

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
August 5, 2019

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, August 5, 2019, 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

There was no "Public Comment".

Minutes/Treasurer's Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, July 1, 2019, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdarko, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer's report, for July 2019, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

PSATS News Bulletin

Venango Conserv. District–2019 Dirt, Gravel and Low-Volume Roads Municipality Day

A 2019 Dirt, Gravel and Low-Volume Roads Municipality Day will be held on September 24, 2019 in State College. Participants will be able to get ESM (Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance) certified in just one day, as opposed to the regular two day training. Chrissie Kurelowech said that, currently, nobody at the township is ESM certified, but that the road crew is scheduled for two day training in Guys Mills in September. This will make the township eligible to apply for grant money through the program later in the year.

May & Company – 2018 Audit

May & Company has completed the 2018 township audit. There were no findings. The 2018 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report has been submitted to PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and Chrissie Kurelowech will soon file a copy at the Venango County Courthouse.

Venango County Association of Township Officials – Annual Convention – Sept. 25, 2019

The 107th Annual Convention of the Venango County Association of Township Officials will be held at the Oakland Township Fire Hall on Wednesday, September 25, 2019. Chrissie Kurelowech asked the Supervisors to let her know if they plan to attend so that she can make reservations.

Zoning

Permits

Z- 2019-11 Jeffrey and Stephanie Mullen 5376 State Route 8 new 30' by 30' garage

Z-2019-12 Karl Lamey III 233 Sopher Road handicap accessible sidewalk/medical office

Zoning Report

Ben Breniman, Zoning Officer, reported that he recently approved a permit for Karl Lamey III to open an office where alternative medicine will be practiced. The office will be located at 233 Sopher Road and will most likely only be open for one evening a week.

Ben Breniman has also been reviewing two subdivisions, one for Joe Lorenz and one for Cross Creek Resort.

Administrative Action

There was no "Administrative Action".

Committee Reports

VFD

Don Deliman, VFD Treasurer, reported that there were 25 calls since the last meeting. Of the 25 calls, 2 were building fires (Titusville and Hydetown), 8 were EMS, 1 was an MVA with injuries (Oakland), 1 was a swift water rescue (Chapmanville), 1 was a power line down (Cornplanter), 6 were public service (mostly flooding and trees down), 4 were dispatched and cancelled, 1 was a smoke detector activation, and 1 was flood assessment (included multiple flooded roadways in the township).

The VFD will hold its first annual car cruise on Saturday, August 31, 2019 from noon until 5:00 p.m. The event will include 50/50 drawings, raffles, and a barbecued chicken dinner.

Don Deliman also reported that the VFD made an estimated \$8,200.00 from the annual gun raffle that was held on Saturday, June 22, 2019.

The flag in front of the township building will fly at half-staff until sunset on Thursday, August 8, 2019, to honor the victims of the recent El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio shootings.

EMA Office

Tim McGrath, Emergency Management Coordinator, reported that he will soon be attending quarterly training.

He also reminded those in attendance that, in the future, the township needs to document and report storm damage to the county. This could financially benefit the township and/or the county as a whole. The township must take pictures, estimate the cost of the damage, document, and report the damage because it could push the county over the threshold, making it eligible for money from PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency) and/or FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). Lew Staub noted that the township needs to have someone else to do the estimating and documenting of storm damage because he has been taken away from repairing roads in the past to compile and file storm damage reports. In the time he spent doing that, he could have had the roads repaired. The last time the township documented storm damage and reported it (2014), there was almost \$300,000.00 worth of damage and the township did not receive any financial help from PEMA or FEMA.

Road

Lew Staub, Roadmaster, reported that the road crew graded and raked 15 roads for oil, oiled and chipped 12 roads, put a crossover pipe in, mowed 7 roads, mowed the yard 3 times, cleaned pipes, and loaded the paver. They also spent 2 weeks fixing storm damage from 2 storms in 30 spots. Seneca Mineral applied salt brine to Fairview Road, between Cherrytree Road and Dempseytown-Gresham Road.

As for equipment, the lights on the JCB backhoe were fixed.

Old Business

Miller Farm Bridge

Chrissie Kurelowech gave an update on the Miller Farm Bridge project. PennDOT recently put out a press release saying that the existing bridge was going to be removed, taken to another site to be cleaned and repaired, and returned, which is consistent with Ron Stewart's reports he made at township meetings

after he had attended public meetings related to the project. However, PennDOT communicated to both Cherrytree Township and Oil Creek Township (Venango) multiple times that a new two-lane bridge would replace the existing bridge. In a recent article that appeared in The Titusville Herald, a PennDOT representative was quoted as saying she was “uncertain of where the misconception came from”. Chrissie Kurelowech contacted the representative and forwarded emails to her from the PennDOT employee who told the townships that the bridge would be replaced with a new two-lane bridge. Apparently, the person in charge of the project retired from PennDOT and different people have been trying to fill the position since he left, leading to communication issues. At any rate, Chrissie Kurelowech was contacted by Tom McClelland, of PennDOT, who answered many questions the township had on the project. The existing bridge will not be replaced, but instead will be removed, taken to another site to be cleaned and repaired, and returned. The township will be required to pass an ordinance that will allow PennDOT to acquire rights-of-way to complete the project. However, any legal or advertising fees will be covered by the county. The township will need to submit expenses to Jason Ruggiero, Executive Director of the Venango County Planning Commission, for reimbursement. Also, there will be no changes to road maintenance as a result of the bridge being improved. This was a concern at the regular monthly meeting held on July 1, 2019. Currently, there is no winter maintenance near the bridge on Miller Farm Road. PennDOT has not provided enough information to the townships to draft their ordinances, but Tom McClelland said he is trying to find someone at PennDOT to assist both townships with the ordinance. At this point in time, Chrissie Kurelowech is waiting to be contacted by PennDOT for more information regarding the ordinance that will need passed.

Township Property Subdivision

Jim Waugh reported that, in an effort to subdivide an 8 ½ acre parcel of land owned by the township (corner of Cherrytree Road and Buxton Road), he has contacted a surveyor and is waiting for a return call. At the regular monthly meeting held on July 1, 2019, the Supervisors indicated that they would be in favor of subdividing the parcel to allow the VFD to own the portion of property where the horse ring is located. This would relieve the township of any liability associated with the use of the horse ring.

New Business

Backhoe Replacement

Emery Fiely suggested replacing the Case backhoe. He said he recently used it to help repair storm damage and it will hardly load a truck because the bucket keeps dropping. The Case backhoe had extensive repairs made to it in 2016 at a cost of \$22,464.30. Steve Anderson said he rewired it last week. Jim Waugh suggested discussing the backhoe’s replacement at the budget meeting in the fall.

Salt Shed

Emery Fiely noted that the salt shed is going to need resided in the near future. He said the back is going to fall out of it.

Road Worker Pay Increase

Jim Waugh suggested giving Steve Anderson a pay increase. He said new employees usually get a pay increase once they have been working for the township for 90 days, but Steve Anderson never received one because it was overlooked and it is not written anywhere. He is working out very well as part of the road crew and is deserving of it. When Dave Zdarko worked as a township employee, his raise was also overlooked, so the Supervisors voted to give him a raise and to make it retroactive to when he had completed 90 days of employment. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Emery Fiely, and carried, the Supervisors voted to give Steve Anderson a pay increase that matches the amount Dave Zdarko was given after 90 days of employment and to make it retroactive to when Steve Anderson completed his first 90 days of employment.

Handicap Parking Spaces

Jim Waugh suggested making paved handicap parking spaces near the front of the building, as opposed to gravel. At a previous meeting, it was suggested that the township make designated handicap parking spaces with gravel. Jim Waugh said pavement would work much better because the gravel will just get pushed into the yard by the snow plow. The other Supervisors were in favor of paving the parking spaces, but it was suggested that the entire front parking lot be paved at the same time. After some discussion, no decision was made.

Cherrytree-Plum Line Road Repair

Jim Waugh said he recently contacted Plum Township Supervisors to see if the townships can work together to make needed repairs on Cherrytree-Plum Line Road. Cherrytree Township will replace two crossover pipes and Plum Township will provide gravel and regrade the road. Because the road divides the townships, both townships share maintenance responsibilities.

Adjournments

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer