



Cass Township Board of Supervisors

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Typed: July 28th, 2021

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

Present at the meeting were: Keith McCarthy, Mike Sorokach, Antoinette Purcell, Ann Marie Studlack, Frank Angelo, Dennis Evangelista, Chris Ternowchek, James Wentz, and Ron Bowers.

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.

Attorney Sean W. Logsdon, Solicitor – present.

Gerard E. Daley, Chief - CTPD – present.

Chairperson Helt states that the minutes from the May 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.

Keith McCarthy, High Road – Presents a Release from his Attorney that relieves the Township of any liability for placing the concrete blocks near his home. He explains that there are blocks also on County property and he wants to know if the Township should remove them or leave them. Road Master Brennan responds that they will be left where they are because the County gave the Township permission to place them on their property. Keith also gives permission to emergency responders (fire companies, etc.) to enter and cross his property to get to CEF property if it is necessary.

Mike Sorokach, Owl Road – Congratulates Elvin Brennan on his win in the primary election. He states that there has been a lot of talk about Supervisor Califf resigning because he will be moving out of the Township. Mike states that he ran in the election and if Califf does happen

to resign and there is a vacancy on the Board, he still has interest in the position and would like to be considered as a candidate to fill the vacancy.

Frank Angelo, High Road - Asks for an update on cable/internet situation. Helt explains that the company representative that we have been speaking with states that there will be vehicles in the area counting homes and gathering information. She states that it's moving slowly - but in the right direction.

Dennis Evangelista, Primrose – States that he is an active member of FRO (Famous Reading Off Road) and his observation is that he sees hundreds to people every weekend when he's out riding and he feels that the Park is a good thing for the Township. He states that he sees many people at that 901 Pub – and people from all over (New Jersey, New York, Maryland, etc.) bringing \$60-\$70-\$100,000 investments in toys into the area to bring their families – they were helmets and do everything right. Since COVID, outdoor activities have increased and people are spending a lot of money and looking for a place to ride. He also sees many people at Home Depot, Tractor Supply, Taco Bell, Vito's, etc. – all the people that come here to ride are patronizing these places of business. Dennis states that he sees a lot of kids from our own communities that ride – they take ownership to ride dirt bikes and there is a level of confidence that these kids have when they are out riding. Mike Sorokach states that he used to live in the Heckscherville Valley – and he still drives through there often and he used to ride as well – but the outsiders that come here think that the locals are scumbags and have no respect for us. Riders stop traffic to cross on the State Highway – but when he used to ride, he would wait for traffic to pass before crossing roadways. He states that he pays for his license and tags and all that is necessary to drive his vehicle on the roads and shouldn't have to be stopped by ATV's – he states that he also has seen them driving on Valley Road. Mikes states that he knows local people that used to ride but don't any longer because of all the people coming in from New York, New Jersey and everywhere else – and what about those riders that travel the road in the middle of the night - the residents who don't even ride have to listen to that noise. This discussion begins to turn heated. Chairperson Helt intervenes. Chief Daley addresses Mr. Evangelista and states that we aren't going to have a meeting like last months – he states that he sees both sides of it – he rides as well - but the reason the residents get so angry about the Park is because there is nothing in Cass Township to patronize – so all we get as residents is the headache. The riders coming here aren't helping any businesses in Cass Township because there are no businesses here to help. Dennis states that his point is, if we are going to devote all of our energy, we should not assume that it's all people from out of the area. This discussion continues. Chief Daley states that the Township representatives have met with Brian (Rich Jr.) and there will most likely be more meetings with him in the future because he knows there are issues and he is trying to work with us to resolve some of those issues. Chairperson Helt states that when she spoke with Brian, he spoke about bringing revenue in and she explained that Cass Township benefits in no way from FRO – because we have no businesses in Cass Township – no gas stations, no restaurants, etc. – but she gets it – Foster Township has the 901 Pub which is great for the owner that his business is booming – but we

also need to realize that the people who live in the Valley are getting hammered with ATV traffic out there – riding the roads at 3am in the morning. Dennis argues that if the data was collected, you will find that it's the local people that have been riding here for years. He goes on to explain that maybe the Park doesn't benefit the Township, but it benefits the area so why can't we figure it out. Brenda replies that we are figuring it out – if Dennis would listen to what we have said, we have had meetings and discussions with Brian Rich Jr. Dennis mentions asking Brian for discounted rates for residents. Brenda states that it was discussed with Brian and he is supposed to be getting back to us; it's not going to solve the issues, but we have asked. Chief Daley states that the Park is going to continue – it's Rich's property – the Township isn't going to stop it – but we will continue to meet with him to explain issues as they arise and try to remedy them as we go. Mike Sorokach adds that Dennis keeps saying how great the Park is for this area – but the bottom line is, it's not great for everybody – it's great for Brian Rich and the businesses that make money from it, but it doesn't benefit Cass Township nor the locals that have to listen to it and put up with it. Chief Daley states that is the reason why we have met with Brian – he wants to help deter the problems. Brenda states the reason she asked Brian to consider discounted passes for Cass Township residents only - is because we do not benefit in any way from his business. This extremely lengthy discussion continued.

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

Annual Donation – Fireworks – Helt states that the Board would like to make a \$100 donation to Minersville Lions for the fireworks display. Helt makes the motion. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Resolution – Street Light Conversion – Attorney Logsdon reads the Resolution. Helt made the motion to approve the Resolution. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

*Open Bids – Demolition & Clean-up Project – 506 Tunnel Road -
Attorney Logsdon opens and reads the bids. Affordable Construction & Demolition, LLC - \$16,400.00. MEI Demo & Excavation, Inc. - \$18,000.00. Bowers Trucking, Inc. - \$29,400.00. Helt makes the motion to award the project to Affordable Construction & Demolition, LLC for \$16,400.00. 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 May 2021 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 –

Road Project - Helt states that Elvin provided ARRO with a list of roads (Owl Lane, Lilly Lane, Maple Avenue, Green Avenue, Shady Lane, Tunnel Road, White Lane, and Birch Lane). Helt makes a motion to authorize ARRO Consulting, Inc. to provide cost estimates for overlay vs. tar and chip on these roads - and to place the project out for bid once decided. This will be discussed by the Board members at next month's meeting. Helt also states that we did get a cost estimate from ARRO for Woodside Road and it's approximately \$285,000 – so the Board will work it into the Budget for next year to get it done. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Police Report: Chief Daley asks for a motion to hire (2) part-time police officers – Daniel Sensi and Justin Ruhl. Brennan makes the motion to hire both officers. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Chief 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 makes a motion to accept it as printed. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Correspondence – Nothing to report.

Old / New Business:

Helt states that the Board met with Brian Rich Jr. – he is aware of the issues we are having with the park – he witnessed it first-hand while he was in Chief Daley's yard and he wants to help. She states that we are hiring new police officers to work – and if officers do not want to work, we will be replacing them with ones that will. With that being said, Famous Reading Outdoors (FRO) has donated \$10,000 to the Township for our police to tend to the problem areas within Cass Township. After much discussion at one of the meetings, the Solicitor suggested that we increase our hourly rate for police officers – so it was decided the new rate will be \$22.00 for patrolman and \$23.00 for Chief Daley. After a very lengthy discussion, Helt makes a motion to approve the new hourly rates for police officers effective July 1st, 2021. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Helt states that the Board has decided to decline FRO's offer of an UTV at this time. Ron Bowers – asks why the Township didn't accept the UTV and donate it to one of the fire companies. Helt replies that the fire companies have their own – and the UTV was specifically for the police department only. This discussion continues.



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Attorney Logsdon gives updates for the Tweedsville properties and Thomaston Road.

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: 7:33 pm

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

TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:33 pm

Chairperson/Asst. Treasurer
BRENDA M. HELT

Vice-Chairperson/Road Foreman
ELVIN E. BRENNAN JR.

Asst. Road Foreman/Asst. Secretary
DAVID W. CALIFF

Secretary-Treasurer/Manager
EVELYN J. BERGAN