

Typed: April 26th, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Wednesday, March 30th, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Joyce Cutler, Michael Kulpcavage, John Kalovcak, Frank Angelo, Mike Sorokach, Mary Lou Bergan, Mike Ondisco, Kelsie Fiscus, Ann Marie Studlack, Antoinette Purcell, Andy Studlack, Alicia Tobin, and Dave Schultz.

Brenda Helt calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of the Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:

Brenda M. Helt – present.

Elvin E. Brennan Jr. – present.

Other attendance/attendees:

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Gerard E. Daley, Chief – CTPD – present.

Chairperson Helt states that the minutes from the February 2022 BOS meeting have been placed at each seat. Helt makes a motion to accept 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.

Joyce Culter, Oak Lane – Inquired about the status of replacement of a 3rd Supervisor and asks how many letters of interest were received. Helt explains that the Solicitor has resigned and the Board will be hiring a new one at this evening's meeting – from there, we will petition the Court. There were (4) letters of interest submitted: Mike Sorokach, Mike Ondisco, Dave Schultz Jr., and Ron Bowers. Joyce states that the Supervisors need to work together and agree on things. You can't run a Township if you don't.

Joyce Cutler, Oak Lane – Asks Elvin if he checked the road. Elvin replies that he and the DPW employees measured the holes that are driven on and none of them are deeper than 1.5 inches. It will be fixed, but we are waiting to the plants to open for hot patch.

Mike Sorokach, Owl Road – States that he sees the new truck arrived and asks if the logos will be placed on it soon. Elvin replies yes, it will look like the other vehicles.

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

Executive Sessions – Helt states that she and Elvin met for executive sessions on 03/10; 03/14; and 03/24 (2022) to discuss personnel issues and to interview for a Solicitor. Helt makes a motion to accept the executive sessions. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Resignation – Solicitor – Helt explains that we received a resignation letter from Donald Karpowich effective March 2nd (2022); he will no longer serve as Solicitor; however, he has agreed to finish some of the items that he started – but if he doesn't complete those items in a timely manner, everything will be handed over to the new Solicitor. Helt makes a motion to accept the resignation of Donald Karpowich. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Appointment – Solicitor – Helt explains that the BOS has chosen Mark Semanchik (Frackville) as the new Solicitor. He has extensive experience working with municipalities. He will be charging a \$300 retainer fee per month and \$95 per hour for additional tasks. The retainer fee includes attendance at our meetings, emails, and phone calls. Helt makes a motion to welcome Mark Semanchik on as our new Solicitor. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Termination – DPW Employee – Helt states that Board had to leave one of our DPW employees go (Derek Kreider) effective March 14th, 2022. Helt makes a motion to accept this termination. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Raise – DPW Employee - Helt states that the BOS missed Cory Kostura's 90-day raise – so they will retro pay back (\$.50 raise) to 01/01/2022. Helt makes a motion. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Re-hiring – DPW – Summer Help & Hourly Rate - Helt states that (2) of our summer workers have applied to return this year. Helt makes a motion to re-hire Aidan Heffron and Evan Motley at an hourly rate of \$11.00 per hour. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Request – Minersville Little League - Helt explains that we received a letter from Minersville Little League with their annual request for use of the field. She makes a motion to approve the request. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Request – Election Bureau - Helt explains that we received a request from the Election Bureau to hold elections here at the Township building - because they received notification from Clover Fire Company informing the Bureau that they will no longer hold elections at the fire company. Helt explains several reasons (liability, etc.) why the Board members feel they should not approve this request. Helt makes a motion to deny Election Bureau's request. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Auto Loan - \$38,319.00 – Mid Penn Bank - Helt makes a motion to approve the auto loan as discussed (DPW Truck). Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Loan Documents – Authorize Road Master to sign – Helt makes a motion to authorize Elvin Brennan to sign the documents for the truck loan (DPW). Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Tax Claim Bureau – 12 Spruce Lane – Helt states that the Board has been asked to approve or disapprove the sale of structure on this parcel (05-05-0069.001). She explains that prior to receiving this paperwork from Tax Claim, another person had obtained a permit to demolish the structure – so the Board will disapprove the sale. Helt makes the motion. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Treasurer's Reports – There is a public summary and a list of transactions for the month of February 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. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Planning Commission/Engineer's Report –

Woodside Road - Helt explains that this is going to be a very expensive project – the Board will try to get as much of it done as possible even if they have to piece it out. There was core drilling done and in some parts of the road, there was no macadam at all. We are currently waiting for Diane Lenick to complete the survey which will tell us how much of the sides of the road the Township owns. This leads to a discussion about installation of pipes and basins for storm water.

Noble Equities - The NPDES approval for Noble Equities LLC project was received on January 11th, 2022. No additional plans or information was received from the developer. Tree clearing has been reported. Helt explains that someone reported that Quandel is clearing trees on their property – which is permitted – but nothing more has been done to date – their plans aren't even completed yet. There are still modifications that need to be addressed.

Helt makes a motion to accept ARRO's report. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Comcast - Helt states that funding was awarded in the amount 1.7 million for the installation of broadband. In speaking with Jenn Frees of Comcast, there are a few things that need to be worked out – but we are moving forward with the project after working on it for (2) years.

Police Report – Chief Daley addresses the Board asking to hire (2) additional part-time police officers. Joseph Ferraro and his son, Joseph Ferraro – both are officers of the Port Carbon Police Department. The Township has recently lost (2) officers; then (1) resigned; and another isn't working as much because he started full time employment – so a total of (4). Helt makes a motion to hire the (2) part-time officers at the recommendation of Chief Daley. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Daley read the police report. Helt makes a motion to accept the report as read. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Road Foreman's Report - Helt calls for a motion to accept the report as printed. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Correspondence: None.

Old/New Business:

Minersville Borough – DCED Study – Regionalizing Police Services - Helt explains that representatives of Minersville Borough reached out to Cass Township Supervisors asking if we would agree to participate in a study done by DCED to determine what the cost would be to regionalize (Minersville PD and CTPD) police services. Brenda spoke to Mike Carpenter of DCED and he assured her that the Township would have no obligation and/or commitment to merge with Minersville if the BOS agreed to the study. This very lengthy discussion continued. Helt makes a motion to provide DCED with a letter of intent agreeing to participate in their study. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

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: 7:25pm.

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

TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:25pm.