

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 4, 2021
6:30 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, October 4, 2021, 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

There was no "Public Comment".

Minutes/Treasurer's Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Dave Zdarko, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer's report, for September 2021, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

PA Auditor General – State Aid – Foreign Fire/Pension

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that the township recently received \$7,058.35 from the state, for the 2021 foreign fire allocation, and, as required, has given the money to the VFD. This is \$910.74 less than the amount received in 2020. Additionally, the township received \$14,391.88 from the state in 2021 pension state aid. This is \$283.49 less than the amount received last year. However, the township's 2021 MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) is \$14,448.00, so since the pension state aid was so high, the township only had to contribute \$96.12 out of the general fund, along with the pension state aid, to meet the MMO. Chrissie Kurelowech said that the township usually has to contribute at least \$7,000.00 to meet the MMO, even with the pension state aid. The 2020 MMO was \$22,496.00, so the township was required to contribute \$7,724.51 last year to meet the MMO, along with the pension state aid.

PennDOT – Notice of Estimated Allocation – Municipal Liquid Fuels and Turnback

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that the township's estimated liquid fuels allocation for 2022 is \$191,831.98. This is \$2,929.40 less than the amount received last year, which was \$194,761.38. She said that in recent years, the township has actually received more than the amount that was estimated in September. However, according to the 2020 census, the township's population has decreased by 232 (15.1%), so that change will be reflected in the 2022 liquid fuels allocation when it is received next March. Most likely, the estimate is higher than the amount that will be received.

Zoning

Permits

Zoning Report

There was no “Zoning Report”.

Administrative Action

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

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdarko, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to put approximately 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel out for bid. Bids will be received until 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 1, 2021 and will be opened and reviewed during the regular monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, November 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Resolution #21-47 – 2021 Budget – Supplemental Appropriation – ARP Funding

On a motion made by Rob Kellogg, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #21-47, which makes a supplemental appropriation for the 2021 budget from the ARP (American Rescue Plan) money received by the township during 2021. The township received \$74,477.79 in ARP funding and the resolution budgets the money to account #438.00 (Roads & Bridges). The money will be used to cover the cost of culvert repairs/replacements throughout the township, specifically a culvert replacement currently taking place on Shreve Road.

Resolution #21-48 – Appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Supervisors’ intention to appoint two people to the Zoning Hearing Board as alternates. Jim Waugh said that the Supervisors were advised to fill the alternate positions because there most likely will be a hearing regarding an application for a solar farm in the near future and, if any existing Zoning Hearing Board member has a conflict of interest, an alternate will be needed. Jeff Nelson questioned the Supervisors’ motives behind appointing alternates and Jim Waugh said that it was a possibility that Jeff Nelson could have a conflict of interest. Jeff Nelson explained to those in attendance that he was approached by a neighbor to change access to a right-of-way that runs across his property, but that he refused and that he has never had any dealings with a solar company. Chrissie Kurelowech said that an attorney will soon be appointed for the Zoning Hearing Board and that person, most likely, would be the one to determine if any members have conflicts of interest that would prevent them from voting during the upcoming hearing. Ron Stewart was upset that the Supervisors did not ask for volunteers during previous meetings. Jim Waugh explained that the Supervisors were advised by the solicitor that there could soon be a hearing and that the alternate positions would need filled as soon as possible in case there is a conflict of interest. Chrissie Kurelowech told those in attendance that, throughout the years, the township has asked for volunteers during meetings and advertised in the paper and it is still extremely difficult to find volunteers for both the Zoning Hearing Board and the Planning Commission. Ron Stewart told the Supervisors that he wanted to be an alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board and Chrissie Kurelowech said that she was unsure as to whether or not the township was allowed to have three alternates, as opposed to two. It was decided that three alternates would be appointed, including Ron Stewart, and if it was determined that only two could serve, someone would have to resign. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors adopted Resolution #21-48, appointing Tracy Zdarko, Charles Sampson, and Ron Stewart to the Cherrytree Township Planning Commission as alternates.

Committee Reports

VFD

Tom Huffman, VFD 1st Assistant Chief, reported that there were 18 calls since the last meeting. Of the 18 calls, 1 was a fire (other), 2 were building fires, 1 was a vehicle fire, 1 was a rubbish fire, 4 were EMS, 4 were public service, 3 were dispatched and canceled, and 2 were smoke detector malfunctions. The VFD has had 156 calls and has put in 737 man hours on calls so far this year.

Fall shoots have begun and will continue to be held every Tuesday evening through November 23, 2021. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the shooting begins at 6:00 p.m.

EMA Office

There was no report.

Road

Steve Anderson reported that the road crew pressure washed the trucks and the tractor, spent 12 days grading, mowed the yard 3 times, ditched 18 roads, removed 2 trees, cleaned a tail ditch on Dempseytown-Gresham Road, checked roads 4 times, and spent 3 days stacking antiskid. Suit-Kote seal coated Dutch Hill Road (just off Route 8) and Cherrytree Road (from Buxton Road to Fairview Road).

As for equipment, the front suspension links and the spreader light were replaced on the 2014 Dodge. The road crew spent 1 day making paddles for the ditcher. The hydraulic hose was fixed on the tractor.

Steve Anderson also reported that the road crew recently fixed a hole on Breedtown Road near the cemetery, but that the road is undermined and the water in going around the culvert underground and, consequently, the road crew will not be able to keep the road fixed. The township engineer is in the process of obtaining a PA DEP (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection) permit to replace the culvert and it is the Supervisors' intention to put the culvert replacements on Breedtown Road (Breedtown Road Culvert #3) and Lamey Road (Lamey Road Culvert #1) out for bid in 2022.

The project to widen a blind curve on Pioneer Road has begun and the project to replace the culvert on Shreve Road (Shreve Road Culvert #1) should start in the middle of the week. The project on Shreve Road has been delayed because Verizon has had difficulty locating wires.

Chrissie Kurelowech told the Supervisors that the salt has been ordered (225 tons) and that the price is \$53.18 per ton this year, as compared to \$71.38 per ton last year. Morton Salt has had the contract for many years, but this year Compass Minerals America, Inc. has the contract for Venango County, as well as several other counties in the state. The township purchases salt through COSTARS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's cooperative purchasing program. Dave Zdarko asked Steve Anderson how the salt shed is holding up and Steve suggested that the Supervisors look at the new salt shed at Oil Creek Township, Crawford County. He said Cherrytree Township is in need of a similar salt shed, but would need a larger size. Also, he said that he thought Oil Creek Township, Crawford County, hired the Amish to build it and that the price was very low.

Old Business

There was no "Old Business".

New Business

Schedule Budget 2022 Meeting

The Supervisors decided to schedule a special meeting for Friday, October 22, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to prepare the 2022 budget and to address any other business that comes before the Board of Supervisors. The meeting will take place at the township building and the public is encouraged to attend.

Administrative Action**Sandstone**

At Steve Anderson's request, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to purchase a few loads of sandstone, at approximately \$300.00 per load, to be used to finish the Pioneer Road project.

Executive Session

The Supervisors went into executive session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss legal issues. They returned to the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Adjournments

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer