

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
October 2, 2017

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, October 2, 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**

Don Deliman and Jamey Miller both asked the Supervisors if Cherrytree Road, between South Perry Street and Route 27, could be graded because it is in poor condition. Lew Staub said the road crew would grade it soon.

Mark McDowell stated that he recently invited the Venango County Commissioners to attend a township meeting to see if they could shed some light on some issues that have recently been discussed. Albert "Chip" Abramovic and Tim Brooks were both in attendance. The first topic brought to the table was recycling, since the township recently removed the recycling dumpsters. Emery Fiely said the township is looking for suggestions. Jamey Miller stated that the people want to recycle and that the township's only answer is for the property owners to pay \$4.00 per month to have recyclables picked up at their homes. Chrissie Kurelowech reported that she called Braun's Refuse recently, as suggested at the previous meeting, to see if they would be willing to set up and monitor a recycling center on the township property. She was told that they would not. They do not set up recycling dumpsters for customers unless the customers are also disposing of garbage. Emery Fiely said that his opinion has not changed about having the dumpsters removed because the road crew was constantly cleaning up the mess surrounding the dumpsters and they should be working on the roads. Lew Staub agreed. Jim Waugh said he is not in favor of bringing the dumpsters back unless there is some control over the things people are leaving. Jamey Miller said the Supervisors are not entertaining possibilities for change and Jim Waugh and Emery Fiely responded by saying the suggestions made, like constructing a fence with a key fob system, are too expensive. Albert "Chip" Abramovic told those in attendance that the county has dumpsters for recyclables at Two Mile Run County Park and Jamey Miller said it costs him a gallon of gas to drive there. Don Deliman asked who would monitor what people are leaving at the dumpsters if the township decided to put them back. The Venango County Commissioners told those in attendance that there are plans to build a county recycling center soon and Tim Brooks said it could be going in Cranberry Township, but nothing is definite yet as discussions are ongoing. Mark McDowell suggested having the road workers take a truckload of recyclables to the county recycling center every so often and Tim Brooks said he felt the county would be willing to work with the townships to receive truckloads of recyclables, but did not think the county would be able to travel to the townships to collect and transport the recyclables to the county recycling center.

Mark McDowell said that high-speed Internet is terrible in rural areas and asked the Venango County Commissioners if they are doing anything to address the problem or

have any suggestions. Albert “Chip” Abramovic urged residents to take a broadband survey offered by Northwest Commission on [www.northwestpa.org](http://www.northwestpa.org) and said that the agricultural sector needs to get involved. He noted that co-ops were formed in an effort to bring electricity to the agricultural sector and that we are reliving the 1940’s and 1950’s, but with broadband instead of electricity. If high-speed Internet is run to the agricultural sector, individuals in rural areas will be able to connect to it. Tim Brooks said that the rural areas have high-speed Internet, according to government standards, and that people in the rural areas have the same difficulties with Internet speed as people in the cities. He noted that running fiber optic Internet service to rural areas is cost prohibitive.

Rob Kellogg presented a paper to the Supervisors showing wages and the cost of health insurance for two different road workers. He asked the Supervisors to verify that the numbers were correct and the Supervisors said the numbers looked somewhat accurate, but could not give a definite answer because they did not have the exact numbers on hand. Chrissie Kurelowech said the numbers looked correct.

Ron Stewart asked the Supervisors if the new reverse head ditcher had been delivered to the township yet and they said that it had.

### **Minutes/Treasurer’s Report**

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Emery Fiely, and carried unanimously.

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

### **Correspondence**

Cherrytree Township VFD – 2017 Fund Drive

*The Cherrytree Township VFD has sent annual fund drive letters to all property owners in the township.*

PSATS Unemployment Group Trust – 2018 Rate

*The 2018 rate has decreased to 0.90% from 1.00%. However, the taxable wage base will increase from \$9,750.00 to \$10,000.00. This means that Cherrytree Township will be required to pay 0.90% of each employee’s first \$10,000.00 of wages paid during the year, which will be roughly \$360.00.*

Venango County Assessment Office – Properties Scheduled for Appeal

*There is just one property in the township that is scheduled for appeal with the Venango County Assessment Office.*

PennDOT – Estimated 2018 Alloc. Of Municipal Liquid Fuels Tax and Turnback

*Cherrytree Township is estimated to receive \$207,283.91 in Liquid Fuels Tax money in 2018. This is a \$6,159.11 increase from 2017. The turnback allocation for 2018 is unchanged at \$24,240.00.*

PSATS News Bulletin

### **Zoning**

#### **Permits**

Z-2017-13     John Neugebauer     353 Sopher Road     new pole building

#### **Zoning Report**

Ben Breniman, Zoning Officer, reported that one permit was issued during October. An application that was received in August, for a trailer to be placed on a property already containing two homes, will be denied. In order to approve the

permit, the property would need to be subdivided. The applicant stated that the trailer was meant to accommodate a temporary living arrangement and, since the expenses keep adding up, she probably will not pursue placing the trailer on her property.

The owner of 3862 State Route 8, formerly Country Gardens, recently contacted Ben Breniman to let him know that the sale of the property fell through. She wanted to know if the property could be sold for residential use or commercial use and if hearings with the Zoning Hearing Board would be necessary to sell the property in the future. Ben Breniman said that the property could be sold for residential use, but would require a permit if the buyer wishes to acquire the property for commercial use. This could involve a hearing.

### **Administrative Action**

#### **Fuel Bids – Approximately 8,000 Gallons – Vote to Advertise**

On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to advertise for bids on approximately 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Bids will be accepted until 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2017 and will be opened and reviewed at the regular monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Resolution #17-41 (2018 County Aid) – Vote to Adopt**

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Lew Staub, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #17-41, the 2018 County Aid Application. The township is applying for \$50,000.00 to be used to put towards paving an approximate 1.34-mile stretch of Cherrytree Road (Fairview Road to South Perry Street). The project is estimated to cost \$139,000.00 and the township intends to contribute \$89,000.00 towards completing it.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **VFD**

Don Deliman reported that there were 17 calls since the last meeting. Of the 17 calls, 1 was a building fire in Titusville (mutual aid), 11 were EMS, 1 was a tree down, 3 were dispatched and cancelled (1 mutual aid), and 1 was an alarm activation.

Turkey shoots are underway and the first two weeks yielded a fair turnout. There were 8 shoots on the first night and 10 shoots on the second. Turkey shoots take place every Tuesday evening through November 21, 2017, with the exception of Election Day. Sign up begins at 5:30 p.m.

Don Deliman also reported that the VFD recently applied for a state grant of \$15,000.00 to be used to purchase 20 new minuters and 10 new radios. If the VFD is awarded the grant and has money remaining after purchasing the minuters and radios, it will be put towards the truck payment.

Fund raiser letters have been mailed to the property owners and donations are beginning to come in.

Eight VFD members recently attended fire school and all of them passed.

#### **EMA Office**

There was no report.

#### **Road**

Lew Staub reported that the road crew mowed 7 roads back, fixed signs, cold patched 1 road, mowed the yard 3 times, graded bad spots on 4 roads, and ditched

spots on 5 roads. They also fixed washed out ditches on 3 roads and cut up trees 3 times. Shingledecker's Welding replaced 2 culvert pipes and the road crew repaired the road over the first culvert pipe that was replaced (Cherrytree Road).

As for equipment, the 2002 International is back from Walsh Equipment after having a new hydraulic pump installed. The road crew rewired the lights on the JCB backhoe.

## **Old Business**

### **Recycling Center at Township**

See "Public Comment".

### **SM60 Bush Hog Side Mount Rotary Cutter**

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that 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 \$5,000.00 (lowered from \$7,000.00 reserve on original listing). She asked the Supervisors if they wanted to lower the reserve and relist it or wait until spring to relist. Albert "Chip" Abramovic recommended contacting Cranberry Township because it plans on holding a municipal auction sometime in October and is taking items from other townships. The Supervisors were in agreement to have Chrissie Kurelowech contact Cranberry Township for details before making a decision regarding the mower.

### **Timber Bids**

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that Robert Van Valkenberg (Bird) had not marked the timber on the township's property yet because he wanted Jim Waugh to help mark the trees. He felt that both the VFD and the township should be represented to agree on the amount of timber that should be taken off the property. Consequently, the township had not advertised for bids yet. After some discussion, the Supervisors decided to table the selling of the timber.

## **New Business**

### **Schedule 2018 Budget Meeting**

The Supervisors agreed to schedule the 2018 budget meeting for Saturday, October 28, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the township building and its purpose is to prepare the 2018 budget and to address any other business that comes before the Board of Supervisors

### **Roof Repair**

Jim Waugh noted that the township needs to look into fixing the roof on the township building because there are spots that leak when it rains. He said he recently spoke to Troy Cornell about coating the roof with rubber, which is less expensive than replacing it. Emery Fiely suggested looking into options and getting estimates. He said the Supervisors might want to consider including a roof replacement in the 2018 budget.

### **Dempseytown-Gresham Road – Needs Graded**

Jim Hicks asked the Supervisors to do something about the condition of Dempseytown-Gresham Road, near Route 27. He said it desperately needs graded. Lew Staub said he would have it graded and possibly coated with salt brine.

**Barking Dogs**

Jim Hicks, of 1944 Dempseytown-Gresham Road, told the Supervisors that his neighbors' dogs are barking excessively and causing a disturbance. Chrissie Kurelowech suggested calling the state police. She called the state police several years ago regarding a similar issue in the same neighborhood and was told that, if the dogs are barking after 10:00 p.m., the state police can help. She also suggested filing a complaint at the District Magistrate's office. Ben Breniman noted that the Zoning Ordinance addresses noise and said he would send an enforcement letter to the owners of the barking dogs.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer