

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 3, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, June 3, 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.

Public Comment

Katherine Donaldson expressed concern regarding the depth of the ditches along Breedtown Road. Jim Waugh noted that the township placed rocks in some of the ditches that were too deep several years ago. Rob Kellogg said that the road crew would put cement that was left over from a culvert replacement in the deep ditches along Breedtown Road as soon as time permits.

Minutes/Treasurer's Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, April 1, 2024, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Rob Kellogg, seconded by Shari Nelson, and carried unanimously.

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

Correspondence

PennDOT – Monitoring Review – April 30, 2024

Mary Ammann, PennDOT Financial Consultant, conducted a "monitoring review" of the township's Liquid Fuels accounts on April 30, 2024 and found them to be accurate and that the township has maintained and followed proper procedures for Liquid Fuels funds. Chrissie Kurelowech explained that the "monitoring review" is an audit/review performed by PennDOT, but that the Department of the Auditor General also audits the Liquid Fuels funds and, at some point in time, an in-depth audit for each year will be conducted by the state.

PSATS News Bulletin

Zoning

Permits

Z-2024-08	Richard and LuAnn McCrumb	903 Old Petroleum Center Road	replacing existing deck
Z-2024-09	Greg and Yvonne Michaels	1116 Trout Run Road	new home
Z-2024-10	CWS Investments/Charles Sheaffer	Stone Springhouse Road	new recreational cabin

Zoning Report

Tim McGrath, Zoning Officer, reported that 3 permits were issued during the month. He noted that one permit is for a new home and that Todd Fantaskey has given approval for a septic system, but no septic permit has been issued yet. Also, depending upon the size/length of the driveway for the proposed home, the applicants could be required to obtain stormwater approval/plan through an engineering firm.

Tim McGrath reported that he recently stopped twice at 124 Turkey Farm Road because junk is accumulating on the property and someone is living in a shed with no septic system. Nobody was there when he stopped, but he is still working on the situation.

Administrative Action

Old Route 8/Black Road – Seal Coat – Review Bids and Vote

Bids to seal coat approximately 1.68 miles (Old Route 8 from Route 8 to the township line and Black Road from Route 8 to Old Route 8) were opened and reviewed. Bids were received from Suit-Kote Corporation (\$2.211/square yard - \$45,822.98), Russell Standard Corporation (\$2.370/square yard - \$49,118.25), Midland Asphalt Materials, Inc. (\$2.750 /square yard - \$56,993.75), and Jefferson Paving Corporation (\$2.840/square yard - \$58,859.00). On a motion made by Shari Nelson, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to accept the bid from Suit-Kote Corporation for \$2.211/square yard, totaling approximately \$45,822.98 (20,725 square yards). The full bid results are attached. According to the contract, the project cannot begin until August 12, 2024, without prior approval from the township, and must be completed on or before September 14, 2024. New pavement will be put down on Old Route 8 (Route 8 to the township line) and Black Road (Route 8 to Old Route 8) earlier in the summer.

PSATS Northwest 2024 Regional Forum – Vote to Approve

On a motion made by Jim Waugh and seconded by Rob Kellogg, the Supervisors voted to approve sending Shari Nelson to the PSATS Northwest 2024 Regional Forum, on August 7, 2024, in Erie, at a cost of \$99.00. Shari Nelson abstained.

Committee Reports

VFD

There was no formal VFD report. Jim Waugh noted that the VFD monitored Clean-Up Weekend (Saturday, June 1, 2024 and Sunday, June 2, 2024) and received donations. Additionally, the VFD's Annual Gun Raffle will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2024. The doors will open at 3:30 p.m., food will be available at 4:00 p.m., and the gun raffle will begin at 4:30 p.m. Almost every VFD member has tickets to sell and tickets are also available in the township office.

EMA Office

There was no report.

Road

Chrissie Kurelowech read a report submitted by Lew Staub, Roadmaster. During the past month, the road crew spent 10 days ditching approximately 6 miles on 4 roads, cut 4 trees leaning over roads, mowed the yard 3 times, pushed 2 trees off of roads, and spent 3 days opening pipes. They graded and brined 4 roads (5 loads of brine), took the broom off of the tractor and put the mower on, spent 1 day mowing berms, and fixed the pavilion roof.

As for equipment, the front bucket cutting edge was changed on the 2019 JCB backhoe.

Old Business

FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)–Enforcement/Compliance

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that she attended a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Community Assistance Visit for Community Officials, hosted by the Venango County Regional Planning Commission (VCRPC) and Josh Lippert, FEMA Community Assistance Contact, on May 13, 2024, in an effort to gain more information on floodplain enforcement and compliance. Josh Lippert, made a presentation and answered questions, along with other FEMA representatives. She learned that, in the past, FEMA performed 20 to 30 floodplain compliance audits in Pennsylvania per year, but will now be performing 300 per year. Venango County is the first countywide audit that FEMA has conducted and it was initiated by FEMA, not by Venango County. There are some floodplain regulations within the state’s UCC (Uniform Construction Code), so it is possible that the township could find a building inspector to perform floodplain enforcement in the future. During the last regular monthly meeting (May 6, 2024), Tim McGrath, Zoning Officer, noted that, if substantial renovations take place on a structure in the floodplain, the property owner(s) could be required to bring the entire structure into compliance, which would most likely be very costly. Chrissie Kurelowech learned, at the FEMA Community Assistance Visit for Community Officials, that this rule would also apply to a structure that is significantly damaged (car accident, tree, etc.). If the value of a structure increases by more than 50% due to repairs made after an event that is of no fault of the property owner (car accident, tree, etc.), the property owner would be required to bring the structure into compliance, which could be very costly. Chrissie Kurelowech asked if insurance companies are willing to cover the added expense of bringing a structure into floodplain compliance, while repairing damage, and was told that “there is a disconnect”. Alex Shreffler, of the VCRPC, noted that the county will replace its GIS (Geographic Information System) soon and it would be nice to mark the floodplain properties so the public could have access to the information from the parcel viewer website. By doing this, prospective buyers would know if a property is in a floodplain and could consider the extra cost of owning a property in a floodplain before buying. Municipalities in Venango County will receive corrective action reports from FEMA in June and will have 60 days to comply.

New Business

Planning Commission - Attendance

Shari Nelson noted that there have only been two of the three members of the Cherrytree Township Planning Commission present at recent meetings that have been held to review the zoning ordinance. She asked if there is a way to either appoint alternates or replace the member who has not attended meetings without the member formally resigning. Chrissie Kurelowech said that she would look into options and report at the next meeting. Shari Nelson said that she would be interested in filling the vacancy.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer