

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
May 6, 2019

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, May 6, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., at the township building. In attendance were Emery Fiely, Jim Waugh, and Dave Zdarko, Supervisors, and Christine Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer.

Call to Order

Emery Fiely called the meeting to order.

Pledge

Moment of Prayer

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

Public Comment

Ron Stewart thanked the road crew for recently delivering extra dirt to his property.

Minutes/Treasurer's Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, April 1, 2019, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdarko, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer's report, for April 2019, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Kenneth and Christy Humanic – Reissuance of NPDES Permit
H2O Res., Inc.–Cntry. Acres Persnl. Care Home–Reissuance of NPDES Permit
As required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), the township has been notified that Kenneth and Christy Humanic and Country Acres Personal Care Home have applied for reissuances of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

Venango County Regional Planning Commission – Annual Report
Venango County Land Bank–Dumpster Rental Reimburse. Policy–Blighted Prop.
Reimbursement is available through the Venango County Land Bank for dumpsters used in the demolition of blighted properties.

PennDOT – Review of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for 2015 - 2018
A representative from PennDOT recently reviewed the township's Liquid Fuels files, for the years 2015 – 2018, and found everything to be in order. Chrissie Kurelowech explained that PennDOT sometimes sends a representative to review the files before the Department of the Auditor General performs an official audit.

PSATS – 2018 Annual Report

Zoning

Permits

None

Zoning Report

Ben Breniman, Zoning Officer, reported that he has been working with Cypress Creek Renewables, a company that is pursuing the construction of a solar farm on several parcels along Route 8. He has made a determination that a solar farm can be considered an “essential service” and, therefore, can be permitted in the township. However, Cypress Creek Renewables will still need to apply for a zoning permit. Ben Breniman told those in attendance that a lot of professional planners are encouraging solar farms because of their positive environmental impact. A concern, however, is the amount of glare the solar panels could generate and the effect that the glare could have on motorists. Ben Breniman will keep this in mind when reviewing Cypress Creek Renewable’s zoning permit application.

Administrative Action

Resolution #19-43 – Appoint May & Company to Perform 2018 Audit

On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Dave Zdarko, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #19-43, appointing May & Company to audit the township for the year 2018. Chrissie Kurelowech explained that the elected auditors were unable to perform the 2018 audit due to family health issues, travel, etc. She said that May & Company had been used by the township to perform an annual audit several years ago. May & Company will most likely begin the audit during the month of May.

Paver – Vote to Accept/Reject Highest Bid

On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to accept a bid of \$1,300.00 on the Blaw Knox PF-35 paver that Cherrytree Township jointly owns with Oil Creek Township, Crawford County. Chrissie Kurelowech recently listed the paver on www.municibid.com with no reserve, but with the stipulation that each township would have to vote to accept the highest bid before the paver could be sold. Oil Creek Township, Crawford County, will vote to accept/reject the \$1,300.00 bid on Thursday, May 9, 2019.

Mower – Review Quotes

Jim Waugh obtained quotes for new riding lawn mowers from Roofner’s Service Center, Tractor Supply Company, and Merse J. Process Company. He presented the quotes and specifications (deck size, warranty, etc.) to the other Supervisors and a discussion was held regarding which mower would be purchased to replace the mower that the road crew is currently using to mow grass at the township building. It was noted that a lot of time can be saved by using a zero turn mower. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdarko, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to purchase a Husqvarna zero turn mower from Roofner’s Service Center for \$2,999.95. The new mower will have a 48” deck and the deck itself will have a lifetime warranty, while the entire mower will have a 3-year warranty.

Committee Reports

VFD

Don Deliman, VFD Treasurer, reported that there were 22 calls since the last meeting. Of the 22 calls, 1 was a building fire (mutual aid), 13 were EMS, 1 was an MVA with no injuries, 2 were public service, 4 were dispatched and cancelled, and 1 was a severe weather standby.

The VFD hosted a gun show on Saturday, May 4, 2019 and Sunday, May 5, 2019. There were 45 tables and the turnout was decent. The VFD may consider hosting another gun show in the fall.

The VFD will have a flea market on Saturday, May 11, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The township's Clean-Up Weekend will take place on Saturday, June 1, 2019 and Sunday, June 2, 2019. The VFD will again set up a canopy and require donations from those who do not own property in the township, but wish to dispose of items.

Don Deliman told those in attendance that he will not be at the next meeting because he will be out of town. He said that he is no longer an active firefighter and that Tim McGrath, VFD Chief, may appoint another member to serve as a liaison between the VFD and the township.

EMA Office

There was no report.

Road

Lew Staub, Roadmaster, reported that the road crew graded 8 roads, dragged 10 roads, hauled gravel to spots on 6 roads, cold patched 4 roads, cleaned the plows, took the spreaders off, and checked the roads once. They also put a driveway pipe in, put 2 crossover pipes in, cut up a tree, mowed the yard and ran the weed eater, and ditched 7 roads (15.88 miles).

As for equipment, the 2014 Dodge went to Shults of Warren for warranty work and a problem with the radiator "Y" pipe. The brakes, drums, canisters, and slack adjuster were replaced on the 2002 International. The brake pads were replaced on the 2014 Dodge.

Ron Stewart asked when the oiling will begin and Emery Fiely said it is too wet right now. Lew Staub said that the township should at least get something on the schedule soon.

Old Business

Septic Issue – 904 Fairview Road

Jim Waugh reported on the hearing he attended on April 8, 2019 regarding the septic system at 904 Fairview Road. The township will drop the charges for now, but can easily refile the charges with District Magistrate Fish if the property owner fails to quickly resolve the issue. The property owner's new septic system is routed across a "triangle" of property that does not belong to him. However, the owner of an adjacent piece of property is willing to sell the "triangle" to the owner of 904 Fairview Road, but that will not be official until a subdivision goes through the county and the township. The property owner's attorney said that the 5 – 6 month estimate for the subdivision to be finalized is much longer than he expects it to take. Jim Waugh said that, if the subdivision does not go through in a reasonable amount of time, the owner of 904 Fairview Road can simply reroute the septic system without involving property owned by other people. He also said that this is a case involving siblings arguing over their father's property and that the township's only concern is the septic system. Once the "triangle" is transferred to the owner of 904 Fairview Road or the system is rerouted, Todd Fantaskey, Sewage Enforcement Officer, will be able to do a final inspection and sign off on the newly installed system.

PSATS 2019 Conference

Jim Waugh recently attended the PSATS 2019 Conference and reported on it. He said there were 4 major issues that were discussed in depth at the conference: volunteer fire companies, Tom Wolf's severance tax, broadband access, and the per capita tax to fund the state police. Volunteer fire companies across the state are struggling financially and with membership. In recent years, it has become a crisis.

Jim Waugh noted that, if there were no volunteer fire companies and the state had to pay for fire protection, it would cost 10 – 15 billion dollars per year.

Jim Waugh said that Governor Tom Wolf is proposing a severance tax on oil and gas drilling that would replace the impact fee. Pennsylvania is the only state without a severance tax. Currently, oil and gas drillers must pay an impact fee, which goes to the municipalities in and around the location of the drilling. If the impact fee is replaced by a severance tax, the money collected would go to Harrisburg, not to the municipalities. Jim Waugh feels that this is a step in the wrong direction because the municipalities would no longer receive the money and any drilling in our area would just generate more money for Harrisburg.

Discussion was held at the PSATS 2019 Conference about expanding broadband access across the state. Jim Waugh noted that a state senator said that he feels, in a few years, internet access will be solely through satellite and there will be no need for wires/cables. So, perhaps by the time the wires/cables are run all across the state, the technology could be obsolete.

Another issue that was discussed at the conference was the proposed per capita tax to fund the state police. Jim Waugh said 60% (36,000/year) of the state police calls are in Philadelphia. If the per capita tax is implemented, people living in rural areas would see their tax dollars being used to fund another part of the state. In this case, Philadelphia. It has been suggested that the county sheriff's department be used in place of the state police as an alternative to requiring residents to pay the per capita tax.

Dust Suppressant

The topic of dust suppressant was revisited near the end of the meeting. Dave Zdarko suggested that the road crew only concentrate on ditching the worst roads and begin oiling earlier. Lew Staub said that, even if they concentrate on the worst roads, it would still be early June before they could begin to put the oil down. It was noted that the new ditcher (reverse head) is not working well because it now requires 3 people to do ditching. The ditcher throws the dirt into the middle of the road, as opposed to up on the bank, so the process now takes 3 people to complete. The new reverse head ditcher was purchased in May of 2017. Jim Waugh said that a kit can be purchased to make the current ditcher throw the dirt up on the bank, as opposed to in the middle of the road. This would allow 1 or 2 of the road workers to work on other tasks while the ditching is taking place.

Robert VanValkenberg questioned the reasoning behind recently ditching a section of Breedtown Road where there are few homes. Lew Staub said that a water problem has existed there for years and that the number of houses located along the stretch is irrelevant. Robert VanValkenberg responded by saying that there is a 4 – 5 foot wide ditch near his home that is currently filled with water and has been a problem for years. Dave Zdarko noted that there has been more water this year than in others.

New Business

There was no "New Business".

Adjournments

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer

