, Michael Kulpecavage, Steve Skibiel, Chris Ternowcheck, Frank Angelo, Joyce Cutler, Ann Marie Studlack, Bob Helt, John Olenick, Kayla Sep, Jeremy Slifko, Antoinette Purcell, and Bill Kattner.

Brenda Helt calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:


Other attendance/absentees:

Sean Lodgson, Attorney - Karpowich Law Office – present.

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Richard C. Clink, Chief CTPD – present.

Chairperson Helt states that the minutes from the December 2019 BOS meeting and the 2020 Re-organization meeting have both been placed at each seat; she calls for a motion to dispense the reading of both sets of minutes and to accept them as printed if there are no corrections or omissions. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Chairperson Helt calls for a discussion from audience:
*Please state your name and address for the record.

Joyce Cutler, Oak Lane – Asked the Board if they have heard anything more about the cable – because JB Cable raised the bill again by $4.00 but gave us absolutely nothing. Brennan states that the Solicitor has been in contact with Foster Township; and Cass Township has agreed to join with them to be included in the process (of building a new infrastructure). Joyce addresses Dave Califf and states that Oak Lane is a mess where you turn into Gula’s pole barn. Dave states that he will place stone or millings down either now or in the spring. Joyce states that there are few things that went on during the re-org meeting that she is not good with; Dave Califf is already getting paid as a road department employee so she doesn’t feel it’s necessary for him to receive extra money for being an assistant road master. Elvin is the road master and when people call complaints into the office, they call Evelyn and she reports it to the road crew – so to have an assistant road master for someone who is already a road department employee is a waste of money and states that it’s double dipping. Califf responds that there are a lot of Townships around that have assistant road masters.
Steve Skibiel, Pine Knot/Valley Road – Addressed the Board with questions and complaints relating to Reading Anthracite’s off-road park. He states that he has nothing against entrepreneurship or business; however, when you start a business, you are responsible for patrolling it; and Reading Anthracite is not doing that with their business. He states that we have ATVs (side-by-sides, quads, dirt bikes, jeeps and full size off-road vehicles) traveling in large groups at high rates of speed on the State and local roads at all hours of the day and night – some of those vehicles don’t even have lights on them. Reading Anthracite is bringing in thousands of people from all over – a lot of them from out-of-state – and these people pay for their permits – but have no respect for the area or the people that live here. Steve gives several instances of near crashes at the known crossing in the Greenbury area (New Castle Township) where ATV’s cross Valley Road – they pull out in front of oncoming traffic - one after another – almost causing vehicles traveling on the State route to crash. Steve states that there is reclaimed land behind his home that is partially owned by the water authority; the property is posted with ‘no motorized vehicles’ signs and yet, the land is getting ripped up by these vehicles. He states that he walks his dogs daily – and while walking, he and his dogs were almost hit by ATVs flying through – and when passing, the drivers look at him like he is not supposed to be there. He states that these people are here for the thrill rush of riding ATVs’ – then add alcohol and firearms and we have a very dangerous situation. Steve states that he can hear firearms being fired all around on Reading property; he tells a story of his neighbor’s swimming pool not holding water; he checked it out to find a bullet (Russian 7.62) in the side of the pool – and states that no one knows where it was discharged – nor how far it traveled before reaching the yard/pool. Steve also asks if the property across the street from his home is a designated parking are for their Park. Evelyn replies it is not. Steve states that there are riders parking there in the mornings on weekends – they unload their vehicles, start them up and start doing donuts in the parking lot – without any concern that there are homes of residents right across the street. Evelyn states that she made Donna Kemfort aware of this quite a few weeks ago; Donna said RAC security would correct the problem, but we still have riders with trucks with trailers parking there. Steve states that he has done research and has spoke to law enforcement from PSP, Minersville, Cass Township and Foster Township – and he realizes there is only so much police can do and then their hands are tied; Reading Anthracite has created this problem so now what is the Township going to do about it? He states that Big Diamond needs to pay amusement tax – but Reading doesn’t have to pay it because the riding area is so vast and runs across several municipalities – so we get nothing. Steve asks for all the information that he has discussed this evening he placed in the minutes - so if his wife, his family, his dogs, or any of his neighbors gets hit, harmed, or killed by an ATV (alone or in a group), he will do what he has to do. He pleads with the Board to do something to help – and states that he expects them to do something – and suggests that the Township Solicitor or the Supervisors contact the Foster Township Solicitor (Attorney Ed Brennan) to discuss this issue.

Jeremy Slifko, High Road – states that he and his wife witnessed what Steve is explaining; they were at Clover one day – Kayla was driving – and there was a group of about 25 side-by-sides coming through – Kayla had to back up to leave them pass so they wouldn’t hit the vehicle.

Chief Clink responds by stating that years ago when he worked for Branch-Reilly, police from surrounding municipalities would work together to corral the ATV’s into one spot, but since the incident with Jack Harley, police can’t do that any longer. Steve Skibiel states that he has the upmost
respect for police; he knows their hands are tied – but this is a legal matter now – and the Township Solicitor needs to get involved.

Chief Clink states that Steve mentioned the police approaching RAC about them purchasing a side-by-side for the police department; it was a few years ago – but he would like to explain that there was an incident where officers were called out to Reading property and they responded in one of the patrol vehicles – and after that, it was thought that it would be better to have an ATV than to destroy a patrol vehicle trying to get to/from a call.

Jeremy Slifko, High Road – states that Reading Anthracite only has (2) security guards to patrol their entire property.

Supervisor Califf states that their security guards won’t do anything anyway because they don’t carry firearms.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – addresses Chief Clink and states that last month, he reported that the police vehicles traveled over 2000 miles in the vehicles; people are asking where – there’s 15 miles in the Township and only 36 tickets were written. Rick states that the officers were driving the vehicles in the Township – patrolling. Chris states that he sees the vehicles in Minersville or on the 4-laners more than she sees them driving in the Township. Rick states that he isn’t lying to her; and asks if she works or stands by her window 24 hours a day – because the police are out and patrolling.

Chairperson Helt states that maybe GPS should be installed on all Township vehicles and then we’ll know where everyone is.

Antoinette Purcell, High Road – states that it would be helpful to prove where they were during an incident; it would benefit the employees too.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – states that she was told one time by State Police that they could not respond in Township territory. Chief Clink states that is not true. State Police are to respond to calls in the Township when Cass doesn’t have an officer on duty.

Jeremy Slifko, High Road – asks if the Township has an agreement with Minersville PD. Clink replies that there is an agreement if there’s a catastrophic incident. Jeremy gave an example of an incident (of guys fist fighting) and Comm Center stated that Minersville could not respond. Clink states that he will speak to Chief Combs – because that is incorrect – Minersville police will respond in Cass if they are called – maybe Comm Center is unaware of the agreement.

Hearing nothing further, Helt closes the public discussion and moves onto the agenda items.

*Hire CPA to Perform the 2019 Financial Audit* – Helt makes a motion to hire Lettich & Zipay to perform the 2019 audit/report. Brennan seconds. Motion passed.
Roll call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.


Treasurer’s Reports: Chairperson Helt states that both the public summary and the list of transactions for the month of January 2020 have been placed at each seat for review. She calls for a motion to accept both reports as printed and to pay all outstanding bills as can be paid at this time. Brennan makes the motion. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. All Treasurer Reports are kept on file in the Township Office for review upon request.


Police Report: Chief Richard Clink read the report. Helt calls for a motion to accept the police report as read. Brennan makes the motion. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Road Foreman’s Report: Califf states that the report is being tabled. Helt calls for a motion to table the report. Brennan makes the motion. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Correspondence: A copy of the advertised meeting dates for the year 2020 has been provided at each seat.

Old/New Business:

Helt states that the Board held an executive session prior to this evening’s meeting to discuss issues of personnel.

Attorney Sean Logsdon of Karpowich Law Office introduced himself to the audience stating that he will follow-up on a list of things that need to be addressed – including issues relating to Reading Anthracite Company.

Motion to Adjourn: With no further business, Helt makes a motion to adjourn. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:22PM

ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Vice-Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:22PM

The next monthly meeting of the Cass Township Board of Supervisors will be held on Wednesday, February 26th, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.