

**Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 5, 2018**

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, February 5, 2018, 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

Rob Kellogg asked the Supervisors why they are plowing part of the parking lot of the business located at the intersection of Route 8 and Sopher Road. He said the plow is pushing the snow across the parking lot instead of leaving the snow at the edge of the parking lot, as in previous years. Dave Zdarko said he thought it was better to push it across the lot than to leave it in a pile, but that he will not do it again.

Minutes/Treasurer's Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting/reorganization meeting held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Emery Fiely, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer's report, for January 2018, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Tri-County Industries – 2018 Clean-Up Weekend

The Supervisors were in agreement to schedule Clean-Up Weekend for Saturday, June 2, 2018 and Sunday, June 3, 2018. The dumpsters will arrive on Friday, June 1, 2018 and will be removed early in the day on Monday, June 4, 2018. The event will be the same as in previous years. Jim Waugh noted that, since the dumpsters will be located behind the township garage, a barricade will need set up to prevent people from dumping things when the VFD is not present to monitor the event. Last year, the VFD's old tanker and ambulance were used, but they have been sold.

Venango County Board of Elections–Polling Place–May 15, 2018 & Nov. 6, 2018

The Venango County Board of Elections has notified the township that, if the Supervisors approve, it plans to use the township building as a polling place on May 15, 2018 and on November 6, 2018. The Supervisors were in agreement to continue to allow the township building to be used as a polling place.

Venango County Association of Township Officials – Spring Dinner –April 7, 2018

The Venango County Association of Township Officials will hold its annual spring dinner on April 7, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at the Sandycreek Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Zoning

Permits

Z-2018-01 Robert L. Mitcham 1652 Fairview Road lean-to added to
abandoned structure

Zoning Report

Ben Breniman, Zoning Officer, reported that one permit, for a lean-to added to an abandoned structure, was issued during the month. Some in attendance questioned whether a zoning permit should be necessary for such a project, and Ben Breniman responded by saying that the Cherrytree Township Zoning Ordinance specifies that any structure requires a zoning permit.

Administrative Action

Cherrytree Township Volunteer Fire Police – 2018 Schedule – Vote to Approve

On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Dave Zdarko, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to approve the 2018 schedule for the Cherrytree Township Volunteer Fire Police.

Complaint(s) – Excessive Junk

Two complaints were received about a junkyard located near the intersection of Route 8 and Route 417. According to the complaints, the junkyard is in violation of multiple regulations in the Zoning Ordinance and chemicals are seeping onto neighboring properties. Ben Breniman, Zoning Officer, noted that, because the junkyard existed before zoning was passed in the township, it would be considered a “non-conforming use”, but he feels that the township could force the owners to conform to some regulations. He suggested asking the owners to move cars away from the road and to erect an 8-foot fence to block the view from the road. On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to pursue enforcement on the owners of the junkyard located at the intersection of Route 8 and Route 417. Ben Breniman will send a letter to the property owners asking for voluntary cooperation and Chrissie Kurelowech will notify the complainants that they need to contact the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding chemicals seeping from the junkyard onto their properties.

Committee Reports

VFD

Don Deliman reported that there were 29 calls since the last meeting. Of the 29 calls, 3 were building fires, 1 was a cooking fire, 16 were EMS, 1 was an MVA with injuries, 1 was an MVA with no injuries, 1 was a search for a person on land, 1 was a person in distress, 1 was flooding on Route 8, 2 were public service, and 2 were dispatched and cancelled.

The Ham Shoots will begin on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 and will take place every Tuesday (sign ups start at 5:30) through March 27, 2018.

EMA Office

There was no report.

Road

Dave Zdarko reported that the road crew plowed and anti-skidded the roads 20 times and anti-skidded 9 times. They fixed washouts in 4 spots and checked the roads twice.

As for equipment, a hydraulic line on the grader was fixed and the front tire on the JCB backhoe was changed. Work was performed on the 2002 International cam sensor. Also, the front blades and shoes on the 2002 International were changed.

Jim Waugh said that he received phone calls on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from people wanting to know why the road crew was out on a Saturday in the winter when the temperature was 43 degrees. He asked Dave Zdarko what he should tell people who call with complaints and Dave Zdarko said that they go out when Lew Staub (Roadmaster) calls and says they need to go out. Jim Waugh said the complaints prompted him to check the township's cameras and review the road crew's activity. He read the actions he observed near the township garage (trucks/people coming and going, etc.) for Tuesday, January 23, 2018, Wednesday, January 24, 2018, and Friday, January 26, 2018. He noted that Oil Creek Township, Crawford County, spent many hours in the garage and that there were many mornings when the road crew spent hours in the garage and that some days they did not leave the garage during the entire shift. He noted that, during one week, no employees left the garage for 3 out of 5 days. Jim Waugh then read Section 607 (1) (Duties of Supervisors) from the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code which states, "*The Board of Supervisors shall: Be charged with the general governance of the township and the execution of legislative, executive and administrative powers in order to ensure sound fiscal management and to secure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the township.*". He said he feels the Supervisors are not demonstrating sound fiscal management by paying excessive overtime wages to the road crew when the road crew is spending many hours sitting in the garage, then going out later in the afternoons and weekends and making overtime wages. He added that the township has already paid nearly \$4,500.00 in overtime wages for 2018 and changes need to be made. Dave Zdarko said when work needs done, it gets done and asked Jim Waugh if the road crew should only come in when there are things that need done. Ron Stewart suggested talking to Lew Staub, Roadmaster. Jim Waugh noted that Oil Creek Township, Venango County, has 1 full-time road worker, 30 miles of roadway to maintain, and they pay very little overtime and the full-time road worker has no benefits. He also said there is a township in Mercer County that has 30 miles of roadway to maintain and has no full-time employees. Terri Fiely said the road crew plows snow on Christmas and Jim Waugh responded by saying that he goes out with the VFD and helps people all the time. Emery Fiely said the Supervisors will have to sit down and talk to Lew Staub, Roadmaster, and Jeff Nelson said it looks like Jim Waugh is "head hunting". Jim Waugh said he has complained about things in the past and the road crew asked him to come to them first, so he did, and nothing ever changes. Emery Fiely said Jim Waugh's issues with the road crew are personal and should not be discussed at the regular monthly meeting and Donna Stewart indicated that she feels if township people are complaining, then it should be discussed at a public meeting. Jim Waugh said he knows Dave Zdarko came to the township to work. Ron Stewart asked the Supervisors if the public will know what happens after a meeting with Lew Staub, Roadmaster, takes place and Emery Fiely said the public will know. Jim Waugh said the biggest complaint he gets from residents is that

they never see the road crew and he feels the overtime wages need stopped. Robert Van Valkenberg asked Dave Zdarko when the trucks were put away today (Monday, February 5, 2018) and he said that the road crew finished plowing around 7:30 a.m. and put the trucks away, but he left for an appointment at 9:30 a.m., so he did not know what the road crew did after that. Emery Fiely said that he was not there to slam his employees and Robert Van Valkenberg said they are not Emery Fiely's employees. Emery Fiely said the regular monthly meeting is not the place to discuss such matters and Lee Armstrong said people should be talking about it at the meeting. Ron Stewart noted that Dave Zdarko is in a tough position because he is a Supervisor, but Lew Staub is the Roadmaster. Dave Zdarko said he takes Lew Staub's word for it because Lew Staub has been working on the roads for a long time. Tim McGrath asked who Lew Staub's boss is and said the Supervisors need to define who Lew Staub is accountable to. He noted that Lew Staub's direction regarding how to manage time needs to come from the Board of Supervisors.

Discussion was held about what summer projects should be put out for bid this year. Chrissie Kurelowech said that usually the Supervisors vote to put the projects out for bid at the March meeting, so if it is known ahead of time what the projects are, there is plenty of time to meet with the PennDOT Municipal Representative and to prepare bid packets. She said that the township already committed to pave Cherrytree Road, from Fairview Road to South Perry Street (approximately 1.34 miles), by being awarded \$50,000.00 in grant money for the project by Venango County. The estimated cost of the project is \$140,000.00, with the township contributing \$90,000.00 and Venango County contributing \$50,000.00. Chrissie Kurelowech noted that the township has significantly less money to spend in 2018 because the money that had been carried over from year to year for several years has been spent. Additionally, \$12,403.35 is still owed to Shingledecker Welding for work on the culvert on Old Route 8 during the summer of 2017. A payment of \$26,542.86 will be due during the summer of 2018 for the tractor purchased during the summer of 2017. She suggested making significant cuts in paving, seal coating, oil, etc. Emery Fiely said he would be willing to cut the oil and use salt brine only for dust control and the other Supervisors seemed to be in agreement. Mark McDowell stated that Emery Fiely said there was money in the budget for oil and that salt brine is a health hazard. Jim Waugh suggested delaying seal coating for a year and noted that PennDOT does not seal coat the highways. Emery Fiely said that PennDOT puts a fine layer of seal coat on the highways to prevent water from seeping into the pavement. After a lengthy discussion, the Supervisors decided to put oil out for bid (same amount as in other years), paving (1.34 miles on Cherrytree Road), and seal coating (Turkey Farm Road (Route 8 to Shreve Road - .80 mile), Cherrytree Road (Buxton Road towards Route 8 - .80 mile), and South Perry Street (from city line towards Cherrytree Road - 1.10 miles). Chrissie Kurelowech will prepare the bid packets and the Supervisors will vote to put the projects out for bid at the meeting scheduled for March 5, 2018.

Ron Stewart asked if the Roadmaster should be required to attend the meetings of the Board of Supervisors and Emery Fiely said he will check into it.

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 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer