

Typed: June 29th, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, May 26th, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Mary Lou Bergan, John Kalovcak, Mike Kulpcavage, Frank Angelo, Joyce Cutler, Robert Gill – Keystone Insurance Group, Chris Ternowchek, Gretchen Sterns – RAC (Reading Anthracite Company), Tina Skibiel, and Dave Slane.

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 – present.

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 March 2021 Supervisor's meeting have been placed at each seat. (The April 2021 BOS Meeting was canceled.) 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 for an update on the cable. Chairperson Helt states that the representative for Comcast is still looking into it and doing field work, but the Solicitor is now involved in the legal end of it; and ARRO is looking into funding/grants for broadband. We are waiting for the company to complete the field work and to be provided a final answer and hopefully a start date – it looks promising.

Frank Angelo, High Road – explains his complaint and states that he believes there is a pipe that is blocked somewhere along High Road.

Chief Daley introduces Brian Rich Jr. of Famous Reading Outdoors – and states that he asked him to be in attendance tonight to discuss the contents of the email that he (Daley) sent

to the Supervisors recently, as well as, a few other things. Mr. Rich states that he is the General Manager of FRO and he here to address some of the issues that are occurring due to the off-road park and to offer help and some solutions. The Board members decided this discussion should be done in public forum rather than a private discussion because there are people in the audience that have complaints about the park – and since the Board is here for the residents, it may be good for their opinions to be heard as well. Brian states that he understands the issues – he gets it – so they need to be addressed. He would like to support local law enforcement in regards to hours and/or hiring of more officers for additional shifts. He states that he realizes that Cass Township and the Heckscherville Valley is experiencing a lot more riding than it has in the past. He purchased (2) UTV vehicles for the purpose of supporting police and he feels Cass Township are in most need of one right now. He also asks the Township to communicate what the issues are and he will help – he is willing and wants to help. Califf confirms that the police will not be patrolling FRO property with the UTV, it would just be used if a chase started on the road – instead of taking the Township’s vehicles, they would use the UTV. Brian feels that if the UTV was dressed up as police vehicle and was sitting along the roadways, it would deter some of the riders. Chairperson Helt asks about parking – and states that she gets complaints about riders parking on other people’s property, etc. Supervisor Brennan asks if our police could chase and arrest riders who are not parked in a designated parking area – he goes onto explain that riders park at the Pine Knot buildings and raise hell and it creates dust and noise and it effects the resident’s homes that live there. Brennan states that he doesn’t feel that they should be parking there. Attorney Sterns asks if signage would help. Elvin replies no, because he stopped one week and asked Reading Security to chase them – and the next week, they were there again – it’s like they don’t care. Helt and Chief Daley both state that when they park there, the riders also get on Valley Road and drive it to get to where they are going. Brian states that FRO has (8) designated parking areas – if they catch riders unloading on any other properties, they are told to move to a designated area. Elvin asks if the police can tell those riders that they can’t park at the Pine Knot buildings. Brian explains that if they aren’t supposed to be there, they can be told to move to a designated parking area. Chris Ternowchek has questions about utilizing police paid by taxpayers patrolling FRO property. Chairperson Helt states that people who are living here want peace and quiet and they are being terrorized by ATV riders – and as the Board of Supervisors, we are here for the residents who live here. Brian states that his business is bringing people here and he is throwing a lifeline to this region. The Solicitor asks what Brian is proposing. Brian says he just wants to help the Community and he walks out of the meeting. This discussion then turns into a very heated lengthy out of order discussion. Attorney Sterns explains that to start, Brian would like to donate a UTV to the Township for police use – and make a monetary donation to off-set the costs of hiring additional officers and/or adding extra shifts to address problem areas in the Township. She states that this is a start, it’s not a final solution. Brian proposes to donate funds to cover (8) hours of coverage on weekends – and a UTV. This very lengthy discussion continues. The Board members will discuss the offer and make a decision.

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

Rob Gill – Keystone Insurance Group - gives a detailed overview of the EMC insurance coverage renewal and dividends. Renewal date is 06/16/2021. After a brief discussion, Helt makes a motion to accept the EMC proposal. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Reading Anthracite Company – Waivers - Thomaston Road – The Solicitor explains that we received (2) waiver requests from RAC for (2) areas of the road. Califf makes a motion to approve the request contingent upon the use agreement which states if they cause damage, they will fix it. Attorney Sterns states that RAC anticipates within the next (6) months they will request that the Township vacate the road – but they aren't there yet – there are still some people living in the homes. After a brief discussion, Califf makes a motion to accept the request as explained. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Road Project – Woodside Road – Helt makes a motion to table this item until the Board members can discuss in further detail. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Bids – Yurkonis Property – Clean Up - The Solicitor explains that the court appointed the Township as conservator and approved our plan – but because of the cost of the clean-up, it requires us to put it out on bid – to remove the home and garage that burned, a shed structure, do the back-filling, seeding & straw, and remove any and all debris or junk. Brian Rich Jr. asks for the estimated cost. The Solicitor responds \$27,750.00. Helt makes a motion to advertise for the bids. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Reading Anthracite Company – Domain Proceeding – The Solicitor states that the Board discussed this privately in executive session. He explains that a motion is needed to approve the stipulation payment for just compensation as per the Cherry Valley Waterline in the amount of \$7,000 and an addendum to the declaration of taking which would require the Township - in the event that RAC would ever decide to mine the property where the waterlines are located – to relocate them within (120) days at our own cost – or vacate them. Helt asks what the total amount is that we owe them. Karpowich states \$7,000 – but we already paid \$1,044.00 - so we will need to pay the difference of (\$5,956.00). Helt makes a motion to approve payment. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

PPL Street Light Conversion - Helt explains the Township still has not converted over to LED lights; and they would like to do so. Helt makes a motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare a resolution (as required by PPL). Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Leases – Gula – Oak Lane Properties – Helt explains that Michael Gula requested to lease the properties – and there was concern that the properties were going to be utilized for something other than just maintaining them so the Solicitor drafted a lease which states that the only thing that can be done with those properties is cut the grass on them. Joyce asks why a lease was needed when her husband and the neighbor were cutting the grass since the homes were taken down. The Solicitor states that the lease is necessary because no one has the right to go onto the Township’s property without permission. Chairperson Helt states that the lease still needs to be approved by FEMA (because FEMA provided the funds to tear down the homes which were located in a Floodplain). The Board can approve it this evening, but FEMA can still deny it. Helt calls for a motion to accept the lease. Brennan makes the motion. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Helt adds that if the property is utilized for anything other than cutting the grass, we will pull the lease – and the agreement states it. The Solicitor states that we don’t want people going onto our property without consent; the lease protects the Township – if anyone gets hurt or causes damage, it won’t come back on the Township. Helt states that it is also in the lease that money cannot be made on the properties.

Resignation – Police Officer – Helt states that a resignation letter was submitted by Officer Andrew Weaver effective May 30th, 2021; she calls for a motion to accept the resignation. Califf makes the motion. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Officer Daley states that he is looking to hire (2) officers.

Hiring – Summer Help – (3) Candidates – Helt states that the Board would like to hire the following: Evan Motley at \$10.00 per hour; Aidan Heffron at \$10.00 per hour; and Brett Chikotas will return again this year at \$10.50 per hour. Helt makes a motion to hire all (3) candidates. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

*Clover Fire Company – Helt states that the Board met last week with representatives of Clover Fire Company at their request because they would like to join with Minersville Fire & Rescue. In addition, the Board met last evening with representatives of all (3) fire companies because Forestville and South Cass requested a meeting. At this time, Forestville and South Cass have asked if the Township could wait on a decision so we are going to table this until we can hopefully get all the fire companies together to discuss what is going on. Helt calls for a motion. Brennan makes the motion. Califf seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. *Helt adds that Minersville Fire & Rescue was also in attendance at last evening’s meeting with the fire companies.*

Treasurer’s Reports: Helt states that the public summary and the list of transactions for the months of March and April 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. Califf 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. Califf 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 calls for a motion to accept it as printed. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Correspondence – The Solicitor thanks Evelyn for providing him with the information relating to the Tweedsville properties – he will be forwarding it to the appraiser.

Old / New Business:

Supervisor Brennan states that he would like to take action to remove Mike Kulpcavage from the Vacancy Board – and fill the vacancy by appointing Chris Ternowchek. Helt asks Chris if she is agreeable – she responds that she is - but asks if she has to resign from the Appeals Board. There was a discussion as to whether or not the appointment is a conflict. The Solicitor states that to be safe, she should resign from the Appeals Board to accept the Vacancy Board appointment – he will then research to confirm – and if it's not a conflict, the Board can appoint her back onto the Appeals Board next month. Helt calls for a motion. Califf makes the motion. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Brennan – aye. Califf – aye.

Motion to Adjourn: With no further business, 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: 7:52 pm*

*ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Vice-Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:52 pm*