

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
December 4, 2017

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, December 4, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., at the township building. In attendance were Emery Fiely, Lew Staub, and Jim Waugh, 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.

Administrative Action

Health Insurance Renewal

Frank Riley, of Loesel-Schaaf Insurance Agency, Inc., was on hand to answer questions regarding the township's health insurance options for 2018. During the previous meeting, it was reported that the cost of the township's current plan would be increasing by 9.9% at the time of renewal (January 1, 2018). During the month of November, Frank Riley sent the township a spreadsheet showing specifics on several lower-priced UPMC plans that the township could consider. He also gave the township some options from other companies, but because the township is currently allowed to keep its "grandmothered pre-ACA(Affordable Care Act)" plan, the premiums for UPMC plans are significantly lower than the premiums for plans offered by other companies. Tina Zdarko asked Frank Riley if the plans would cover an emergency if it took place in another state, and he said it would be covered at the highest level. At Ron Stewart's request, Frank Riley gave a brief overview of the plans being considered. Mark McDowell asked the employees and their families who were in attendance which plan they would like and Tina Zdarko said she would prefer the UPMC PPO \$1,250 \$20/\$20 plan. Emery Fiely said he would like the township to move to the UPMC \$1,250 \$20/\$20 plan, but to only require employees to pay 10% of their premiums. On October 31, 2016, the Supervisors voted to require the employees to pay 20% of their premiums beginning in January of 2018. Jamey Miller noted that there have been no recent pay raises for the road crew and, consequently, they should not be required to pay 20% of their premiums. Ron Stewart said the cost of his insurance increased recently and Don Deliman noted that there has not been an increase in social security benefits in three years. Emery Fiely said that Rick Neely has not had a raise in two years and Lew Staub has not had a raise in three years and that they are professionals and should not be required to pay 20% of their health insurance premiums. He also asked Frank Riley for a booklet listing providers, but Frank Riley said the providers are listed online and that there are no booklets. He said he might be able to give Emery Fiely a .pdf and would look into it. On a motion made by Emery Fiely and seconded by Jim Waugh, the Supervisors voted to change the township's health insurance to UPMC \$1,250 \$20/\$20, starting on January 1, 2018, and to require participating employees to pay 10% of their premiums through payroll deductions. Lew Staub abstained. During 2017, the cost of the township's

health insurance was \$383.77/month for a single plan and \$1,070.73/month for a family plan, totaling \$2,525.23/month (1 single plan and 2 family plans). On the new plan (UPMC \$1,250 \$20/\$20), a single plan will cost \$403.75/month and a family plan will cost \$1,126.45/month, totaling \$2,656.65/month (1 single plan and 2 family plans).

Resolution #17-44 – 2018 Budget – Vote to Adopt

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Lew Staub, and carried, the Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #17-44, the 2018 budget.

Anticipated income for 2018 is \$683,603.91 and anticipated expenditures total \$655,139.91. Mark McDowell asked the Supervisors if there is money in the budget for oil to be used as dust suppressant during the summer, noting that the use of salt brine could soon be illegal, and Emery Fiely said that there is money in the budget for oil.

Public Comment

Jamey Miller thanked the Supervisors for passing a budget with no tax increase. He also asked if there is any money in the budget to support the Cherrytree Volunteer Fire Department and Emery Fiely said that there is not. Jim Waugh noted that the township building houses the VFD and that the township pays for utilities and workers compensation insurance. This amounts to an estimated \$25,000.00 per year. Foreign Fire money is also given to the VFD each year, which usually amounts to about \$8,000.00.

Charlene Armstrong told those in attendance that she recently received a “packet” of township-related information in the mail from an anonymous source. There was something in her packet that said the information was also sent to The Titusville Herald and to The Derrick. The person who put together the packets is concerned about the conflict of interest that exists when a township employee serves on the Board of Supervisors. The packet contained copies of Cherrytree Township meeting minutes and newspaper articles and had a lot of text highlighted. Charlene Armstrong read highlighted text to those in attendance. The person who put together the packet pointed out that Lew Staub, a road worker, voted to give Dave Zdarko, a road worker, an 11.4% raise on July 3, 2017. Additionally, Lew Staub was the tie-breaking vote to require the township employees to pay 10% of their health insurance premiums on October 31, 2017, when, on October 22, 2017, the Supervisors voted to require the employees to pay 20% of their premiums. She read highlighted text from articles in The Titusville Herald that said Emery Fiely said Lew Staub is unable to vote on employee issues, Dave Zdarko said he would not be permitted to vote on employee issues and did not see a conflict of interest, and that Lew Staub has not voted on employee issues. Charlene Armstrong said that the person who put together the packets is concerned that there is indeed a conflict of interest with a township employee serving on the Board of Supervisors. She also said she felt it was better to bring it to the Supervisors’ attention at a meeting as opposed to publishing it in the Cherrytree News.

Terry Coogan expressed concern that Todd Fantaskey, Sewage Enforcement Officer, is not performing his job as he should because the septic system at 904 Fairview Road has been malfunctioning for years and the property owner has yet to be held accountable. Sewage is draining onto an adjoining property owned by Terry and Cindy Coogan. Chrissie Kurelowech shared new information on the matter. She said that she had received a call from Todd Fantaskey, that afternoon, and Todd had been contacted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) regarding the matter. PADEP suggested that the property owner be required to have his system capped,

immediately pumped, and that the owner should continue to have the system capped and pumped until a new system is installed. The owner should also be required to forward all pumping receipts to the township. Chrissie Kurelowech said Todd Fantaskey wanted to make sure the Supervisors were in agreement that the suggested enforcement actions should be taken. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Emery Fiely, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to give Todd Fantaskey, Sewage Enforcement Officer, permission to require the owner of 904 Fairview Road to have his system capped, pumped immediately, and to continue to have the system capped and pumped until the system is replaced, with all receipts being forwarded to the township. Chrissie Kurelowech will contact Todd Fantaskey and let him know that the Supervisors are in favor of him taking the enforcement actions suggested by PADEP.

Mark McDowell said he would like to give the road workers credit for giving a little on their health insurance. Robert VanValkenberg asked if there is ever going to be a cap on wages and benefits. Jamey Miller said that Cherrytree Township does not have the highest paid road workers in the area, despite claims that have been made throughout the years that they are the highest paid road workers in the area. Chrissie Kurelowech said that the numbers Jim Waugh was using to show that Cherrytree Township's road workers are highly paid came from the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) Wage and Benefits Survey results. She said she would email Jamey Miller a link to the survey results.

Minutes/Treasurer's Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, November 6, 2017, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Lew Staub, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer's report, for November of 2017, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Venango County Reg. Planning Comm. – Liquid Fuels Application Award for 2018

The Venango County Commissioners have awarded \$50,000.00 in Liquid Fuels grant money, to Cherrytree Township to be put towards paving Cherrytree Road, from Fairview Road to South Perry Street, during 2018. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$139,000.00.

PSATS News Bulletin

Zoning

Permits

Z-2017-17 Jeffrey and Stephanie 5376 State Route 417 demolish existing trailer and Mullen replace with new doublewide

Zoning Report

Ben Breniman, Zoning Officer, reported that one permit was issued during the month and that two new buildings that are being constructed without permits were recently discovered. He will send letters to the property owners in violation to let them know that permits are required.

Committee Reports

VFD

Don Deliman reported that there were 19 calls since the last meeting. Of the 19 calls, 10 were EMS (1 search for person), 1 was an aircraft standby, 3 were animal problems, 1 was a DOA, 3 were dispatched and cancelled, and 1 was a controlled burn.

The VFD will be holding its 2 final turkey shoots of the year on December 12, 2017 and on December 19, 2017. The sign up begins at 5:30.

On December 20, 2017, the Venango County Firefighters and Fire Chiefs Association will hold a meeting at the Cherrytree Township building. The Cherrytree Volunteer Fire Department K-9 Search and Rescue dog team will be at the meeting and discussion will be held on the reasoning behind the dog team not being contacted to perform searches in the area recently. The VFD has already met with Sheriff Foy on the matter.

EMA Office

There was no report.

Road

Lew Staub reported that the road crew cut up a tree, blew leaves for 11 days, graded bad spots on 15 roads, opened pipes for 4 days, checked roads 4 times, put down antiskid once, fixed a washout, and installed a driveway pipe.

The road crew also changed oil and filters in all of the trucks and fixed the spreader light on the 2014 Dodge.

Old Business

There was no “Old Business”.

New Business

There was no “New Business”.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer