

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Thursday, August 28th, 2025 at 7pm at the Municipal Building – Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting: See sign-in sheet (attached).

Michael Sorokach calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:

Michael Sorokach III – present.

Elvin E. Brennan Jr. – present.

Brenda M. Helt – absent.

Other attendance/attendees:

Mark Semanchik, Solicitor – present.

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Chairperson Sorokach stated that the July 2025 Supervisor's meeting was canceled. The June 2025 meeting minutes have been placed at each seat. He made a motion to approve them if there are no corrections or omissions. Seconded by Supervisor Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.

Sorokach opened the meeting for public comment, but asked if there are code enforcement related questions, to please wait until after Nick Hazlett provides his report since the answers may be included in his report.

Brian Mull, Mountain Road – Asked about the markings on Schaeffer's Hill Road – asking if it will be dug up. Sorokach responded that he saw the markings and is hoping it doesn't affect the road, but the Township has not been notified of any work that is going to be done.

Frank Angelo, High Road – Stated that we had a previous Supervisor that never showed up for work and got paid anyway. He asks if there is anything in the bi-laws or in the job description where it states that something can be done about Supervisors who don't do their job but continue to get paid. Chairperson Sorokach responded that if Frank remembers, the last time we had this issue, we learned with Mr. Califf that nothing can be done unless it is done through the State Senate by impeachment – which seems bizarre. He asks Solicitor Semanchik if he is aware of any changes to the process. He responded that he is not aware of any. Sorokach stated that when he attended PSATS training, the issue was brought up and there were complaints from municipalities that it's not right that Supervisors don't do their job, don't show up, but are still taking checks. It was also explained that they are looking at changing the laws

pertaining to it because it's not right, but to date, it remains the same. Frank also had complaints of speeding issues on High Road. Sorokach responds that he is aware – the same problems exist on Valley Road and Sunbury Road.

Antoinette Purcell, High Road – Had complaints of high grass/weeds at the Whiteash house on High Road. Sorokach responds that he received a call about it so he took multiple pictures and forwarded them to Nick Hazlett along with the complaint. This led to a lengthy discussion relating to Supervisors reporting code enforcement issues on properties during their road inspections.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Sorokach moves on to the Agenda items:

Hilltop Terrace Drive Paving Project – Sorokach gave an update on the dates that the milling and paving will take place. The school district has been notified. Written notifications have also been placed in the mailboxes of the Hilltop Terrace residents.

COMCAST – Sorokach stated that as explained during previous meetings, there is one family along Sunbury Road and a few homes in Mackeysburg where Comcast has not run their lines. He explained that he was corresponding with one of their representatives who stated that the installation of service in these areas was approved by their legal team; it then had to be presented to their construction team – but now upon several attempts by phone to reach Comcast for an update, they are not returning his calls. He then reads a voicemail message that he left for the Comcast representative prior to this meeting stating that we will be turning this matter back to the hands of our Solicitor if a return call is not received.

Solicitor Semanchik stated that as most of the residents in the audience will recall when Comcast was here at meetings, representations were made during those discussions that if the Township would adopt the Franchise Agreement, it would allow Comcast to come in and extend their service, and they would provide service boundary line to boundary line for every Township resident. Comcast then used that Franchise Agreement to apply to get Federal grant funds to do the project. Nothing in the Franchise Agreement indicated that some of our residents would not get service to their homes and/or that the grant money could be used in a neighboring municipality – which is what the map we obtained finally disclosed – so that is the basis for the objection. The grant was for Cass Township and should only have been used to serve Cass Township residents. A very lengthy discussion continued...

Recycling Center – Sorokach stated that we continue to have illegal dumping of garbage into our recycling bins – it seems to be worse on Saturdays when the Township staff are not here – so with that said, if this does not resolve, he and Supervisor Brennan both agree that they will eliminate Saturdays from the schedule. Please spread the word. This discussion continued.

CTPD – Solicitor Semanchik stated that he would like to give the update that he was prepared to present at last month's meeting, but it was canceled. He provided a very detailed account of the timeline of events

from last year until the present relating to the disbanding of the police department - to advertising for a Chief of Police - to conducting interviews and finding a candidate to hire who would withdraw his application due to a family emergency. Then, Officer In Charge Scott Brennan stepped up and offered his experience and skill sets to get the police department re-established with the hopes of getting a Chief in place.

After much time and effort, the Department was reinstated. Following that, out of nowhere, the candidate that initially withdrew his application, contacted Chairman Sorokach and informed him that his family health issue may have turned out much better than anticipated and if the Board was still interested in hiring him, he would consider taking the position; however, since this Officer was no longer employed in the state of Pennsylvania, he would need to meet requirements of the Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission. This Officer had initially worked in Luzerne County but then left the State. In order to return to employment in Pennsylvania, he did everything that was required of him to be reinstated in Pennsylvania – and up until July 6th, he was contacting the Solicitor and OIC Scott Brennan for names of local realtors for the purpose of purchasing a home in the area. On Friday, July 11th, 2025, the Officer made his last submission to the Municipal Police Officers' Education & Training Commission for re-certification. On Monday, July 14th, 2025, the Officer issued an email to all of us informing us that his family health issue is no longer in remission; it is at a critical stage; a surgery was necessary, and he needed to withdraw his letter of interest once again. The Solicitor states that he must report that after all that, we are unfortunately back to square one; he will continue to work with OIC Brennan to see if we can find some options, but he would like to residents to know that the (2) Supervisors sitting at the table have warranted the respect and the interest of the police community in trying to do the right thing to provide this service to the residents. It is clearly nothing within their control that they have been unable to what they are trying to do. If the Board wishes to do so, we will continue to find a way to move forward and be successful.

**Chairman Sorokach circles back to (2) items:*

Hilltop Terrace Paving Project – he stated that at the June meeting, the project was conditionally awarded to the low bidder which was M&J Excavating, Inc. – but they withdrew their bid within the timeframe because they miscalculated their numbers. It was then awarded to the second lowest bidder which was Meckley's Limestone Products, Inc. in the amount of \$197,909.

Supervisor Sorokach then addressed the audience and referred back to Frank Angelo's comments stating that if he gets to a point in his position as a Township Supervisor where he cannot do what he thinks is right – where he cannot do the job the way he thinks it should be done – he will resign from the position – he gave the residents his word that he won't collect a paycheck for not doing his job. He explained that he mentions this on public record because next year, his other work schedule may increase significantly so he may resign from the Township so that someone else can be put in place by the Board who can offer the position the time it deserves.

Treasurer's Report – Sorokach stated that there is copy of the reports for June & July at each seat. He made a motion to accept the report as printed – and to pay all outstanding bills. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.

Planning Commission & Engineers Report –

Olenick & Smulley / Lenick Subdivision: Solicitor Semanchik stated that the Planning Commission met for their August meeting; they were in favor of granting both the Preliminary/Final submission and conditional approval for the Olenick & Smulley / Lenick Preliminary/Final Major Subdivision Lot Annexation. The Solicitor concurred with their decision and recommended that the Board take action to grant the same. Sorokach made a motion to approve as discussed. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.

*Chairperson Sorokach made a motion to approve the Planning Commission / Engineers' Report. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.

Roadmaster's Report – A copy of the June & July report was provided at each seat. Sorokach also read the reports aloud. He added that the Township rented mini excavator and trailer for (1) month to take care of water and drainage issues on High Road, Water Dam Road, and Tunnel Road. Sorokach made a motion to accept both reports. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.

Code Enforcement Report – Nick Hazlett read his reports; he took and answered questions from residents – which led to a very lengthy discussion, as well as more complaints from the audience. Sorokach made a motion to accept the report. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.

Solicitor's Report –

Executive Session – Solicitor Semanchik stated that he met with the Board members at 6:15pm to 6:55pm this evening. The items reviewed were: property issues and code enforcement matters.

Resolution – Schuylkill County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Solicitor Semanchik explained the purpose of the Resolution. Sorokach made a motion to adopt the Resolution as written. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.

Zoning Hearing Board – Solicitor Semanchik stated that the Zoning Hearing Board will be meeting on Tuesday, 09/23/25 at 6pm to hear the continued request by a property owner for relief to construct a garage on a single lot in a residential area.

**Sorokach made a motion to accept the Solicitor's Report. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

Correspondence –

Schuylkill County Fall Clean-up – Copies of the schedule have been placed at each seat.

Roof – Township Building – Sorokach explained that we are having issues with the roof leaking on the Township building. We filed a claim with the insurance company and are awaiting a response.

Old / New Business –

Nick Hazlett stated that he has provided the Board with a copy of the County Upset Sale List and asked that they review it and let him know of any properties that he should be addressing.

Motion to Adjourn:

With no further business, Chairperson Sorokach made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

ATTEST: Michael Sorokach III, Chairperson

SEAL:

ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Vice Chairperson

08/28/215

BOS Meg

PLEASE PRINT:

FRANK ANGELO

MIKE KUPCOWSKI

Tina Skibiel

Judy Mull

BRIAN MULL

Jim Quinn

Antoinette Purcell

Cheryl Kosciol

Ken Kosciol

CHRIS TERNOWICK