

*Typed: April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021*

*The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.*

*Present at the meeting were: Barron L. Hetherington (Schuylkill County Commissioner), Mary Lou Bergan, Mike Kulpcavage, Frank Angelo, John Kalovcak, Joyce Cutler, Chris Ternowchek, Ann Marie Studlack, and Antoinette Purcell.*

*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 February 2021 Supervisor's meeting have been placed at each seat. She makes a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes if there are no corrections or omissions. Brennan seconds. Motion passed.*

*Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Helt opens the meeting for public comment. Please state your name and address for the record.*

*Joyce Cutler, Oak Lane – Asks where David (Califf) is tonight. Helt states that she can't speak for Dave, but she did send an email out stating that there would be an executive session at 6pm and he did not respond to the email – but he contacted Elvin via text and told him that he would not be attending tonight due to personal reasons.*

*Joyce addresses Road Master Brennan and states that there was some road/patch work done on Oak Lane and asked if it is done. Elvin replies that they are not done with repairs, but the blacktop plant is shut down.*

*Joyce addresses Chief Daley with complaints of big problems with side-by-sides on Oak Lane. She states that she was told that the problem would be taken care of – and she is going to give*

*the person that told her that the benefit of the doubt – but besides that, her daughter and her family were home over the weekend, and on Saturday night, they could not sleep from 1:30am to 4:30am because there were ATV's and side-by-sides traveling on Oak Lane. Joyce states that she and Chief Daley both know where they are coming from. Chief Daley states that he is very aware of the problem, but one issue that we face is that no one is usually on duty (night shift) – and the guys that work here work other jobs – so that is something that we will need to look into. Daley instructs Joyce that there are issues during the day, to get a hold of him – or call and if someone is on duty, they can address it – but by the time we get there, they will probably be gone – that's the problem with having to deal with these ATV's – there is only so much we can do. He also states that the problems exist throughout the whole Township; and they aren't just here – they're everywhere. Ashland has three FRO parking areas and he has the same issues in Ashland with ATV's driving all over up there now too – and it's only going to get worse. Joyce states that the riders don't realize that (Oak Lane) isn't Reading Anthracite property. Antoinette Purcell states that they don't know where they are allowed to ride – so they just ride everywhere. She states that she took a ride out through the Valley the other day and the riders literally stopped traffic on Valley Road so they could cross – it's ridiculous. Chief Daley states that the other issue is that property owners obviously don't babysit their land/properties all the time, so they're not going to call and report the ATV riders because they don't know at the time the trespassing occurs – so how do we prosecute the trespassers if there is no reporting. He states that there are so many issues that we are facing with this – and it seems we're never going to keep up with them or get ahead of it considering how big it's getting. Antoinette states that the weather is getting nicer now so the issues are going to get worse. Chief Daley instructs the residents not to wait until a meeting to say something - if there are problems, call the non-emergency number for Schuylkill County Communications Center at 570-628-3792 – and they will dispatch police right away. Mary Lou Bergan states that she has witnessed riders many times stopping traffic on Valley Road for their groups to cross in Greenbury. Daley states that the crossing is in New Castle Township so he can't do anything about it. She states she understands that – but they are stopping traffic on a State roadway. Daley states that obviously stopping traffic on a roadway is not permitted, but legally they can cross the road there.*

*Joyce then asks Chairperson Helt for an update on cable/internet. Helt states that she spoke to the company representative today and was told that not all of their numbers would be in until the end of the business day today (for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter). However, the representative stated that it is moving in the right direction – they have reached out to the surrounding municipalities to see if they would join to lessen the cost. She also explained that they work with PPL – and if PPL is installing new poles, they can run their lines from those poles. The representative states that she apologizes that this is not moving more quickly – and it is not going to happen tomorrow, but it is moving forward and is looking very positive for the Township. Brenda explains that she has been working on this for several months – initially reaching out to (5) companies – (3) of them responded that they weren't interested because Cass is so vast. She states that she did not want any of the companies to provide service to*

*only pieces or sections of the Township – if they could not provide service to the entire Township, she didn't want them to provide service at all. The company she is working with agreed to provide the entire Township with service. This discussion continued.*

*Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – states that if the police department would patrol the Township instead of being everywhere else, maybe we wouldn't have so many ATV problems. Chief Daley replies we have addressed this Minersville issue and we since have had no complaints. Chris states that she sees the police on the Pottsville-Minersville Highway, in Minersville, at Sheetz – she sees them everywhere but in the Township. Daley responds that the officers need to leave the Township to get a bite to eat and gas in the vehicles. Chris states that she hears the same complaints from other residents who don't see them in the Township either. Daley responds that nobody sits on their porch 24 hours a day waiting to see a cop car drive by. Chris replies she is not the only resident complaining. Daley states that she is the first one he has heard. Chris states that she tells other residents to come to a meeting to let him know their complaints. Daley responds that they don't need to come to a meeting and make a big issue out of it, they can call him directly and he will address it immediately. Supervisor Brennan states that Bucek and Weaver are forever riding around – because he rides around and sees them all over the Township. Chairperson Helt states that she can vouch for Chief Daley – anytime there was an issue or a complaint and she called him, he took care of it immediately – so if residents have any issues, they can call the Chief or call her and she will address it with him on their behalf. Chief Daley states that residents can always call Evelyn – she will send out an email immediately and he will address the problem.*

*Frank Angelo, High Road – states that we had a lady that was apparently high about a week ago dancing down the middle of the highway – someone said something to her and she started throwing stones at them – someone called Cass Township Police – no one was on duty – so they called Minersville Police and were told that Minersville PD could not respond. Daley states that Minersville can't respond – we have an agreement with Minersville if there is an incident at the high school, they can respond – but other than that, they can't respond to calls in the Township – but the call would get transferred to the State Police. Frank states that he understands that, but if we are going to have issues like this and with four-wheelers, maybe we should find the money to have Chief Combs take over as he offered so we can have 24-hour coverage – especially if you can't get guys to work night shift – that only leaves one choice – to get 24-7 coverage. Daley states that he will address the night shift with the Supervisors. Chairperson Helt states that we are going to have to do something – get someone to work night shift here and there – because the ATV's and side by sides are getting out of control. Antoinette Purcell asks if Reading Anthracite has their own people to patrol their property. Daley responds that they have 24-hour security – but when they have an issue, they call the police anyway. Antoinette states that there must have been 100 vehicles parked at the parking area on Gordon Mountain over the weekend – so where is all that money going? Helt states that we get nothing from Reading Anthracite – no amusement tax – nothing. Antoinette asks why? Helt explains that we have looked into it because of all the complaints that we have*

*received from the residents – and it's because of the port of entry law. Their office is in Pottsville – the permits are issued from there so that's where the tax money goes. Antoinette states that she would not want to live in Valley – it's terrible out there – and she only drove through it. Daley states that it probably the worst lot in the Township – it's non-stop. Antoinette states that the water reservoir is up there and asks if it's fenced off so they can't get near it. Daley states that there are access roads but he doesn't know if the riders ride there or not – but Minersville Water Authority isn't saying anything about it – they're not patrolling or addressing it. He states that we can't stop them from going over onto that property unless the Water Authority would block it off.*

*Joyce Cutler asks if the Board could hire a police officer just to work 3<sup>rd</sup> shift – put an ad in the paper looking for someone interested in working 3<sup>rd</sup> shift only. Daley agrees and states that he will discuss it with the Supervisors. Chairperson Helt states that she doesn't have a problem hiring officers – but she wants them to get out there and to be seen. She doesn't want to be getting phone calls that they are sitting in the station waiting for something to happen. She wants the residents to see that they are working. She adds that the Board didn't join with Minersville PD because they wanted a lot of money and at this time, she feels we could utilize those funds to fix roads and whatever else is needed. This led to lengthy discussion about split shifts, full time coverage, hiring officers, etc. Brenda states that we definitely have a problem with Reading Anthracite's park – maybe we should schedule a meeting with them and tell them that this is not fair to the residents of our community and they need to do something about it. Joyce suggests scheduling a meeting with them and then let the residents know they will be here – and let the people tell them. Helt states that she will reach out to them and ask to schedule a meeting - everyone can attend to discuss the issues so they understand how the residents feel and see what they can do. Joyce states that the residents are suffering. Helt states that she is aware of all of it.*

*Chris Ternowchek asks when the plant will open up. Elvin states that it was open for 2 days; it broke down so it's currently closed until it's fixed.*

*Schuylkill County Commissioner Barron L. Hetherington introduced himself to the audience and gives an overview of his history; speaks of some County issues; and give his view of those issues. He states that if he can be of assistance to anyone, he can be reached at his office – 570-628-1201 - or his cell – 570-205-8028.*

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

*Truck Purchase – DPW: Helt states that the Board approved a truck purchase at a previous meeting – but then declined it at another - because the dealer couldn't get us one – so we have decided to go with a Chevy instead of Ford. Helt makes a motion to order and purchase a truck for the DPW employees. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

Use of the Ball Field - Helt explains that we received a request from Shawn Haas to use Fannie's field again this year. We are agreeable as long as they work with the teams of the younger kids so they can utilize it as well. Helt makes a motion to approve the request – with the same stipulation that the softball (adult) team must maintain the field – cut the grass, keep it clean, etc. 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 February 2021 have been placed at each seat; she calls for a motion to accept the reports as printed and to pay all outstanding bills that can be paid at this time. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Planning Commission / Engineer's Report – Helt states there is nothing to report.

Police Report: Chief Gerard Daley reads the police report. Helt makes a motion to accept the report. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. 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 request from Michael Gula (Trail Towing, LLC) to lease the properties of 42 and 65 Oak Lane for the purpose of maintaining them - cutting the grass, etc. Joyce states that Michael will take care of them. Helt makes a motion to approve the request. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Tweedsville Properties – The Solicitor asks for a motion to retain a real estate appraiser. Elvin explains that there are properties that are supposed to be leased by residents, but the only one that pays the \$25.00 annual lease fee are Kasinecz's – none of the others that use the properties pay the fee. Helt states that the Board would like to get those properties appraised and makes a motion to retain a real estate appraiser. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

506 Tunnel Road – Yurkonis Property - The Solicitor states that he would like to mention that, as everyone is aware, the Judge appointed the Township conservator of 506 Tunnel Road – so now we have a conservatorship hearing at the end of the month (the 27<sup>th</sup>) to approve the Township's plan to clean-up the property.

Old / New Business: Nothing.

*Mike Kulpcavage states that the Board is purchasing a truck – and asks the cost of the truck – and does it come with a plow, etc. Helt states that it's being purchased from Apple Chevrolet in York, PA (COSTARS) with a plow at a price of \$38,865.00. Elvin states that it's a 2022 3500 with a plow – we will buy an insert later.*

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

*Meeting adjourned.*

*ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson*

*TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:13 pm*

*ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Vice-Chairperson*

*TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:13 pm*