

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

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, July 6, 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

Ron Stewart asked the Supervisors to consider putting more gravel on Black Road and Dutch Hill Road. He said that, earlier in the year, the township put 7,200 tons of gravel mostly on roads located on the other side of Route 8. Some of the gravel was put on Shreve Road and Pioneer Road as well. He said he was told that one of the factors used to determine whether a road needs gravel is if there are stones jutting up through the surface. He showed the Supervisors pictures of stones jutting up through the surface on Dutch Hill Road and said that Dutch Hill Road has not had any attention in 23 years. The Supervisors said that they would vote on whether or not to purchase an additional 7,200 tons of gravel later in the meeting and that they were unsure as to which roads would be getting the gravel, if approved. Ron Stewart noted that he has been cleaning ditches and mowing in the area near his home this summer.

Ernie McCain, of Pioneer Road, asked the Supervisors to consider widening Pioneer Road. He said that the road is so narrow that 2 cars cannot safely pass on it and that the ditches have not been cleaned in 5 years. When it rains, parts of the road wash away. He also noted that there is a dangerous blind curve on the road. He said there are 13 houses and camps along Pioneer Road, making the tax base high. Several other Pioneer Road residents were in attendance and told the Supervisors that they share Ernie McCain's concerns and would appreciate the township improving the road. It was noted that many tourists use Pioneer Road. Dave Zdarko said that, if the township were to widen the road, parts of privately owned property would most likely need to be taken. No decision was made.

A complaint was submitted to the Supervisors regarding tall grass and an abandoned home at 187 Fairview Road. Jim Waugh said there is no ordinance prohibiting tall grass. He also said that the township has been trying to get several properties cleaned up for years and that it is very difficult to do. The township takes the property owner to court, the property owner gets fined and then proceeds to fill the property with junk again. He said that some organizations will even help the violators pay their fines. Jamey Miller noted that there is a process to follow to get a property owner to clean up a property and suggested that the township change its ordinance(s) so the fees increase with each offense. Jim Waugh said that it is hard to get the property owner to even pick up a registered letter from the township. Chrissie Kurelowech said that, in her opinion, the problem is, once a property owner is fined, he or she will improve the property (remove junk, etc.) just enough to get the township to drop the enforcement, then will start to create a mess again until someone files a complaint with the township. At that point, the

enforcement starts at the very beginning of the process, usually with a letter giving the property owner a period of time to fix the problem before the township files a complaint with the district magistrate.

Residents from Pioneer Road complained about people illegally riding 4-wheelers on Pioneer Road. The Supervisors said that the township cannot do anything about 4-wheelers on the roads and suggested calling the state police.

Carl Hazen and Mark McDowell told the Supervisors that they feel the salt brine is not working. Carl Hazen said when the sun hits the brine, it is gone. Mark McDowell said the top of his mailbox has dust on it and wanted to know when the Supervisors plan to apply a second batch of brine. Jim Waugh said if you travel on Cherrytree Road (towards Route 27), you will easily be able to tell where the township line is because the section of the road with salt brine looks great. Dave Zdanko said the Supervisors decided to use salt brine, as opposed to oil, to save money and that a second application could possibly happen. Lew Staub, Roadmaster, told those in attendance that rain is needed to “lock in” the brine and that we have had very little rain. He also said that oil would not have worked well this year either due to the absence of rain. Additionally, Dempseytown-Gresham Road received only a light dose of salt brine, compared to other roads, due to anticipated extra gravel being put down. Steve Anderson noted that the roads that received salt brine prior to the most recent rain look great. Chrissie Kurelowech said that the township was a month behind this year on approving dust suppressant due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Supervisors had planned to discuss dust suppressant at the meeting held on April 6, 2020, but delayed the discussion until the meeting held on May 4, 2020 because the meeting in April was virtual due to COVID-19. At that time, they thought the May meeting would be “in-person” and they wanted to give residents the opportunity to participate in the discussion. Unfortunately, the May meeting was virtual as well.

Minutes/Treasurer’s Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, June 1, 2020, were read. Don Deliman noted that, under “Old Business”, in the section pertaining to Clean-Up Weekend, it says “Non-residents will be required to make a donation of \$5.00/trunk load and \$10.00/truck load to the VFD” and it should say “Non-residents will be requested to make a donation of \$5.00/trunk load and \$10.00/truck load to the VFD”. Chrissie Kurelowech will make the change. The amended minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, June 1, 2020, were accepted and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdanko, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer’s report, for June 2020, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Dave Zdanko, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Venango County, Jeremy Tidd, Service Coordinator – SHARE Program

The county has a new program called SHARE (Shared Housing and Resource Exchange). The program matches older citizens with younger citizens in an effort to make it possible for older citizens to stay in their homes. The older citizens will receive help, either financial help or help with tasks around the house, and the younger citizens, in turn, will be allowed to live in homes with the older citizens.

Venango County Conservation District – Stream Crossing Replacement

The Venango County Conservation District will hold 2 workshops (July 8, 2020 and July 23, 2020) to provide the opportunity to learn the basics of stream crossing replacements.

PSATS News Bulletin

Zoning

Permits

Z-2020-05	Jack Bonus	1010 Buxton Road	new cabin and garage
Z-2020-06	Joseph Lorenz	350 Stone Springhouse Road	new pole barn
N/A	John Yoder	1070 Stone Springhouse Road	subdivision

Zoning Report

There was no report.

Administrative Action

2RC Gravel – 7,200 Tons – Review Quotes

Because the Supervisors made their decision to use salt brine instead of E-1 Prime for dust suppressant this summer after they voted to accept quotes on gravel at their meeting held on April 6, 2020, there was extra money in the budget that could be spent on gravel, which would increase the effectiveness of the salt brine, so a second RFQ (Request For Quote) was put out. The Supervisors reviewed quotes for 7,200 tons of 2RC gravel from Hasbrouck Sand & Gravel, Inc., IA Construction Corporation, and ACA Sand and Gravel, LLC. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to accept the lowest quote, from Hasbrouck Sand & Gravel, Inc., for \$8.70/ton, totaling \$62,640.00. The bid results follow.

<i>2RC Gravel – 7,200 Tons</i>	<i>Price Per Ton</i>	<i>Total</i>
Hasbrouck Sand & Gravel, Inc.	\$8.70	\$62,640.00
IA Construction Corporation	\$13.15	\$94,680.00
ACA Sand and Gravel, LLC	\$14.76	\$106,272.00

Ordinance 02-2020–Amendment to Zoning Ordinance–Vote to Continue Process to Pass

Chrissie Kurelowech told those in attendance that Ordinance 02-2020 is an amendment to the Cherrytree Township Zoning Ordinance that includes regulations pertaining to solar development. There is currently a moratorium on solar development in the township that went into effect on March 2, 2020 and will end at the beginning of September. In order to have the new ordinance passed before the moratorium ends, it is necessary to continue with the next step in the process, which is to send the proposed ordinance to the Cherrytree Township Planning Commission and to the Venango County Regional Planning Commission for recommendations. Once the comment period ends, the Supervisors will need to hold a public hearing before voting to pass the ordinance at a public meeting. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to forward Ordinance 02-2020 to the Cherrytree Township Planning Commission and to the Venango County Regional Planning Commission for recommendations.

Resolution #20-44 - Safety Policy

On a motion made by Dave Zdarko, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #20-44 (Safety Policy). Chrissie

Kurelowech said that AmTrust, the township's workers compensation insurance carrier, has strongly encouraged the township to pass a safety policy for employees to follow. She also asked the Supervisors for permission to purchase a first-aid kit for the garage and new first-aid kits for the trucks. The Supervisors granted permission.

Proclamation – All Lives Matter – Support the Police

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to make a proclamation that it is Cherrytree Township's position that all lives matter and we will support the police. Jim Waugh said that, with all of the protests and riots in the country today, he feels it is necessary to stand up and take a side.

Committee Reports

VFD

Jim Waugh read a report submitted by Tom Huffman, VFD 1st Assistant Chief. There were 20 calls since the last meeting. Of the 20 calls, 1 was a building fire, 1 was a cooking fire, 1 was a brush fire, 8 were EMS, 1 was an MVA with injuries, 1 was an MVA with no injuries, 1 was a hazardous condition, 1 was a carbon monoxide incident, 2 were public service, 2 were dispatched and cancelled, and 1 was no incident found.

EMA Office

There was no report.

Road

Lew Staub, Roadmaster, reported that the road crew ran the grader on 30 roads, put 9 crossover pipes in, put 2 driveway pipes in, ditched spots on 2 roads, and smashed junk in the dumpsters. They also put salt brine down 13 times (various spots), mowed the yard 3 times, stacked gravel, and spent 7 days mowing along roads. Shingledecker's Welding put in 3 pipes.

As for equipment, the mower was put on the tractor and the filters were changed on the 2019 JCB backhoe. The 2002 International and the 2014 Dodge were inspected.

Chrissie Kurelowech said that she was told Paul Weaver has free salt brine (previously it was \$50.00/load) that could be used by the township (no DEP permit required) if, after the salt brine from Seneca Mineral has been put down, there are spots throughout the township that need touched up. Lew Staub said he looks for the township to use between 100,000 and 110,000 gallons of salt brine from Seneca Mineral to cover the entire township and that 150,000 gallons were put out for bid, so he feels there will be extra salt brine that will be available for areas that might need a second application.

Old Business

None

New Business

PA Dept. of the Auditor General – Pension Audit – 2016 through 2019

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General recently completed an audit of the township's pension plan (2016 – 2019). There were no findings. However, the auditor contacted the township after the audit was complete and said that, because the plan is administered by Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) and that PMRS keeps delaying the release of each plan's

annual reports, a finding would be attached to the township's audit. In fact, any township audited that uses PMRS will receive a finding until PMRS starts releasing annual reports in a timely fashion. The Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General did this many years ago in an effort to get PMRS to make changes to its procedures. Many townships were upset. The township recently received the official audit report with the finding. In the report, it does not mention anything about the third-party administrator being responsible for the finding and, to anyone who does not know the finding was due to the third-party administrator, it appears as if the township is at fault. Chrissie Kurelowech said she has contacted the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General in Harrisburg to get "by the third-party administrator" added to the finding, but has received no response. She contacted the auditor in Erie who performed the audit and was told that the chances of the PA Department of the Auditor General changing the finding are slim, but that the township could send a letter requesting the change and, at a minimum, the contents of the letter will appear in the "comments" section of the official audit report. Chrissie Kurelowech sent a letter to the auditor requesting that "by a third-party administrator" be added to the finding. She has not yet received an amended audit report.

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