

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
September 5, 2017

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., at the township building. In attendance were Emery Fiely, Lew Staub, and Jim Waugh, 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**

Chrissie Kurelowech spoke on behalf of Ron Stewart, who could not attend the meeting. Ron wanted to thank the road crew for putting down a nice base on Black Road in preparation for paving it next year.

Jamey Miller told the Supervisors that Constable Refuse, of Franklin, does not go through garbage and separate recyclables, as it was previously stated during the last meeting. He said hopes to see the recyclable dumpsters put back in the township parking lot. Jim Waugh said that residents can go to [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) to view a list of locations accepting recyclables in the area. Chrissie Kurelowech said she contacted Constable Refuse recently and was told that they, most likely, will be able to pick up recyclables at homes within one year. Cherrytree is one of a few routes that are left to be added to Constable Refuse's recyclable pick-up program. She also contacted Braun's Refuse, of Oil City, and was told that they will pick up recyclables twice a month at homes in Cherrytree for \$4.00 per month per home. However, each homeowner wishing to participate must hire Braun's Refuse to pick up garbage as well. Mark McDowell suggested approaching the Venango County Commissioners to see if the county could help with the recycling issue and/or slow Internet in rural areas.

Jamey Miller noted that there are dangerous potholes on both ends of Cherrytree Road (Route 27 and Route 8), creating unsafe driving conditions.

**Minutes/Treasurer's Report**

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, August 7, 2017, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Emery Fiely, and carried.

The treasurer's report, for August 2017, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried.

**Correspondence**

Venango County Regional Planning Commission – County Liquid Fuels Aid  
*The application for 2018 County Liquid Fuels Aid has arrived and is due by October 20, 2017. Chrissie Kurelowech said she talked to Josh Montgomery, PennDOT Municipal Services Representative, about applying for money to pay for dust suppressant (E-1 Prime) and was told that the project needs to benefit the township long-term and dust suppressant would not be approved. She also asked Josh Montgomery about applying for*

*money to purchase gravel and was told that the project, most likely, would not be approved because gravel is not considered to have a long-term benefit and that the township should use the Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume Roads program to obtain money for gravel. She said that Josh Montgomery suggested applying for money to use on paving because it yields a long-term benefit. Chrissie Kurelowech said that Lew Staub suggested paving Cherrytree Road, from Fairview Road to South Perry Street, next summer. Based on the cost of paving in 2017, the 1.34-mile stretch would cost about \$138,733.71 to pave. The Supervisors were in favor of applying for the entire estimated cost to pave Cherrytree Road from Fairview Road to South Perry Street. Chrissie Kurelowech will put the application together and the Supervisors will pass a resolution committing them to the project at the next meeting.*

PSATS News Bulletin

## **Zoning**

### **Permits**

Z-2017-10	James and Cecile Stelter	1771 Breedtown Road	new grain bin
Z-2017-11	Thomas and Terrie Cheffers	1031 Tarr Road	new pole building garage
Z-2017-12	Uriah and Jacqui Sampson	4537 State Route 8	new carport

### **Zoning Report**

Ben Breniman, Zoning Officer, reported that three permits were issued during the month. A fourth application was received to place a mobile home on a parcel with two existing homes. The county does not allow multiple homes to be placed on the same parcel and, most likely, the existing two homes were grandfathered in. For the applicant to place a third home on the property, the parcel would need to be subdivided and the mobile home would need to be placed on a parcel that is at least 3 acres. The applicant planned to talk to the Venango County Regional Planning Commission, but it appears as if the project is becoming too costly because the mobile home was intended to be a temporary living arrangement.

## **Administrative Action**

### **PMRS 2018 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)**

On a motion made by Emery Fiely and seconded by Jim Waugh, the Supervisors voted to accept the 2018 Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO). Lew Staub abstained. The 2018 MMO, which is \$22,636.00, represents the amount of money the township will be required to contribute to PMRS (employee pension fund) by the end of 2018. This is an increase of \$435.00 since 2017. 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.

### **Timber Bids – Vote to Put Out For Bid a Second Time**

The township recently advertised for bids on marked timber located on the township's property at the intersection of Cherrytree Road and Buxton Road. No bids were received. Earlier in the summer, before the township advertised for bids, an estimate from Blue Ox Timber was received. When, after advertising, the

township received no bids, it was unknown as to whether the township could accept the quote previously submitted by Blue Ox Timber. Chrissie Kurelowech reported that, in order to accept the estimate from Blue Ox Timber, the township would need to advertise for bids a second time and receive no bids a second time. However, the estimate submitted by Blue Ox Timber says that, if the contract is not accepted on or before June 16, 2017, it is null and void. Therefore, if the township receives no bids after advertising for the second time, it will have to approach Blue Ox Timber or another business to obtain a new estimate. On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Lew Staub, and carried, the Supervisors voted to advertise for bids on marked timber at the intersection of Cherrytree Road and Buxton Road. Robert Van Valkenberg (Bird) will mark the timber before it is put out for bid. Mark McDowell suggested deeding the parcel over to the VFD and letting the VFD handle the sale of the timber. The Supervisors, at a previous meeting, decided to sell the timber, put the money into a special account, deed the parcel over to the VFD, use money in the special account to pay for legal fees, and to give the VFD any money remaining in the special account. Lew Staub noted that the money would need to be earmarked by the VFD to be used towards the construction of a new building. Emery Fiely said that the township is running out of space for equipment, so either the VFD or the township will need a new building.

**Resolution #17-40 – Brown Small Flow Resolution for Plan Revision**

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Lew Staub, and carried, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #17-40, Brown Small Flow Resolution for Plan Revision. This is necessary for Tracey Brown to install a Small Flow Treatment Facility (septic system) at 4796 State Route 8, Titusville, PA 16354.

**Committee Reports**

**VFD**

Don Deliman reported that there were 11 calls since the last meeting. Of the 11 calls, 9 were EMS and 2 were MVAs without injuries.

Don Deliman told the Supervisors that the Venango County Firefighters and Fire Chiefs Association will be on the agenda at the upcoming convention of the Venango County Association of Township Officials. Discussion will be held on reinstating monthly severe weather siren tests.

The VFD will have a flea market on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. There is a \$5.00 non-refundable fee per table. To reserve a table, contact Allen Wade at (814) 827-2567 or [jawade@gmx.com](mailto:jawade@gmx.com).

Eight members of the VFD will attend fire school in Cambridge Springs this weekend.

**EMA Office**

There was no report.

**Road**

Lew Staub reported that the road crew mowed berms on 42 roads, mowed the yard 3 times, graded 6 roads, replaced 2 culvert pipes, stacked gravel, and replaced 2 “STOP” signs.

As for equipment, the 2002 International went to Walsh Equipment to have a new hydraulic pump installed.

Chrissie Kurelowech said she talked to Josh Montgomery, PennDOT Municipal Services Representative, about the pipe located where Tarr Road meets Route 8. During the last meeting, a resident reported that the pipe needs replaced

and that PennDOT said it is the township's responsibility and the township said it is PennDOT's responsibility. Josh Montgomery said the township is responsible for the pipe and Chrissie Kurelowech put the question out to the PSATS (Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors) discussion group and was told that it is the responsibility of the township. Lew Staub said that the cement pipe is 4 feet in diameter and the ends have fallen off of it. The Supervisors were in agreement that it is not an urgent issue.

## **Old Business**

### **Recycling Ideas – Participants Purchase Bags/Key Fob System/Other Options**

Chrissie Kurelowech said she received some ideas regarding recycling from residents who contacted her on the matter during the month. One resident suggested that residents who wish to recycle purchase special bags from the township and drop off recyclables, in the bags, during designated hours. Either township employees or volunteers could accept the recyclables. Jamey Miller suggested getting a key fob system which would prevent people who are not Cherrytree residents from having access to recyclable dumpsters. The Supervisors were in agreement that the ideas were too time consuming and expensive. Emery Fiely said that he was not in favor of bringing the recyclable dumpsters back to the township and that it is not the road crew's responsibility to monitor and clean up the mess that often surrounds the dumpsters. Jamey Miller said that, since the Supervisors are not in favor of any of the options, it sounds like the township is being taken back to the 80's. Emery Fiely said it is not the township's responsibility and Jamey Miller said that it sounds like the Supervisors have shut down. Jim Waugh noted that people were abusing the dumpsters and that residents wishing to recycle should go to [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) to find a place where they can leave recyclables. Don Deliman said that he would consider switching to Braun's Refuse, since they will pick up recyclables at his home. Jim Waugh said that he thought it would be easier for residents to have the recyclables picked up at their homes, as opposed to hauling recyclables to dumpsters at the township building and Jamey Miller noted that it is cheaper to have dumpsters at the township building. Mark McDowell suggested approaching Braun's Refuse to see if they would consider putting a recycling station on the township property. This station would have to be maintained by Braun's Refuse, not by township employees. The Supervisors were not opposed to this idea. Chrissie Kurelowech will contact Braun's Refuse to see if they would consider it.

### **SM60 Bush Hog Side Mount Rotary Cutter/Henderson Spreader**

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that the Henderson spreader sold for \$10.00 on [www.municibid.com](http://www.municibid.com). The buyer has paid the township for the item, but will still need to make arrangements to pick it up. The SM60 Bush Hog side mount rotary cutter (mower) had a bid of \$3,500.00 on [www.municibid.com](http://www.municibid.com), but did not sell because the reserve was \$7,000.00. On a motion made by Lew Staub, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried, the Supervisors voted to relist the SM60 Bush Hog side mount rotary cutter on [www.municibid.com](http://www.municibid.com) with a reserve of \$5,000.00.

### **Direct Deposit**

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that she looked into setting the employees up for direct deposit of their paychecks and found that QuickBooks charges \$1.75 per check. She is still waiting on a price from Farmer's National Bank. However, she was told that the road crew would prefer to continue receiving paper paychecks and

does not wish to move to direct deposit. With that said, the Supervisors were in agreement to continue to issue paper paychecks every Thursday.

## **New Business**

### **PSATS Magazine – Funding Volunteer Fire Departments**

Jim Waugh shared information he recently read in PSATS magazine regarding the role municipalities must play in supporting volunteer fire departments across the state. He said volunteer fire departments save Pennsylvania taxpayers ten billion dollars per year. At one time, there were 300,000 volunteers across the state, but now there are only 50,000. Since the Supervisors soon will be working on the 2018 budget, he wanted people to know how important it is for municipalities to step up and start supporting volunteer fire departments. Don Deliman noted that the VFD will soon be sending fund raising letters to residents. Discussion was held about the recent tax credit legislation that was passed by the state to allow municipalities to grant a 20% tax credit (earned income and property) to volunteers. Don Deliman said that he feels it would just raise taxes for others and Jim Waugh said he thinks it would not amount to much credit for the volunteers anyway.

### **Reverse Head Ditcher**

Mark McDowell inquired about the status of the reverse head ditcher ordered from Walsh Equipment earlier in the summer. The township ordered a reverse head ditcher with the new mower, but a regular ditcher was delivered with the mower instead, so a reverse head ditcher had to be ordered. Bill Shaw, of Walsh Equipment, contacted the township and said that the reverse head ditcher that the township wanted was not on the quote. Instead, the price for a regular ditcher appeared on the quote. Consequently, the quote should have been \$2,100.00 higher than it was. Walsh Equipment offered to pay half the difference between the two ditchers (\$1,050.00), since it was their mistake, and wanted the township to pay the other half. At the August 7, 2017 meeting, the Supervisors decided they would not pay the extra \$1,050.00 because it was a mistake made by Walsh Equipment and they based their decision to purchase the equipment on the original quote. According to Lew Staub, Bill Shaw recently told him that the manufacturer covered the extra cost. However, the township is still waiting to receive the new reverse head ditcher.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer

