

Typed: August 31st, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of Cass Township held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, July 27th, 2023 at 7pm at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: John Kalovcak, Frank Angelo, Donna Kalovcak, Mike Kulpcavage, David J. Charowsky, John Kellman Jr., Antoinette Purcell, Brian Mull, and Jeremy Slifko.

Brenda Helt calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:

Michael Sorokach III – present.

Brenda M. Helt – present.

Elvin E. Brennan Jr. – absent.

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 June 2023 BOS meeting have been placed at each seat. She calls for a motion to approve the minutes if there are no corrections or omissions. Sorokach makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Helt opens the meeting for public comment.

John Kalovcak, 63 S. Maple Ave. – Asks for an update regarding research of the Driveway Ordinance. Solicitor Semanchik states that he has reviewed the ordinances and as he suspected, there is an ordinance with requirements for driveways as they tie into Township roads. This is the ordinance that he believes John had to comply with years ago when installing his driveway. The Solicitor has discussed this issue with our Code Enforcement Officer and he will utilize it to monitor other situations here in the Township. John then states that the Township installed a swale at Dave Schultz's residence on High Road – and asks about the Township's ROW from the center of the road. He is asking for clarification as it relates to his complaint of the water that gathers in front of his mailbox which Elvin states is not the Township's responsibility. This discussion continued. Supervisor Sorokach states that

he will check on it. Both Supervisors Helt and Sorokach state that neither of them knew anything about the installation of a swale at Schultz's.

David Charowsky, 24 Oak Lane – Had several complaints regarding the actions of an individual who he claims is a squatter that resides in a trailer owned by Michael Gula. The guy claims to be Gula's night watchman. Chief Daley states that he will check into it. Supervisor Helt states that we have had complaints in the past about someone living in a camper behind Gula's garage (Valley Road). One of our officers checked into it and said no one was living there, but regardless, Chief Daley and Nick Hazlett will both check into it.

Brian Mull, 11 Mountain Road – Asks if prior code enforcement complaints have been forwarded to the new CEO. Helt responds that they have been provided to Nick. Mull states that he has not seen the new CEO in his driveway at all. Mull reported (to ARRO) the property of 8 Mountain Road – there is no water, no sewer; there are animals/rodents; vehicles parked on the property, etc. – it's an ongoing issue. There is a discussion explaining why it may not be on the current list. The Solicitor asks the CEO to address this asap.

Jeremy Slifko, 67 S. Maple Ave. – Had a complaint about dirt that has built up around a fire hydrant located at High Road and Elk Lane. Chief Daley contacted Junior Troutman of Minersville Water Authority; and it will be checked tomorrow. This led to a conversation regarding fittings for fire hydrants. Brian Mull states there are different fittings for hydrants so the fire companies purchase their own. This discussion continued.

Frank Angelo, 173 High Road – Inquires about what Chief Daley thinks of regionalizing police departments. Daley states that he is currently doing a regional study at his full-time employment so he will have a response to that question in a few weeks. He states that he is personally for it – and feels that it will eventually come to regionalizing because no one wants to do the job any longer – hiring officers is a problem everywhere. This discussion continued.

John Kalovecak, 63 S. Maple Ave. – Had several complaints about how officers patrol the Township; vehicles speeding on High Road; presence of officers sitting at certain areas to deter activity, code enforcement issues, illegal dumping at the recycling center, etc.

Antoinette Purcell, 144 High Road – Had complaints about tractor trailers traveling on Maple Avenue due to GPS issues. She also has complaints about traffic speeding on High Road, code enforcement issues and vehicle violations relating to 140 High Road, etc. Chief Daley will have lines painted for running speed and will check into the vehicle issues. Nick Hazlett will investigate the code issues.

This leads to complaints about school starting and the high school kids speeding on High and Low Roads; not obeying stop signs/traffic devices, etc.

Jeremy Slifko, 67 S. Maple Ave. – Had several complaints and comments for Chief Daley regarding how he believes the police department should operate.

Hearing no further comments, Helt moves on to the Agenda items:

Woodside Road Project – Update – Supervisor Sorokach provides an update. Weather permitting, the start date will be August 7th or 8th. It should be completed within a week. Residents in the area will be notified. The road will be closed when construction is taking place but will be re-opened for use in the evenings. He states that next on the list, we will be obtaining an estimate for the paving of Schaeffer Hill Road.

Hiring – Police Officers – Chief Daley states that he advertised to hire additional part-time police officers but received no applications. This leads into a discussion about hiring full-time officers, the cost of full-time officers, raising taxes to hire full-time police officers, joining with Minersville PD, etc.

Schuylkill County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Helt makes a motion to authorize Solicitor Semanchik to draft a letter of interest. Sorokach 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 June 2023 at each seat. Helt makes a motion to accept both reports as they are printed – 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 –

** No report.*

Police Report – Chief Daley reads the report. Helt makes the motion to approve the report as read. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Daley asks for a motion to approve his request to purchase a radio for the SUV. Sorokach makes a motion to approve the radio purchase. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Daley asks for a motion to approve his request to purchase an upgraded reporting system (In-Synch Systems, LLC). Sorokach makes a motion to approve the purchase. Helt 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 makes a motion to accept the report as printed. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Code Enforcement Report – CEO Nick Hazlett reads his report. Helt makes a motion to approve the report. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Correspondence:

Donation - Famous Reading Outdoors (FRO) - Helt states that during a conversation with a Reading Anthracite Company / FRO representative about their leased properties, she mentioned that Brian Rich Jr. had donated \$10,000 for the past (2) years. Helt states that RAC/FRO was not aware of the donations, however, she was told that FRO will continue what Brian started – so another \$10,000 donation was received this year – and annual donations will continue in the future.

Old/New Business:

Executive Session - Solicitor Semanchick states that he met with the BOS in executive session prior to this meeting; it started at 6pm – during which they discussed property issues, code enforcement issues, and litigation.

Motion to Adjourn: With no further business, Helt makes a motion to adjourn. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Meeting Adjourned.

ATTEST: Brenda M. Helt, Chairperson

TIME MEETING ENDED: 8:21pm.

ATTEST: Michael Sorokach III, Supervisor

TIME MEETING ENDED: 8:21pm.