

Typed: July 26th, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, June 29th, 2022 at 7:30pm at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: John Kellman Jr., Frank Angelo, John Kalovcak, Donna Kalovcak, Michael Kulpcavage, Andy Studlack, Antoinette Purcell, Ann Marie Studlack, Barry Smith, Christine Celani, Robert Celani, and Brenda Williams.

Brenda Helt calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of the Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:

Helt welcomes newly appointed Supervisor Mike Sorokach to the Board.

Michael Sorokach III – present.

Brenda M. Helt – present.

Elvin E. Brennan Jr. – present.

Other attendance/attendees:

Mark Semanchik, Solicitor – present.

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Gerard E. Daley, Chief – CTPD – present.

Chairperson Helt states that the minutes from the May 2022 BOS meeting have been placed at each seat. She calls for a motion to accept the minutes if there are no corrections or omissions. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Helt opens the meeting for public comment.

John Kalovcak, Maple Avenue – Has questions for Road Master Brennan about repairing the potholes on Low Road and cutting trees. He also suggests getting the prisoners to help complete work. Brennan states that the road crew will address the potholes on Low Road. Helt states that the Board will look into utilizing the prisoners to do work. John then asks Brennan where the backhoe was on June 8th, 9th, and 10th. Brennan states he doesn't know – he was at work. Kalovcak states that he should know where his guys are on those dates. John provided typed documents to Sorokach and asks him to review them. Brennan instructs John to be here at the building the next morning – he will meet him here and will show John the book where the information is kept that will answer his questions. This discussion continued.

Barbara Barone, Valley Road – Had a very lengthy complaint about a code enforcement issue relating to a property next to her residence that she reported several weeks ago by completing and submitting a form; calling the Township office; as well as, speaking to the code enforcement officer several times – but the problems on the property still have not been addressed by the owner; she states the property is in awful condition (high grass/weeds, rodents, ground hogs, snakes, etc.). She is very concerned about animals on the property carrying rabies. Helt explains that code enforcement is a lengthy and costly process to get some owners to do what is required. After a long discussion, Chairperson Helt states that she will speak to Shannon Darker (Code Enforcement Officer). Solicitor Semanchik offers to get involved to see if he can move things along. This discussion continued.

Mary Beth Haney, W. Elk Lane – Had complaints about a newer neighbor who has lived there about a year who owns farm animals – there are ducks and chickens. Her specific complaint is that there is a rooster who makes noise day and night. She also states that this neighbor also thinks it's fine to have bonfires at 2am and plays music while others are trying to sleep. Her sons work and go to school; her husband is ill and had surgery – her family cannot sleep at night because of the noise. She states that she called the police three times – but local police were not on duty and State police won't show up for a noise complaint – but something has to be done; it has to stop. Mary Beth states that she has completed a complaint form and submitted it to the Township. Chief Daley states that he will look into it to see what can be done. This discussion continued.

Frank Angelo, High Road – Follows up with Chief Daley regarding the traffic problems caused by Helping Harvest food program stating that there are still issues. Daley states that he called them and received no return call. Antoinette Purcell states that the school is moving it to the high school. There were also complaints about the guy who regularly drives his golf cart on the roadways.

Residents of Thomaston Road – Brenda Williams, and Robert & Christine Celani addressed the Board with many complaints relating to issues that occur on Thomaston Road due to the mining operation and ATV park (Famous Reading Outdoors) both owned and operated by Reading Anthracite Company. Some of the complaints are of tractor trailers using the residential road that are traveling at a high rate of speed; the air quality and dirt on vehicles, homes, properties from the dust created by the trucks and street sweepers; the vehicles from the ATV park are using the roadway and tearing up the baseball field; riders are urinating off the bridge and bathing in the water, doing spins and throwing mud and rocks on the resident's vehicles that were parked; and a large group of riders were congregating on the roadway, etc. Daley states that he sat out there and had other officers sit there as well for a week straight and only had some very minor issues with riders. He states that he also had a conversation with Brian Rich and asked him to have the park security guys patrol more often as well. This very lengthy discussion continued. Chairperson Helt states that the Board will schedule a

meeting with RAC/FRO - Brian Rich to discuss the issues. Chief Daley states that he will contact RAC/FRO and discuss the issues tomorrow morning.

Brenda Williams then went on to make complaints about 16 Thomaston Road – the grass/weeds are high; there are raccoons, rats, snakes, as well as, garbage all over the place, etc. Robert Celani states there are structural issues with the residence as well. Helt states that this information will be provided to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Barry Smith, 26 Thomaston Road – has complaints about the recent mining operation is the blasting; it is causing damage to his home and property. He also finds it odd that they are permitted to blast at 3am. This discussion continued.

Donna Kalovcak, Maple Ave – asked to have 43 South Maple added to the list of complaints – stating that their yard is a mess; they have small children; they have chickens that are now in Kalovcak’s yard, etc.

St. Nick’s Picnic – Helt reads the announcement with dates & times of this year’s picnic.

Hearing no further comments, Helt closes the public discussion and moves on to the agenda items.

Supervisor – Order of Court - On June 1st, 2022, Judge Hale appointed Michael Sorokach III to finish out the vacancy until the next election. Helt makes a motion to accept the court order. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Resignation – PC Member - Mike Sorokach submitted a letter of resignation from the Planning Commission. Helt makes a motion to accept the resignation. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Resignation – Appeals Board Member - Mike Sorokach submitted a letter of resignation from the Appeals Board. Helt makes a motion to accept the resignation. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Vacancies – Helt states that there are now vacancies on both boards, if anyone is interested, please inform the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Title – Helt makes a motion to appoint Michael Sorokach as Assistant Secretary. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Signature Cards – Banks - Helt makes a motion to add Michael Sorokach to the signature cards for Mid Penn and Gratz banks. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Mileage Increase – IRS - The IRS has increased the mileage rate for the 2nd half of 2022 to 62.5 cents per mile. Helt makes a motion to accept the new rate. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Berkheimer Extension – AMT - The Solicitor explains the extension/dates and provides his recommendation. Helt makes a motion to approve. Brennan and Sorokach both second. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Treasurer’s Reports – There is a public summary and a list of transactions for the month of May 2022 at each seat. Helt makes a motion to accept both reports – and to pay all outstanding bills that can be paid at this time. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Planning Commission/Engineer’s Report – Helt states that the report is available to anyone wishing to review it. She makes a motion to accept ARRO’s report. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Police Report – Chief Daley read the police report. He states that he would like to give an update on the vandalism done to St. Kieran’s Church and buildings – the juveniles charged has increased to eight. Helt makes a motion to accept the report as read. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Road Foreman’s Report - Helt states that there is a copy of the report at each seat. She calls for a motion to accept the report as printed. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Correspondence:

America250 Resolution – Solicitor Semanchik explained that the Township received a notification from PSATS – they are asking that Cass Township join with all other Townships in the State of Pennsylvania to participate and support the efforts by Governor Wolf with regard to America250. The Solicitor presents to the Board a resolution that PSATS is asking to be adopted this evening. Helt makes a motion to adopt the resolution. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Executive Session - Solicitor Semanchik states that he would like the minutes to reflect that he met with the Board members for (2) executive sessions – the first was on Monday, June 13th, 2022 and the second was prior to tonight’s meeting – during which they discussed several property issues, contract issues, and a legal matter.

Old/New Business: Nothing more to discuss.

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: 8:41pm.

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

TIME MEETING ENDED: 8:41pm.