

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
September 3, 2019

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, September 3, 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**

Ron Stewart noted that Emery Fiely only has 4 meetings left until his term ends. Emery Fiely told Ron Stewart not to count his chickens before they have hatched.

**Minutes/Treasurer's Report**

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, August 5, 2019, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdarko, and carried unanimously.

The minutes, from the special meeting held on Thursday, August 22, 2019, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously.

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

**Correspondence**

**PSATS Unemployment Group Trust – 2020 Contribution Rate**

*Cherrytree Township's 2020 contribution rate for the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) Group Trust will remain unchanged at 0.80%. The township will be required to pay 0.80% of each eligible employee's first \$10,000.00 earned to PSATS Group Trust.*

**Venango Conservation District – 2020 Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume Roads (DGLVR) Application**

*The Venango Conservation District is now accepting applications for projects for 2020. The application deadline is October 18, 2019 and the deadline for pre-application site visits is October 11, 2019. Last year, the township applied for \$35,000.00 to improve drainage (pipes and limestone) on Pastorius Road and was rejected. Chrissie Kurelowech said that she thought the intention was to apply again for money to complete the same project since the Pastorius Road project would now have preference points (projects build up preference points with each submittal). However, she said she was recently contacted by Oil Creek Township, Venango County, and asked if Cherrytree Township would like to jointly apply for money to improve Miller Farm Road through both the DGLVR program and county aid. Originally, the plan was to apply for county aid to gravel Miller Farm Road and to resubmit the Pastorius Road project to DGLVR. She told the Supervisors that the county aid application is ready to be submitted, but that, if they wanted to apply with Oil Creek Township, she could start working on a new application. However, since the county aid application requires that a resolution be passed, a special meeting would need to take place during September to adopt the resolution. The Miller Farm Bridge will be removed for rehabilitation in May of 2020 and returned in November of 2020. This will take place on Oil Creek Township's side of Oil Creek, so the bridge will not damage Cherrytree Township's roads on its way out or back in. It was questionable as to the reason Oil Creek Township would apply for*

money to improve its part of Miller Farm Road during 2020 because returning the bridge could cause damage to the road. After a brief discussion, the Supervisors were in agreement to resubmit the Pastorius Road project to DGLVR and to apply for county aid to gravel Miller Farm Road. They will not apply jointly with Oil Creek Township.

#### Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council – Timber Ordinance

A letter was received from the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council reminding municipalities not to make timber ordinances too restrictive. Many municipalities are passing ordinances regulating the harvesting of timber and these ordinances often violate the Agricultural Communities and Rural Environment Act (ACRE). A model ordinance was included. Chrissie Kurelowech noted that the model ordinance specifies that a logging plan must be submitted to the municipality for every parcel where logging is taking place. Additionally, the model ordinance stresses the importance of complying with state laws (stream crossing and wetlands protection regulations, erosion and sediment control regulations). It also specifies that all permits required by the state must be attached to the logging plan that is submitted to the municipality. The Supervisors were in agreement that they have no intention of passing a timber ordinance and feel that the township is only interested in protecting the roads from damage caused by logging (overweight vehicles) and not logging activity that takes place on private property.

#### Venango County Planning Commission – Household Hazardous Waste/Electronics Collection Event

A Household Hazardous Waste/Electronics Collection event will be held at the Cranberry Mall parking lot on Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. There is a cost, based on the type of material and the weight. Anyone planning to attend should pre-register by calling (866) 815-0016 or going to ECSR.net.

#### Venango County Planning Commission – Tire Collection Event

Venango County will be collecting tires on Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Cranberry Mall parking lot. There is a 20 tire limit per residence/business and the cost is \$2.00 per standard tire and \$8.00 per oversized tire. Only cash will be accepted and registration is required because space is limited. To register, call (814) 432-9684.

## Zoning

### Permits

None

### Zoning Report

Ben Breniman, Zoning Officer, reported that no permits were issued during the month. He recently inspected 1220 South Perry Street and found junk accumulating on the property again so he will begin enforcement with letters and, if the problem is not corrected, the district magistrate. The township has taken the property owners to court in the past, due to the accumulation of junk, and the district magistrate has ruled on the side of the township.

## Administrative Action

### Resolution #19-44 – 2020 County Aid Application

On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #19-44 (2020 County Aid Application). The township will apply for \$29,249.42 to be spent on gravel for Miller Farm Road (approximately 2.81 miles). The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$32,569.42.

### PMRS 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) – Vote to Accept

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdanko, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to accept the 2020 Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO). The 2020 MMO, which is \$22,496.00, represents the amount of money the township will be required to contribute to PMRS (employee pension fund) by the end of 2020. This is an increase of \$3.00 since 2019. Chrissie Kurelowech explained that, each year, the township usually

receives between \$8,000.00 and \$10,000.00 in state aid to put towards the MMO, but the township is required to make up the difference and must meet the MMO.

### **Troy-Bilt Lawnmower – Vote to Sell**

On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Dave Zdanko, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to sell the Troy-Bilt lawnmower for \$50.00. The lawnmower was recently replaced and is in poor condition.

## **Committee Reports**

### **VFD**

Tom Huffman, VFD 1st Assistant Chief, reported that there were 24 calls since the last meeting. Of the 24 calls, 1 was a building fire, 1 was a medical assist, 9 were EMS, 1 was an MVA with injuries, 3 were MVAs with no injuries, 1 was a flooded basement, 2 were public service, and 6 were dispatched and cancelled.

The VFD held its 1st Annual Car Cruise and Chicken Barbeque on Saturday, August 31, 2019 from noon until 5:00 p.m. There was a good turnout and the VFD is planning to have another one next year.

The fall shoots will begin on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 and will take place on every Tuesday through November 26, 2019. Sign-ups start at 5:30 and the cost is \$2.50 per shot.

The VFD will send 5 people to fire school at Cambridge Springs High School on Saturday, September 7, 2019 and Sunday, September 8, 2019.

### **EMA Office**

There was no report.

### **Road**

Lew Staub, Roadmaster, reported that the road crew graded and raked 6 roads for oil, oiled and chipped 10 roads, mowed berms on 8 roads, pushed trees off of roads twice, graded 2 roads, and had the septic tanks pumped. They fixed 4 washout spots, put 7 crossover pipes in, put 3 driveway pipes in, and spent 2 days cleaning pipes and rocks up from washouts. Additionally, they mowed the yard twice and took the mower off the tractor and put the ditcher on. Russell Standard seal coated 3 roads (Cherrytree Road (from Fairview to South Perry), Old Route 8 (from Breedtown to city line), and Dutch Hill (just off Route 8). Hasbrouck Sand & Gravel tailgated gravel on 5 roads.

As for equipment, the 2014 Dodge was taken to Shults of Warren for repair/replacement of the clutch, front U joints, and the emergency brake. A front tire on the JCB backhoe had a flat that needed fixed. Ramco fixed several problems with the township radios.

Lew Staub said that the road crew removed a pipe on Cherrytree-Plum Line Road, as recently requested by the Supervisors. Jim Waugh noted that the road is waiting for gravel from Plum Township.

## **Old Business**

### **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 been given an estimate of \$2,000.00. 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.

### **Handicap Parking Spaces**

Jamey Miller asked the Supervisors if there had been any progress with making handicap parking spaces in front of the township building, as discussed in recent meetings. Emery Fiely responded by saying the township is checking into it and noted that the spaces must be paved because gravel will not work. Jim Waugh will get estimates.

**New Business**

There was no "New Business".

**Adjournments**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer