

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on January 29th, 2025 at 7pm at the Municipal Building – Duncott, PA.

Present at the meeting: See sign-in sheet (attached).

Michael Sorokach calls the meeting to order.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call of Officers:

Michael Sorokach III – present.

Elvin E. Brennan Jr. – present.

Brenda M. Helt – present.

Other attendance/attendees:

Mark Semanchik, Solicitor – present.

Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.

Chairperson Sorokach stated that the December 2024 Supervisors Meeting minutes – and – the January 9th, 2025 Reorganization Meeting minutes have been placed at each seat. He made a motion to approve both sets of minutes if there are no corrections or omissions. Seconded by Supervisor Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – nay.

Sorokach opened the meeting for public comment.

Christian Lengel, Pine Grove – Introduced himself to the members of the Board and the Audience and provided a brief overview of his history, as well as the reasons he is running for Magisterial District Judge for Schuylkill County.

Ken Koscil, West Lytle Lane – Expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Township (Board members and staff) for fixing the potholes on West Lytle Lane on behalf of himself, his tenants, and neighbors.

Frank Angelo, High Road – Asked for an update on the police situation. Sorokach responds that it's an ongoing issue; there may be more to update next month.

Hearing no additional questions or comments, Sorokach moves on to the Agenda items:

Reintroduction of Budget Approval – *Sorokach stated that due to lack of communication, the Board would like to clarify the approval of the 2025 Budget – retroactive to the December 19th, 2024 meeting date - in the amount of \$1,236,538.27. He made a motion to once again approve the Budget. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – nay.*

Forestville Playground Upgrades – DCNR Grant – Benesch Proposal for Services – Sorokach gave an update on the next steps of this grant/project; he made a motion to approve Benesch’s proposal which outlines their role in the execution of the grant in the amount of \$19,300. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – aye.

Small Equipment Purchases – DPW – Sorokach stated that we are in need of (2) replacement blowers. Kramer’s Power Equipment is a COSTARS dealer so multiple quotes are not necessary. Their quote for each blower is \$629.99 – and we would also like to purchase a 6500 watt Honda generator in the amount of \$2,974.15. He made a motion to approve the purchase of all (3) items from Kramer’s Power Equipment in the amount of \$4,234.13. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – aye.

B.E.A.D. Resolution - Sorokach explained that this program is for areas within the Township that do not currently have broadband services. Comcast missed a few areas when they installed so we would like to be included in this program which would provide Federal funding to complete installation in areas that were not done. In order to do so, we must complete a worksheet and pass a resolution. Sorokach made a motion to support by resolution the BEAD program relating to broadband for Cass Township. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – aye.

Treasurer’s Report – Sorokach stated that there is copy of the report at each seat. He made a motion to accept the report as printed – and to pay all outstanding bills. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – aye.

Planning Commission & Engineers Report – Sorokach stated that Condor Lane needs a complete restoration; however, after discussions with Blythe Water Authority, they have confirmed that there is a waterline that needs replacing. Benesch feels that it is best that the Township apply for the grant for the waterline replacement – after that work is done, we would be able to move forward with our plans of full restoration of Condor Lane. But until it is complete, we would like to attempt get other road projects done – which would be Hilltop Terrace Drive, as well as drainage issues on Water Dam Road. He made a motion to authorize Benesch to do the work necessary to provide the Board with a cost analysis for both. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – aye.

Roadmaster’s Report – A copy of the report is provided at each seat. Sorokach also read the report aloud. He then made a motion to approve the report. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – aye.

Code Enforcement Report - Nick Hazlett was absent; no report.

Solicitor's Report –

Tax Collector Request to Increase Fees – Solicitor Semanchik stated that the Tax Collector has submitted a request to increase fees for Tax Certification fee per parcel to \$15.00 and Tax Duplicate fee per parcel to \$10.00. He stated that she is contacted by real estate agents, attorneys, etc. requesting information which she is entitled to be paid. It is his recommendation that the Board favorably agree to increase the fees as requested. Sorokach made a motion to grant the Tax Collector's request. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – aye.

Ordinance # 01 of 2025 – Monthly Township Supervisor Compensation – Solicitor Semanchik explained that for the first time in (30) years, the State Congressional Leaders and Governor have decided that the compensation to serve as a Township Supervisor based on the size of their Community is in need of an adjustment. The Governor has signed Act 94 to increase the compensation; however, Supervisors are only eligible to receive the increase at the beginning of their next election term; it is not effective immediately. This Ordinance is only to enact what the State and Governor have indicated could be the rate of compensation for holding the position in the future. Chairperson Sorokach made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as explained by the Solicitor. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – aye.

Executive Session - Solicitor Semanchik stated that he met with the Board for executive session prior to this meeting; it began at 6:15pm and ended at 6:55pm. The issues discussed were property enforcement issues, legal matters, issues with regard to scopes of services, and contractual issues. Supervisor Helt stated that she would like it recorded that she was not in attendance for the executive session.

Correspondence – Nothing.

Old / New Business – Nothing.

Motion to Adjourn:

With no further business, Chairperson Sorokach made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye. Helt – aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

ATTEST: Michael Sorokach III, Chairperson

SEAL:

ATTEST: Elvin E. Brennan Jr., Vice Chairperson