



**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

*The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Cass Township was held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 – absent.*

**Other attendance/attendees:**

*Mark Semanchik, Solicitor – present.*

*Evelyn J. Bergan, Secretary – present.*

*Chairperson Sorokach stated that the March 2025 Supervisor's Meeting minutes have been placed at each seat. He calls for a motion to approve them if there are no corrections or omissions. Supervisor Brennan made the motion. Seconded by Supervisor Sorokach. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

*Sorokach opened the meeting for public comment.*

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

*Jackie Weikel, 646 Forest Lane – Asks if there is an update from her complaint at last month's meeting about the swale behind her residence. Solicitor Semanchik states that as he did research on the property, he recalled that he walked that property years ago and was aware of the reasoning of why the County offered the sale of it to the Township. After he provided the details, he stated that his recommendation to the Board would be to do nothing; the initial purpose of that swale was to take mine water – now it takes stormwater which protects homeowner's properties; it's a natural swale so allowing the vegetation to grow in it is the benefit. The swale looks pretty much the way it did 30 years ago and should stay the way it is. This discussion continued.*

*Mike Machita, 23 Low Road – Asks if there is an ordinance that addresses the citing of individuals who are burning and those fires become out of control and it becomes necessary for fire departments to be dispatched. Solicitor Semanchik states that he believes it would be covered under the crimes code or a code enforcement issue.*

Chairperson/Roadmaster  
**MICHAEL SOROKACH III**

Vice Chairperson/Assistant Roadmaster  
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*Pete Rigiliano, 257 Sunbury Road – States that there are burning issues at 257 High Road in which he is aware the code enforcement officer has been contacted many times; however, now he is involved – and in an effort to try and help the residents, he has spoken to the property owner and explained the burning ordinance in detail, but it seems the property owner is simply ignoring what he is told; he also burns during the night hours which is not permitted. James Garraway, 261 High Road – stated that he also called DEP about the burning at 257 High Road and they turned it back to the Township – so the Township has to do its due diligence to tighten up the fines – maybe make them higher because right now, it's a slap on the wrist. Chief Ricigliano states that years ago, we didn't rely on code enforcement because we would contact the police department for issues like these – and we no longer have that option. Solicitor Semanchik responds to be patient, we are working on it. He then explains that in regard to fines, the Township Code addresses penalties and sets caps; however, the fine is determined when it is brought in front of the local magistrate – the Judge determines the amount of the fine. This discussion continued relating to the code enforcement officer not effectively addressing this complaint. Chairperson Sorokach stated that if anyone has any suggestions relating to a Code Enforcement Officer to please provide them to the Board.*

*Pete Ricigliano – Asks if the potholes can be fixed on Water Lane.*

*Brian Mull, Mountain Road – Asks if the swale at the bottom of High Road can be cleaned again this year. This leads to a discussion about fire hydrants.*

*James Garraway, 261 High Road – Introduces himself to the audience and states that he is running for Cass Township Supervisor on the Republican ticket in the upcoming election.*

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

*Marty Sowers, Candidate for District Judge - Introduced himself to the audience, provided a brief history and explained the reasons why he would be a good choice to serve as our Magisterial District Judge.*

*Repairs to the Veteran's Memorial – Sorokach states that the Memorial is in need of repairs – it is leaning and there are cracks that need to be fixed. It was constructed in 1945; it was repaired in 1980 and again in 2011 so there have been repairs done over the years, but the Board would like to authorize Benesch to research and apply for any grants that would provide funds to make the necessary repairs to the historic Veteran's Memorial Monument. He made the motion. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – 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.*

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**Planning Commission & Engineers Report –**

*Solicitor Semanchick explained that Benesch has provided a few suggested action items and he would concur with their recommendation for the Board to approve these items:*

**Grant Applications & Pending Matters** – *Benesch is asking that the Board take action to authorize both the Chairman of the Board as well as the Secretary-Treasurer to sign any of the applications and/or submittals that are required to request funds as an effort to keep the process moving forward. Sorokach made the motion. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

**Roshannon Submission** – *At their April meeting, the PC passed the following motions:*

- *A waiver for drawing scale not listed in Section 401.1.3*
- *Conditional/Final Approval*

*Chairperson Sorokach made a motion to approve the same. Seconded by Supervisor Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

**Neidlinger/Kopinetz Submission** – *At their April meeting, the PC approved Conditional/Final Approval. Chairperson Sorokach made a motion to approve the same. Seconded by Supervisor Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

**Roadmaster's Report** – *A copy of the report was provided at each seat. Sorokach also read the report aloud. In regard to Forestville Playground, last year the Board approved an Ordinance to ban dogs inside the playground because of ongoing issues where people were not cleaning up after their animals and also filling the garbage cans with bags of feces. Recently, a resident was walking her dog and when told that she cannot, her reply was that Mike Sorokach told her she could. He states that he did not give anyone permission to walk their dog(s) in the playground – it is a playground for children – not a dog park. It is for children to play in a safe clean environment. Parents should not have to worry about their children falling into a mess made by a dog. Chairperson Sorokach also states that he opens and closes the recycling bins every Saturday – and every Saturday, he finds items in the bins that should not be in them – and because of this, he warns that we have one of the few recycling centers left in the County – and if the abuse of the privilege continues, this center will be shut down as well. He urges people to read the signs – only place in the bins what is accepted – and if you see someone dumping items that should not be in them, please tell them to remove them. Spread the word. Also, this recycling center is for Cass Township residents ONLY. It's not for Minersville residents or residents of other municipalities. After additional details regarding road projects and grants, he made a motion to approve the report. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

**Code Enforcement Report** – *Nick Hazlett was absent. No report.*



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*John Kalovcak, N. Maple Ave. – Had additional complaints about the trailer on High Road stating that this has been going on for over a year. He has called Nick Hazlett multiple times – he doesn't answer the phone, etc. – the Township is paying him to do a job. He states that if anyone drives around the Township, they will see how bad it's gotten – the properties are a mess – it's never been this bad.*

*Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Semanchik gives a lengthy update on the reinstatement of the CTPD stating that he recommends that the Board appoint retired State Trooper Scott Brennan to assist with obtaining the ORI number and to complete and sign any necessary documentation. Chairman Sorokach makes a motion to hire Scott Brennan as the Officer In Charge for administrative matters only. Seconded by Supervisor Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

*Amusement Tax Ordinance – Solicitor Semanchik states that he has been asked to review some of the Township ordinances – the first one he chose was the Amusement Tax Ordinance for (2) reasons: 1) every year, there are challenging questions regarding a certain activity and 2) municipalities are dealing with skill games – how regulate them, etc. This Ordinance was adopted (50) years ago (1983), there has been much money spent on legal fees regarding this Ordinance, including lawsuits, Township Supervisors have been personally sued, etc. There are difficulties with the language of the Ordinance with regard to how the tax is collected; how to calculate the tax - there is a number of disputes. The last challenges started in 2012 and lasted until about 2017 – then there was some efforts around 2020 when COVID hit. He placed an advertisement stating that the Board may consider a way to either amend the Ordinance or come up with a way to eliminate the Ordinance. However, either way, it could end up in a no good situation. The Board asked him to look for some middle ground – maybe make an adjustment – or take advantage of the existing language in the current Ordinance and still enforce it. It's called a "tax" - but it is revenue for the Township. Solicitor Semanchik states that he is asking the Board to authorize him to take further steps under the Ordinance to address the situations that have been the cause of much litigation and possibly resolve this ongoing issue. Sorokach made the motion. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

*Wegmans – Solicitor Semanchik states that there may be a possible appeal filed with regard to construction of their warehouse(s). If that would happen between now and the next meeting, he requests that the Board authorize him to move forward with advertising the hearing. Sorokach made the motion. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

*Appeals Board Member – Sorokach states that there is one vacancy so if anyone is interested in filling it, please let the Board know of your interest.*

*Biosolids – Solicitor Semanchik states that DEP has been notified of the complaints we received from residents and they are sending inspectors to conduct an on-site visit. He will let the Board know of the date and time when he is notified.*

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**COMCAST** – *Solicitor Semanchik requests authorization to file a Right-to-Know Request with DCED to request the maps and the scope of all the properties that were included in the Comcast grant application. Sorokach made the motion. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

*Sorokach made a motion to accept the Solicitor's Report. Seconded by Brennan. Motion passed. Roll Call: Sorokach – aye. Brennan – aye.*

**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.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.*

**ATTEST: Michael Sorokach III, Chairperson**

**SEAL:**

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

Chairperson/Roadmaster  
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Supervisor  
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**EVELYN J. BERGAN**

04/24/25  
BOS Mtg

PLEASE PRINT:

MIKE KALPCAUAGE

Marty Sowers

Dione Sowers

John Kalowich

FRANK ANGELO

James Garraway

Jarvis White

Jeff White

Judy Mull

BRIAN MULL

Angie Studlack

Pete Ruffalo

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