

*Typed: September 27, 2023*

*08/31/2023 at 6:50pm, a public hearing was held prior to the regular monthly meeting.*

*- Malwa Ventures, LLC – Transfer of Liquor License*

*The Board of Supervisors of Cass Township held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, August 31st, 2023 at 7pm at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.*

*Present at the meeting were: Jeff Byard – Malwa Ventures, LLC, Jessica Pleskach, Esq. – Attorney for Malwa Ventures, LLC, Michael Kulpcavage, Lawrence M. Martin Jr., Donna Rae Purcell, John Kellman, Ann Marie Studlack, Chris Ternowchek, Brian Mull, Judy Mull, Donna Kalovcak, John Kalovcak, Rick and Barb Pielacha, Ken Koscil, Andy Studlack, and Antoinette Purcell.*

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

*Helt opens the meeting for public comment.*

*John Kalovcak, 63 S. Maple Ave. – He states that he would like to thank Mike, Brenda, and the road crew for fixing the road where the water problem was located - "Thank you very much".*

*Donna Purcell, Willow Lane – Asks if there are any updates on the land issue at her residence. Supervisor Sorokach states that he wanted to bring it up during executive session this evening; however, there was too much to get through, he didn't get a chance – but they will discuss it next month and will have an update for her.*

*Chris Ternowcheck, 14 Flag Lane – Had complaints about potholes on Low Road; the area of road at Quandel Concrete/Schaeffer's Hill Rd; and she once again has complaints about the ongoing water issues at her residence that she claims was created by the Township. Helt states that Elvin looked at it and offered to install a swale, but Chris doesn't want one. Chris states that Dinich's didn't want a swale – but it needs to be piped to be resolved the right way. Sorokach instructs Chris to take pictures the next time there's a heavy rain – and in addition to that, he will meet with her there so she can show him the problems.*

*Barb Pielacha, Forest Lane – Questions Chief Daley about an incident that occurred on Saturday evening on Forest Lane involving EMS who later visited their home and were asking questions about her iphone. Evelyn and Chief Daley explained what had occurred.*

*Rick Pielacha, Forest Lane – Had additional complaints about the property next to him that is owned by a coal company stating that it's a mess – no one takes care of it – and there's an ordinance that states residents have to take care of their properties. Solicitor Semanchik states that it's on the list for our code enforcement officer – details can be provided to him after the meeting.*

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

*Woodside Road Project – Update – Supervisor Sorokach provides an update – stating that the crews will return tomorrow to back up the shoulders of the road on the right side going down. Next Wednesday, there will be a final meeting to discuss any issues that may need to be addressed. He states that he was on site every day checking on progress. He publicly thanks Carl Neidlinger for allowing the contractor to dump dirt and debris on his property which helped speed up the process because the trucks didn't have to travel far from the job. There will also be an additional 25 MPH speed limit sign placed going down Woodside Road now that the paving is complete.*

*Schaeffer Hill Road Project – Helt makes a motion to authorize Benesch to prepare and be ready to advertise for bids with a return date on or before the September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting. 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 July 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 –*

*\*Quandel Concrete Plant Rebuild Project – Helt makes a motion to approve the waivers for the LD of the Quandel Concrete Plant as was recommended by our Planning Commission and Engineers. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Police Report* – Chief Daley reads the report. Helt makes the motion to accept the report as read. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

*Daley asks if Mountain Road is a private road or a Township road – because he would like to paint lines. Brian Mull responds that Mountain Road is his driveway – and he gives permission to the Township/Police to paint speed lines there. Daley states that he will type something up and have Mull sign it as verification.*

*Chief Daley provides an update to Antoinette Purcell and John Kalovcak regarding their complaints from last month. John then reports a vehicle with an inspection that ran out and is parked on the street. Daley states he will check it out.*

*Lawrence Martin Jr. – states that he lived there since 1960 and Mountain Road is listed on the deeds as an alleyway – not a driveway.*

*Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – Has complaints for Daley regarding speeding on Schaeffer Hill Road and Low Road – specifically in the mornings (between 7am-8am).*

*Antoinette Purcell, High Road – Has complaints about people parking after school in the area by 5<sup>th</sup> Street that is marked with no parking signage, etc.*

*Road Foreman's Report* – Helt states that there is a copy of the report at each seat. Sorokach adds that next month there will be a more updated report. Helt states that Supervisor Brennan has not been in attendance for (3) consecutive meetings - so due to his work commitments and his inability to perform his duties here at the Township, she makes a motion to temporarily suspend Elvin Brennan from the Road Master position – and assigns it to Mike Sorokach until the Board decides what they will do with it moving forward. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Correspondence:

*2023 Schuylkill County Recycling Event – copies of the notice are available.*

*Understanding the Schuylkill County Reassessment – pamphlets are available.*

Old/New Business:

*Schuylkill County Hazardous Mitigation Plan - The Board took action last month to draft a letter of interest; however, a contact person must be listed. Helt makes a motion to appoint herself as the point of contact person for Cass Township. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Backhoe Purchase - Sorokach explains in detail the many issues that we have been having with the backhoe. Groff Tractor & Equipment (formerly Plasterer) diagnosed some of the problems here on the property, but it then needed to be taken to their place of business to be taken apart to identify any other issues – it was found that it is in need of a transmission – which would be in the range of \$29,936 – along with that, the other repairs were estimated at \$17,264 – plus the roadside service was \$1,000 which brings us to an estimated cost of \$48,200. The Township bought the backhoe in 2011 for \$35,000. Sorokach states that what upsets him the most is that Plasterer used to perform annual maintenance here at the building; however, that has not happened over the past several years – so the problems that were occurring were not caught in time – or they could have been resolved and we may not be at this point right now. Mike Kulpcavage asks if the problems with this machine revert back to the road foreman's laxity. Sorokach states that he feels it is – and first and foremost, you must make sure your employees are operating safe equipment. Sorokach goes on to explain that we are currently renting a used machine from Groff that, if the Township would purchase, came in at a price of \$79,500. A new machine comes in at \$220,817; however, we are eligible for the Pennsylvania Dept of General Services (COSTARS) discount of 35% (\$77,285) which takes the price down to \$143,531; Groff will take off an additional \$10,000 – bringing it to \$135,531 – and they will also be providing us a trade-in value for our machine. To bring the machine back to the property and place it up for auction, we have no idea what we would get for it. The BOS will discuss further, however, at this time, he would like to make a motion to go through COSTARS for explore options to purchase a new backhoe, as well as, look possible funding options whether it be a loan, lease purchase, pay for it outright, etc. His concern is that winter is coming and we need a machine. He wants to be clear that he initially wanted to purchase a skidsteer – and he still does – but that was before this happened with the backhoe. Mike Kulpcavage asks what the rental fee is. Sorokach responds \$2,800 a month, but it's only temporary until we decide on a purchase. John Kalovecak stated that Mike should contact the Road Foreman from Wayne Township regarding machines that they may have for*

*sale. Sorokach states that he'll look into it. He then makes a motion to go through COSTARS and to explore funding options to purchase a backhoe. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Application for Gaming Funds – Helt states that with all of the issues we are having with machinery and the neglect of it, she makes a motion to authorize Benesch to explore and submit an application for gaming funds with the priority being funding for new equipment. Sorokach seconds – and states that this would not be funding for the backhoe – but it would be for future purchases. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.*

*Executive Session – Helt states that there was an executive session prior to this meeting.*

*Follow-up to the Public Hearing - Solicitor Semanchik states that there was public hearing prior to this meeting which started at 6:50pm. It was held for the application to transfer a liquor license from the Borough of Shenandoah to a facility in Highridge Business Park located at 1297 Keystone Blvd. (travel plaza & convenience store). The BOS held the hearing and based on the presentation that was made, Attorney Semanchik's recommendation would be for the Board to consider approving the transfer of the liquor license from Shenandoah to Cass Township and allow for it to be part of the development of Highridge. Helt makes a motion to approve. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Helt gives an overview of the hearing for those residents who were not in attendance and states that the alcohol sales will be carry-out only.*

*Code Enforcement Report – Nick Hazlett reads his report. Helt makes a motion to accept the report as read. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Sorokach states that any residents needing to discuss issues with Nick can stay after the meeting and do so.*

*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: 7:42pm.*

*ATTEST: Michael Sorokach III, Supervisor*

*TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:42pm.*