

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
November 2, 2020
6:30 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, November 2, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., at the township building. In attendance were Jim Waugh, Dave Zdarko, and Rob Kellogg, 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.

Public Comment

Roger Coup, a biologist from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, told those in attendance that, as he had promised at the last meeting, he did some research on the positives and negatives of solar farms and the impact that solar development could have on wildlife. He said that he is not against solar development, but that it is important to gather information before “jumping in feet first”. He found that a negative aspect of the bigger solar plants, which are located mostly in the southwestern United States, is that they have concentrated solar radiation that kills birds. Also, if there are hundreds or thousands of solar panels at one location, water birds mistake the panels for water and land on them, killing themselves. This is called the “solar lake effect”. Roger Coup also noted that the clearing of land creates habitat damage and suggested that the township require any company wishing to build a solar farm to prepare a formal environmental impact statement. He said that, currently, there are no documented endangered animals or plants located in the areas of the township where solar farms have been proposed, but that does not mean there are not any, it just means that they have not yet been documented. He suggested that the township hire a consulting firm or require any company wishing to build a solar farm to hire a consulting firm to determine if there are any endangered animals or plants located in the areas where solar farms have been proposed. He said that the township has a chance to be proactive and should, noting that wind energy has positive aspects, but once wind farms were built, it was discovered that thousands of birds a year are killed by wind farms. Another suggestion he made was to require any company wishing to build a solar farm to run a PNDI (Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory) search and report the results to the township. A PNDI search will provide a list of endangered animals and plants in a specific area. A concern that Roger Coup expressed was that most solar farms are built in areas where there are at least 200 days of sun during a year and Cherrytree Township has only 160 days. He questioned the reasoning behind building solar farms in an area with little sun. Roger Coup noted that a positive aspect of solar development is that it reduces carbon emissions. He gave several articles related to the impacts of solar development to the Supervisors for their review and told those in attendance to contact him if they had any questions or needed more information.

Minutes/Treasurer’s Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, October 5, 2020, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Dave Zdarko, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously.

The minutes, from the special meeting held on Friday, October 16, 2020, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Rob Kellogg, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer’s report, for October 2020, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdarko, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

PSATS UC Group Trust – 2021 Contribution Rate

The township’s Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) Unemployment Group Trust contribution rate for 2021 will remain unchanged at .08%, which means that the township will be required to pay \$80.00 for the first \$10,000.00 each employee is paid during the year.

PennDOT Newsletter

PSATS News Bulletin

Zoning

Permits

Z-2020-10 Kenneth R. Boyer, Jr. 4487 State Route 8 60’ by 80’ by 20’ (height) addition

Zoning Report

There was no report.

Administrative Action

Fuel Bids – Approximately 8,000 Gallons – Open and Review

Only one bid was received for approximately 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to accept the bid submitted by Bayless Fuel, LLC. The bid results are below.

	Description	Quantity	Amount over rack price per gallon - Ultra Low Sulphur diesel fuel from United Refining Co. (located in Warren, PA)	Amount. over rack price per gallon - Ultra Low Sulphur diesel fuel from another source
Bayless Fuel, LLC	diesel fuel	Approximately 8,000 gallons	\$0.189	\$0.189

Cancel Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume Roads 2020 Project – Return Funding - Vote

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdarko, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to cancel the Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume Roads project for 2021 and forfeit funding from the Venango Conservation District. The project involves improving drainage on Pastorius Road and is nearing completion. However, the township has been waiting to receive 1,400 tons of 2A limestone for several months and, at this point, Lew Staub, Roadmaster, feels it is too late in the year to put new 2A limestone down. Additionally, he feels 2A limestone is unnecessary and has suggested putting less expensive gravel down in the spring. The Venango Conservation District had committed to funding the limestone for the project, which was estimated to cost \$35,490.00, while the township had committed to contributing an estimated \$8,868.10 in other materials and labor. The township accepted \$17,745.00 from the Venango Conservation District before the project started, so Chrissie Kurelowech will refund the money to them since the 2A

limestone will not be purchased. The road crew will finish the project in the spring, with less expensive gravel, at the township's expense.

Employee Health Insurance

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that the township's current health insurance plan will see a 14% increase when it renews on January 1, 2021. Currently, the township pays 90% of the premium and the employees who participate pay 10%. The township's portion costs \$35,420.54 per year and will be increasing to \$40,379.42 per year. She presented the Supervisors with a spreadsheet from Frank Riley, of Loesel-Schaaf Insurance Agency, showing other UPMC plans available as well as a couple of plans from other insurance companies. According to Frank Riley, plans from companies other than UPMC are far more expensive than UPMC plans because Cherrytree Township has "grandmothered plan options" with UPMC. Essentially, if the township were to switch to another insurance company, it would be forced to purchase an ACA (Affordable Care Act) compliant plan, which means that the premiums would significantly increase. Of the options provided by Frank Riley, three were EPO (Exclusive Provider Organization) plans. An EPO provides no out-of-network coverage, unless in the case of an emergency. One of the EPO plans would cost 12.36% more than the current plan, one would cost 11.37% more than the current plan, and one would cost 7.48% more than the current plan. Of the two ACA compliant plans from companies other than UPMC, one would cost 118.85% more than the current plan and one would cost 67.99% more than the current plan. On a motion made by Rob Kellogg, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to renew the current health insurance plan (UPMC Inside Advantage PPO \$1,250/\$2,500 \$20/\$40) for 2021. Employees will be expected to pay 10% of their premiums through payroll deductions.

Planning Commission – Appoint New Member – Resolution #20-48

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #20-48, appointing Jamey Miller to the Cherrytree Township Planning Commission. There is still one vacancy.

Committee Reports

VFD

Tim McGrath, VFD Fire Chief, reported that there were 19 calls since the last meeting. Of the 19 calls, 2 were wildland fires, 8 were EMS, 3 were MVAs with injuries, 4 were public service, and 2 were dispatched and cancelled.

All of the VFD equipment is ready for winter and there is a lot of individual training currently taking place amongst VFD members.

The fall shoots will continue to be held every Tuesday through November 24, 2020, with the exception of November 3, 2020 (Election Day). Sign-ups begin at 5:30 p.m. and the cost is \$2.50 per shot. There will be a shoot on Thursday, November 5, 2020 to make up for the cancelled Election Day shoot.

EMA Office

Tim McGrath, Emergency Management Coordinator, reported that all in-person EMA meetings have been cancelled through the end of the year due to COVID-19. Crawford County has an updated EMA response document for the Titusville Airport that the township and the VFD will need to review and sign.

Road

Lew Staub, Roadmaster, reported that the road crew stacked antiskid for 2 days, mowed the yard, cold patched 2 roads, ditched spots on 3 roads, and spent 14 days blowing

leaves. They pushed 2 trees off of roads, spent 3 days cleaning pipes, spent 4 days grading bad spots, and checked the roads twice. They also plowed the blacktops.

As for equipment, the mower was taken off the tractor and replaced with the leaf blower. Mud flaps were put on the 2002 International and on the 2009 International. The “warning” lights were fixed on the 2002 International. New scarifier teeth were put on the grader. Oil and filters were changed on the 2009 International, the 2014 Dodge, the grader, and the JCB backhoe.

Jim Waugh asked Lew Staub if he felt the shale recently placed in deep ditches was working well and Lew Staub said that he felt it was.

Old Business

There was no “Old Business”.

New Business

Venango County Commissioners – 2021 County Aid

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that, even though an official letter has not arrived yet, she was told by Troy Cyphert, PennDOT Municipal Services Representative, that the Venango County Commissioners have awarded \$25,000.00 to Cherrytree Township in 2021 County Aid to be put towards paving a 0.60 stretch of Dutch Hill Road (from the township line south). The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$80,112.50. It was suggested during the meeting that the township contact the City of Titusville in the spring to see if there would be interest in paving the city’s portion of Dutch Hill Road at the same time the township’s portion is paved in an effort to get a lower rate.

Solar Regulations

Dave Zdarko asked if the township has heard from Alan Shaddinger, township solicitor, regarding the development of solar regulations for the township. Chrissie Kurelowech reported that Alan Shaddinger is supposed to be contacting someone in Meadville who he feels can work as a consultant with the township to develop the regulations. She is waiting for a response from Alan Shaddinger and will call him soon if he does not respond. Once the township has a consultant, the planning commission and a committee of citizens can work with the consultant to develop the regulations.

Adjournments

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer