

Typed: November 29th, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on Thursday, October 26th, 2023 at 7pm at the Township's Municipal Building, Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting were: Frank Angelo, John Kalovcak, Lawrence C. Martin Jr., John Kellman, Judy Mull, Brian Mull, Donna Rae Purcell, Chris Ternowchek, Antoinette Purcell, Ann Marie Studlack, and Charlie Roberts.

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. – present.

Other attendance/attendees:

Mark Semanchik, Solicitor – present.

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Gerard E. Daley, Chief – CTPD – absent.

Chairperson Helt states that the minutes from the September 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. Brennan makes the motion. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Helt opens the meeting for public comment.

Donna Rae Purcell, Willow Lane – Asks for an update regarding the Township property adjacent to her property. Solicitor Semanchik states that after he spoke to her attorney a few months ago, he has not heard anything back. He states that he is exhausted in trying to figure out a way that she can purchase the Township's property that is underneath her garage. Donna asks about a lease. Solicitor Semanchik explains that the lease would not be of any help to Donna since she would not have ownership of the land to sell. Any bank or potential buyer would be looking to buy the garage and the land. This discussion continued. Solicitor Semanchik states that we are waiting to hear from Donna's attorney; there is nothing more he can do to accommodate or recommend to the Board at this time.

Chris Ternowchek, Flag Lane – Stated that last month’s meeting started before 7pm – and states that it’s not permitted – the meeting can start late, but not early. Chairperson Helt apologizes stating that she was not aware they had started early.

Charlie Roberts, Robin Lane – Thanked everyone who was involved with getting internet installed in the Township. Chairperson Helt replies that he is welcome; it was a long road getting to this point – and we still have more work to do.

Brenda Williams, Thomaston Road – states that she is here to speak on behalf of the residents of Thomaston Road regarding the mining and blasting that is being done by Reading Anthracite Company several times a week and in the early morning hours (2:30-3:00AM). She states that their homes have been remodeled and now they are being damaged – walls and foundations are cracking; holes are opening up in their yards; houses are shaking and shifting; the siding, porches, decks, yards, and vehicles are filthy; tree branches are falling on structures, etc. Brenda asks if the Township would organize a meeting for the residents to meet with Reading Anthracite Company representatives. Brenda states that the residents are ready to leave their homes and would like to meet with RAC to discuss it. She also had complaints about riders in the off-road park (Famous Reading Outdoors aka FRO) also owned by Reading Anthracite. Solicitor Semanchik states that because the mining operation is government regulated by DEP, the Township really doesn’t have any enforcement on it. Once they get whatever permits they need from the State, the Township really can’t do anything to resolve these issues; however, he suggests that she/they contact the local DEP office in Pottsville and/or the person who has assumed Donna Kemfort’s role at Reading Anthracite Company. This very lengthy discussion continued.

Chrissy Celani, Thomaston Road – has the same complaints, but added that the RAC workers fly up and down the road when coming and leaving the work site.

Hearing no questions or comments, Helt closes the public discussion and moves on to the Agenda items:

Resignation – Vice-Chairperson: Helt states that Elvin Brennan has submitted his resignation from Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township effective 09/23/23. She makes a motion to accept the resignation. 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 September 2023 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 –

Tyson Foods Truck Trailer Park Expansion Project – Solicitor Semanchik explains that Tyson has submitted all their planning documents for the work. Benesch has reviewed it and everything seems to be in order; Benesch is recommending that the Board conditionally approve the documentation with the only condition being the receipt of an acceptable financial security to cover the project improvements. His recommendation concurs with Benesch's; he asks the Board to take action to conditionally approve. Helt make the motion. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Police Report – Chief Daley is absent this evening; Helt makes a motion to table the report until next month's meeting. Sorokach seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Road Foreman's Report – There is a copy of the report at each seat. Sorokach also gives a verbal overview. The new backhoe was delivered; Matt and Cory were provided training by Groff Tractor & Equipment. He explains that the Township's F-550 dump truck and the Scag mower are both in rough shape. Sorokach makes a motion to explore prices on dump trucks through COSTARS. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Sorokach also makes a motion to explore prices for a replacement Scag mower. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote. Helt makes a motion to accept the RF's Report as read. Brennan seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

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

Correspondence: Nothing.

Old/New Business: Solicitor Semanchik states that there was a court hearing held in front of Judge Hale relating to the properties on Tunnel Road. The outcome was for the most part favorable to the Township, but it doesn't completely resolve the issue. He asks the Board to authorize him to move forward in the Township's efforts to acquire the property, address the delinquent taxes on the property, and prepare to offer it for public sale at the earliest opportunity. Brennan makes the motion. Helt seconds. Motion passed. Roll Call: Unanimous Favorable Vote.

Solicitor Semanchik states he met with the Board in an executive session prior to this meeting; it started at 5:30pm and ended at 6:55pm – during which they discussed property issues and litigation matters.



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

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: 7:32pm.

ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Supervisor

TIME MEETING ENDED: 7:32pm.



Chairperson/Asst. Treasurer
BRENDA M. HELT

Supervisor
ELVIN E. BRENNAN JR.

Road Master/Assistant Secretary
MICHAEL SOROKACH III

Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
EVELYN J. BERGAN