

Typed: February 23rd, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Mary Lou Bergan, Mike Sorokach, Mike Kulpcavage, Ann Marie Studlack, Antoinette Purcell, Theresa and Alyssa Cook.

Brenda Helt calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:

Brenda M. Helt – present.

David W. Califf - absent.

Elvin E. Brennan Jr. - present.

Other attendance/attendees:

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Donald G. Karpowich, Solicitor – present.

Gerard E. Daley, Chief - CTPD – present.

Chairperson Helt states that the minutes from the November 2020 meeting and the 2021 Reorganization meeting have been placed at each seat. Helt states that there is one correction to the reorg minutes regarding the vacancy board appointment – and states that it should read that the Board appointed Mike Kulpcavage, not re-appointed Antoinette Purcell. She makes a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes with the correction. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Helt opens the meeting for public comment.

Mike Sorokach, Owl Road – asks Road Master Brennan about the purchase of the truck that is listed on the agenda. This was a lengthy discussion regarding the details which included the make, model, and cost of the truck; Ford F- 350 pick-up (gas) w/ 8' plow - \$30,000. Mike asks if Elvin will get rid of any of the vehicles. Elvin replies not right off, but it will be the F-550 if any go because it's getting to be in bad shape. Brenda states that they didn't go with a dump truck because of the tight roads/alleys – they went with a pick-up and it will have a dump body installed at a later date. Elvin states that it was ordered through Fisher and the 3500 is \$40,000; he states that we don't get that much off the price with COSTARS.

Mike Kulpcavage, High Road – asks if the new truck will be installed with a GSP system. Elvin replies no. Mike asks if they are still talking about installing GPS on all the vehicles. Elvin replies that the Board talked about it, but he doesn't think it's feasible. Mike states that you can't put a price tag on safety. Elvin asks if the Township has GPS before – where was the safety before now. Mike replies no, we didn't have it before, but going into the future, a lot of places are installing it on their vehicles– Quandel's, etc. – he just feels it's a safety issue. Brenda and Elvin both state that they did discuss it, but to put it on each vehicle, the cost of it isn't cheap. Brenda states that they haven't ruled it out completely – just tabled it – because things have been going well with the workers and we haven't been getting many complaints about them being out of the area.

Mike Sorokach asks when will the vehicle be in. Elvin states that it'll be a 2021 and should be here within (3) weeks if we met the deadline for the order. He adds that when it's picked up, the plow will already be on it – but the dump box will not – it will need to be installed. This discussion continues. Mike asks if it will be green or silver. Elvin replies silver.

Antoinette Purcell, High Road – asks how many meetings a supervisor needs to attend – and asks if they can miss meetings. The Solicitor replies they don't need to come to any meetings. Antoinette and Ann Marie Studlack both ask why Supervisors are needed then. The Solicitor states that we can't get rid of a seat because somebody isn't showing up for meetings – it's just the way it is. Ann Marie states that it shows that he has no interest in the Township if he can't even show up for meetings. Elvin replies that he doesn't know if it's true or not, but Dave called him and said he needs to stay indoors for (14) days. Brenda addresses the Solicitor and explains that Antoinette is an auditor – and she had a concern at their meeting relating to the extra stipend pay that the Supervisors receive for additional positions. Antoinette agrees and states that they should not get paid for work/positions they are not performing. She states that Elvin was out working on Christmas day (plowing) and he didn't want to get paid for it – it's not fair to not pay him - but pay another one for not performing their duties. Brenda states that the Board could eliminate the Assistant Secretary position if Dave isn't doing it. Mike Sorokach states that Dave was the Assistant Road Master – but Elvin is doing all the work. Mike Kulpcavage states that if he is not doing any of the Assistant Secretarial work, he should not be getting paid for it. Elvin states that Dave got paid for it last year. Elvin and Brenda both state that if this is going to go on, Dave should be here. Several in the audience reply - but he is not. Mike Kulpcavage asks the Solicitor about the procedure of removing a Supervisor for not performing his duties. The Solicitor replies no – it can be done for malfeasance, misfeasance, or non-feasance – which would be if a Supervisor committed a crime while in office, he could be removed, but these Supervisors can't vote to remove another Supervisor for not attending meetings. Antoinette states that there should be some way to show that these people do – or don't do - their job/duties. The Solicitor states that these Supervisors can, by vote, eliminate the Assistant Secretary position, but they can't vote to remove a person from the Supervisor position because they aren't attending meetings. He states that this happens all the time with Supervisors all over the Commonwealth. Mike

Kulpcavage reads from a Second Class Township Code book about a petition signed by 5% of the electors to remove a Supervisor. Solicitor Karpowich states that there is an impeachment process. Antoinette states what she is asking for is accountability. This very lengthy discussion continued. It was agreed that all of this will be discussed with Dave if he attends the next meeting.

Antoinette asks if ARRO ever gets back to the persons that file complaints with them. Brenda states that they send a (status) report at the end of the month. Evelyn explains that they will and have called people making a complaint if they have questions. Antoinette asks if anything more will be done at 140 High Road. Evelyn responds that she will email Shannon to follow up.

Mike Sorokach states that he sees the police pick-up truck sitting at Dave Hammer's garage a lot in the last couple months and asks why he sits there – because he thought it is Minersville Borough. Chief Daley states that we cover half of Dave Hammer's property; and the Officer sits there because he can see inspections stickers, etc. – he monitors traffic. A discussion about the boundary lines occurred. Elvin states that PennDOT just installed a Cass Township sign by the former SCD Welding shop – and asks, so where is the line. Chief Daley states that he will look into it.

Alyssa Cook reads a letter that she has prepared for the Board members. She is once again requesting a zoning exemption this year to raise goats at her home for 4H club. Chairperson Helt responds that her request is on the agenda tonight.

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

Resolution – Revised Fee Schedule: Helt states that after a discussion, it was decided that this will be tabled until next month's meeting. She makes a motion to table the item. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Hiring – DPW Employee: Helt states that the Board is hiring another full-time employee for the road department. She makes a motion to hire Cory Kostura. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Truck – DPW: Helt makes a motion to purchase the new truck as was discuss at this meeting, as well as, last month's meeting. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Resolution – Budget & Tax Levy (2021): Helt makes a motion to approve the annual Budget and Tax Levy for this year. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Hire Lettich & Zipay – 2020 Financial Audit: Helt makes a motion to accept the proposal of Lettich & Zipay to perform the 2020 Audit. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Zoning Exemption – Alyssa Cook: Helt makes a motion to approve the zoning exemption as requested. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Appeals Board Member: Helt explains that Chris Ternowchek's term expired on 12/31/2020 – the Board is going to re-appoint her to another term. Helt makes the motion. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Treasurer's Reports: Helt states that the public summary and the list of transactions for the month of November and December 2020 have been placed at each seat; she makes a motion to accept the reports as printed and to pay all outstanding bills that can be paid at this time. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Planning Commission / Engineer's Report – Nothing to report.

Police Report: Chief Gerard Daley states that he just messaged the Supervisor at the 911 Center and asked him to review the mapping as it relates to Dave Hammer's – and his response was it goes through the middle of Dave's property. Chief Daley explains that the Townships will not need to purchase GPS for police vehicles because in the near future the Schuylkill County Communications Center is going to revise their system and it will require all police departments to purchase equipment / computers for their vehicles – that is how they will dispatch information. Daley reads the police report. Helt makes a motion to accept the report as read. Brennan seconds. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Reports are on file in the Police Department for review upon request.

Road Foreman's Report: Helt states that the report is placed at each seat and makes a motion to accept it as printed. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Correspondence – The Solicitor states that we received a petition to vacate Courtney's Road from Reading Anthracite Company; he explains that a motion is needed to advertise an adoption of an ordinance & public hearing for next month's meeting. Helt makes the motion. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

The Solicitor states that he will attend the Broadband webinar on February 9th from 4-5pm to see if there are any grant opportunities.

Brenda states that she contacted ARRO and they do have a grant writer – so she asked them to look into grant funding to see if we are eligible for anything. She states that in the last stimulus grant, Minersville School District received \$982,513. Antoinette Purcell asks if Cass Township looked into applying for the CARES Act funding. Brenda responds we did not - because we really didn't do anything for COVID-19 other than purchase some cleaning supplies, masks and gloves. We set up the building so that people didn't have to come in - they could call and pick things up outside. In addition, looking at the eligible use of funds for the grant, we were not under the impression that the funding had anything to do with paying for internet for residents; she adds that she doesn't know how the (2) local Townships that received funding for internet got it - because that is not what the money was to be used for. Antoinette stated that it was Foster and Reilly Townships that donated money for the students in their Township; otherwise, the school offers it for \$20 a month. Some kids say they are doing better. Brenda states that she has been working on getting internet and cable in the Township for over a year – one company is interested and is doing field work. She told the company representative that services have to be provided to the entire Township – or none of it. Brenda recently spoke to the representative who informed her that it's looking very good – and she should have something for the Township soon. This discussion continued.

Chief Daley states that he would like to clarify something – there are rumors floating around that Reading Anthracite bought St. Kieran's Church – they did not – they boarded it up for safety purposes because we are having non-stop problems with people being in the church.

Old / New Business: Nothing.

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

Meeting adjourned.

**ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:11 pm**

**ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Vice-Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:11 pm**