

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Monday, December 2, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the township building. In attendance were Jim Waugh, Rob Kellogg, and Shari Nelson, Supervisors, and Christine Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer.

**Call to Order**

Jim Waugh called the meeting to order.

**Pledge**

**Moment of Prayer**

Jim Waugh led those in attendance in a moment of prayer.

**Old Business**

**ATV, Side-by-Side, and Snowmobile Use on Twp. Rds.–Legal Opinion/Discuss.**

At the regular monthly meeting that was held on Monday, November 4, 2024, a discussion was held regarding the possible legalization of ATV, side-by-side, and snowmobile use on township roads. The discussion had been put on the agenda because Ken Bryan, Venango County Commissioner, recently asked the Supervisors to consider passing an ordinance to legalize ATV, side-by-side, and snowmobile use on all or some township roads and the Supervisors were seeking public input on the matter. However, several questions were raised during the discussion and it was decided that Ken Bryan would be invited to the next meeting (December 2, 2024) to answer some of the questions and that Chrissie Kurelowech would contact Alan Shaddinger, Township Solicitor, with questions pertaining to the township's liability if such an ordinance were to pass. Chrissie Kurelowech said that she contacted Ken Bryan and he said that one of the Venango County Commissioners would attend the meeting on December 2, 2024 to answer questions, but none of them were in attendance. She said that she contacted Alan Shaddinger with questions related to the township's liability and he said that he has reservations about passing an ordinance to legalize ATV, side-by-side, and snowmobile use on township roads. He said that the ordinance would need to "mirror or incorporate the provisions of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code". He also said that if the township were to issue permits for ATV, side-by-side, and snowmobile use of the roads, it would contradict the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code and could be challenged in court. As far as liability, Alan Shaddinger said that the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code protects the township from liability for injuries from authorized use of the roads, but, "it may not protect against claims resulting from an alleged dangerous condition of the roadway being used". There was no public input or discussion on the matter.

**Planning Commission – Future Meetings to Amend Zoning Ordinance**

At the regular monthly meeting that was held on Monday, November 4, 2024, it was suggested that the Planning Commission start to hold meetings again to continue working on amendments to the zoning ordinance and Chrissie Kurelowech said that she would contact Tim McGrath, Zoning Officer, and the Planning Commission members in an effort to get the project moving again. She reported to

the Supervisors that she contacted Tim McGrath and he was in favor of the Planning Commission holding meetings to work on the project again. However, she contacted all of the Planning Commission members and only received one response (Shari Nelson). The Supervisors were in favor of waiting until early 2025 to try to get the project to amend the zoning ordinance moving again.

**Venango. Cnty. Local Hazard Mitig. Plan 2025 Update – Nov. 20, 2024 Meeting**

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that she attended a “Risk Assessment and Mitigation Solutions Workshop” on November 20, 2024, in Franklin, as required for municipalities participating in the Venango County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update. She said that she received more mandatory forms and has completed and returned them. She also submitted a “Mitigation Action” for funding to perform floodplain enforcement in the township because FEMA audited the township’s floodplain enforcement activities recently and the township is struggling to comply with FEMA’s mandates. The draft Venango County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2025 Update) will be made available to municipalities during December of 2024 and they will have 30 days to review it. After the municipalities review the plan, the county will adopt it. During the spring of 2025, the municipalities will adopt the plan by resolution.

**Public Comment**

There was no “Public Comment”.

**Minutes/Treasurer’s Report**

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, November 4, 2024, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Shari Nelson, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer’s report, for November of 2024, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously.

**Correspondence**

PSATS News Bulletin

**Zoning**

**Permits**

None

**Zoning Report**

There was no “Zoning Report”.

**Administrative Action**

**Resolution #24-45 – 2025 Budget – Vote to Adopt**

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Shari Nelson, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #24-45 (2025 Budget). Anticipated income for 2025 is \$708,811.14 and anticipated expenditures total \$705,987.00. There will be no tax increase.

**UPMC Health Insurance – 2025 Renewal**

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that she recently received quotes from Frank Riley, of Loesel-Schaaf Insurance Agency, for employee health insurance (2025). If the township renews the current plan (UPMC Inside Advantage PPO \$1,250/\$2,500 \$20/\$40 \$15/\$30/\$50 Rx), the premiums will increase by 3.5%,

which will increase the township's health insurance cost by \$1,897.34/year if the employees continue to pay 10% of the premiums. Frank Riley provided other options to the township, but they were significantly more expensive than the current plan. An Aetna Funding Advantage CPOS II \$1,000 100/50 plan would be \$16.44% more expensive than the current plan, UPMC MyCare Advantage Gold PPO MCA \$1,250 \$35/\$50 Premium Network plan would be 33.15% more expensive than the current plan, and a Highmark PPO Blue \$1,000 100/80 Gold plan would be 38.13% more expensive than the current plan. On a motion made by Jim Waugh and seconded by Shari Nelson, the Supervisors voted to renew the current employee health insurance plan (UPMC Inside Advantage PPO \$1,250/\$2,500 \$20/\$40 \$15/\$30/\$50 Rx) for 2025 (Waugh-YES / Nelson-YES / Kellogg-abstained). The employees will continue to pay 10% of the premiums through payroll deductions.

## **Committee Reports**

### **VFD**

Tom Huffman, VFD Fire Chief, reported that there were 25 calls since the last meeting, 3 of which were in Crawford County and 22 of which were in Venango County. Of the calls in Crawford County, all 3 were building fires. Of the calls in Venango County, 1 was a building fire, 1 was a brush fire, 4 were EMS, 1 was an MVA with injuries, 1 was a trench rescue, 2 were power lines down, 8 were public service, 2 were dispatched and canceled, and 2 were unintentional smoke detector activations.

### **EMA Office**

There was no report.

### **Road**

Lew Staub, Roadmaster, reported that the road crew spent 14 days blowing leaves, spent 8 days grading bad spots, spent 4 days cleaning pipes and tail ditches, and checked the roads twice. They spent 1 day ditching spots on 2 roads, pushed 3 trees off of roads, and put antiskid down on the blacktops once.

As for equipment, a spreader light was put on the 2014 Dodge and work was performed on the DEF (Diesel Exhaust Fluid) housing on the 2017 Massey Ferguson tractor. Spreaders were put on the 2009 International and on the 2002 International. The oil and all of the filters were changed on the 2014 Dodge, the 2002 International, and the 2009 International.

## **New Business**

### **2025 Fee Schedule – Proposed Change**

Chrissie Kurelowech told the Supervisors that Tim McGrath, Zoning Officer, suggested removing the \$10,000.00 cap for a zoning permit, on the 2025 Fee Schedule, due to the amount of administrative work required for commercial solar farms. The Supervisors were in favor of removing the cap and Chrissie Kurelowech will make the change on the 2025 Fee Schedule, which will be adopted at the regular monthly meeting/annual reorganization of the Board of Supervisors that is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2025.

### **New Supervisor Compensation Thresholds**

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that Act 94 of 2024 amended the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code to increase the maximum compensation allowed for Supervisors. The thresholds vary depending upon population. Currently, the

Supervisors (in Cherrytree Township) are paid per meeting and can be paid a maximum of \$1,875.00 per year. Effective December 1, 2024, the maximum can be raised to \$3,145.00 per year if the Supervisors pass an ordinance to do so. If the Supervisors were to pass an ordinance raising the compensation, it would not affect current Supervisors, but would apply to any Supervisor beginning a new term. Chrissie Kurelowech noted that, if the Supervisors wish to pass an ordinance to raise compensation and to continue paying Supervisors on a per meeting basis, the ordinance must provide for excused absences. PSATS has sample ordinances available, if needed. No decision was made.

**Erie County Snow Removal**

Erie County is in need of equipment to clear snow from the recent storm and will pay \$275.00 per hour for road graders. Other snow removal equipment, including front-end loaders and dump trucks, is also needed. The Supervisors were not in favor of sending township equipment to Erie County.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer