



Cass Township Board of Supervisors

1209 Valley Road, Pottsville, PA 17901

Telephone: 570.544.5370

Fax: 570.544.3158

www.casstownship.org

E-mail: supervisors@casstownship.org

Typed: July 28th, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, July 28th, 2021 at 6:30pm at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Mary Lou Bergan, Mike Sorokach, Chris Ternowchek, Mike Ondisco, Antoinette Purcell, Frank Angelo, and Andy Studlack Jr.

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 June 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.

Mike Sorokach, Owl Road – Asks if the Board made a decision about the road project. Road Master Brennan states that it is out for bid. The bids will be received for the next meeting – and awarded then. Brenda explains that we are getting estimates for overlay due to time constraints.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – lets Chief Daley know that she sees the new cop driving around and near her residence – and states that he's doing a good job. Daley replies that he (Officer Daniel Sensi) was a good hire and he's working out really well. Chris asks if Daley got the lines painted on Schaeffer Hill and Low Road yet. Daley asks Elvin if he can have the Road Department paint them where they were located previously. Elvin agrees.

Mike Sorokach, Oak Lane – States that he stopped near Pine Knot to chat with a PennDOT employee when they were tar and chipping Valley Road – and the vehicles were really moving on Valley Road. He asks if the police could sit along the roadway to monitor speeding - show some presence to slow drivers down. Daley states that he is aware of this issue – and after the tar & chip settles and gets packed down, he will request the lines be re-painted. Mike states that if the police sit in the row of vehicles, nobody would be able to see the police vehicle. Daley states that they used to do that years ago – he doesn't know they stopped – but they used to paint lines there and run speed – they'll get back to doing that again. Mike states that a lot of the traffic isn't even local people – they are from out of town. This led into a discussion relating to the recent accident where a driver drove into a bridge located on Valley Road in Coal Castle.

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

Broadband Funding - Chairperson Helt states that there was phone conference with Comcast earlier this week – she was at work and could not take the call - but Evelyn and the Solicitor were both on the call. She asks Attorney Karpowich to explain what was discussed. He states that basically we will be applying for a grant with Comcast to try and obtain funding for broadband coverage throughout the Township – so the purpose of the call was to work out some of the necessary details. He adds that it doesn't appear to look like Foster Township wants to be a part of it – so at this point, it will only be Cass and Reilly Townships. Reilly has some concerns as well – but right now, all we are concerned about is trying to get the grant funding so it doesn't cost the residents of the Township anything for installation of service. Brenda states that she reached out to Foster and Reilly to join us – but if they don't want to, we will continue on with this by ourselves. She hopes they join because she is assuming their residents want better internet too – but we are really only concerned about Cass Township so we will move forward with or without them. This lengthy discussion continued between the Board members and several residents. Helt makes a motion to apply for grant funding for broadband. 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 June 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 –

Noble Equities, LLC – Helt explains that a preliminary/final land development plan was submitted for a new building on the parcel next to St. Nick's Hall. The Solicitor explains the waivers recommended by the Planning Commission at their June 2021 meeting. Helt makes a

motion to grant the waivers – and also – grant conditional preliminary/final approval– as per the recommendations of the Planning Commission and ARRO Consulting, Inc. (in their Project Summary Report for July 2021). Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Minersville Water Authority – The Solicitor explains that the Water Authority wants to do some road cuts based on work that needs to be done relating to their waterlines. The contractor will be Doli Construction. He explains the issues - and discusses them with Shannon Darker of ARRO Consulting, Inc. He then recommends the BOS make a motion for the recommendations of the Township Engineer – and the Township’s Ordinance - be followed as was discussed this evening. Helt makes the motion. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Shannon will relay this information to the Water Authority’s engineer.

Police Report: Chief Daley reads the police report. Helt states that she would like to make a comment that she has been hearing good things about the new hire (Officer Sensi) – he is out patrolling and showing up for all his shifts – so he is working out well. Helt makes a motion to accept the report as read. 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.

The Solicitor states that he was asked to contact PennDOT/Liquid Fuels about dirt roads/alleys. After a lengthy explanation, it was determined that none of the roads/alleys would be eligible to be added to the LF’s list – unless we obtained land from the property owners to ensure a right-of-way. Brenda states that residents are not going to do that – and she doesn’t blame them. Elvin explains the reason this was brought up is because there are several dirt roads in the Township and people want them paved. This discussion continued.

Correspondence – Nothing to report.

Old / New Business:

Agreement – Reading Anthracite Company – Thomaston Road – The Solicitor explains that he drafted an Agreement regarding the crossing at Thomaston Road – so if they damage it, they have to fix it. The Solicitor asks for a motion to approve the Road Use Agreement contingent upon RAC paying the permit fee. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

PPL – Pole on Oak Lane – The Solicitor states there were (2) poles which was replaced with (1) pole that is closer to the road and the concrete base is almost into the road with a stop sign to the left of the pole. The people back there all use the road to access their properties so we were in touch with PPL – because in the Second Class Township Code, it states fines, etc. could be issued for nuisance obstruction of our right-of-way. The next step would be hire a surveyor to confirm the construction/pole is in the Township’s right-of-way. Elvin and the Solicitor explain discussions they had with PPL representatives. Attorney Karpowich states that the pole is a hazard – but before we hire a surveyor, he recommends that we wait to see what PPL provides us. This discussion continued.

Demolition Bid – Yurkonis/Tunnel Road Property – The Solicitor states that he has issued the Notice to Proceed and recommends the BOS ratify the motion. Helt makes a motion. Brennan seconds. Motion Passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Attorney Karpowich - addressing Chief Daley - states that while the contractor is there on site, it is an active work zone – so no one is permitted on the property.

Chris Ternowchek asks if the contractor is required to provide landfill slips. Brenda states that ARRO will be out there inspecting the work so they can make sure things are done properly. She states that this was a very long process; she feels bad for the neighbors, but the Township now owns it – and when it’s cleaned up, we will put it out for bid and sell it.

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: 7:18 pm*

*ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Vice-Chairperson
TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:18 pm*