

**Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
November 6, 2017**

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, November 6, 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

Jamey Miller told the Supervisors that the most valuable resource to the township is human resources and asked them to consider that while working on the 2018 budget. Additionally, he asked them to consider additional support for the Cherrytree Volunteer Fire Department.

Terry Coogan asked the Supervisors about the status of the malfunctioning sewage system at 904 Fairview Road. Chrissie Kurelowech explained that Todd Fantaskey, Sewage Enforcement Officer, recently filed charges with the District Magistrate and that a hearing would be scheduled soon on the matter. Terry Coogan was concerned because he heard that Todd Fantaskey warned the owner of 904 Fairview Road that charges had been filed. This action appeared to show bias, according to Terry Coogan. Chrissie Kurelowech said that she contacted Todd Fantaskey and that he said the property owner called him with questions, he did not call the property owner to warn him. At the time of their conversation, Todd Fantaskey had just filed charges and knew the property owner would soon be receiving a letter from the District Magistrate. Consequently, Todd Fantaskey felt it appropriate to tell the property owner that charges had already been filed.

Minutes/Treasurer's Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, October 2, 2017, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Lew Staub, and carried unanimously.

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

The minutes, from the special meeting held on Saturday, October 28, 2017, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Lew Staub, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Venango Area Chamber of Commerce (VACC) – Be Here Initiative

The Venango Area Chamber of Commerce has launched a new project to gather information from people who grew up in Venango County. For those who moved away, VACC would like to know why they left, if they would consider returning, what types of jobs they would need to return, etc. For

those who still live in Venango County, VACC would like to know if they are struggling to find jobs, if they are using their training in their jobs, why they choose to live in Venango County, etc. The survey can be found at beherevenango.org/home-survey.

PennDOT – Winter Information Meeting

PennDOT will hold its annual Winter Information Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on November 8, 2017. The meeting this year will be a combined meeting of law enforcement, school districts, school bus companies, townships, and PennDOT.

PennDOT Newsletter

PSATS Newsletter

Zoning

Permits

Z-2017-14	Lee and Charlene Armstrong	4145 State Route 8	new sign
Z-2017-15	City of Titusville/Titusville Airport Authority	2572 Meadville Road	addition to existing storage building
Z-2017-16	Rebecca Vroman Kight	112 Turkey Farm Road	addition over 1 st story

Zoning Report

There was no zoning report.

Administrative Action

Fuel Bids—Approximately 8,000 Gallons of Diesel Fuel—Open, Review, and Vote

Only one bid was received for approximately 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Emery Fiely, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to accept the bid submitted by Bayless Fuel, LLC. The bid results are below.

	Description	Quantity	Amount over rack price per gallon – Penngrade Dyed Low Sulphur or Ultra Low Sulphur - American Refining Co., Bradford, PA	Amount over rack price per gallon – Ultra Low Sulphur – From Another Source
Bayless Fuel, LLC	diesel fuel	Approximately 8,000 gallons	21 cents	18 cents

Health Insurance Renewal

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that she recently received the new premium numbers for the employee health insurance from Frank Riley, of Loesel-Schaaf Insurance Agency, Inc., and there is a 9.9% increase over last year’s rates. Frank Riley is in the process of obtaining quotes from other companies, but he would be surprised if there is a better deal with another company because the township is currently allowed to keep its “grandmothered pre-ACA(Affordable Care Act)” plan, making the premiums lower. Chrissie Kurelowech said that the cost of the township’s health insurance, for three employees, is about \$30,302.76 per year and would increase to \$33,302.76 per year if the current plan is renewed. The cost of

the single plan is currently \$383.77/month and will increase to \$421.77/month. The cost of a family plan is currently \$1,070.73/month and will increase to \$1176.73/month. Jim Waugh said that, last year, Emery Fiely and Lew Staub both voted to have each employee pay 10% of his premium through a payroll deduction, with each employee paying 20% of his premium the following year. Jim Waugh asked Emery Fiely and Lew Staub if they plan to follow through with what they voted for a year ago and Emery Fiely said he does not want to take money from the employees. Jim Waugh noted that the employees have made over \$9,000.00 in overtime wages in 2017 and there are still two months left. He feels that the overtime wages are high enough to cover the employees paying 20% of their premiums. Emery Fiely said that he does not feel overtime is a luxury. Jim Waugh asked him if he considers having health insurance paid by the employer a luxury and Emery Fiely responded by saying he does not. Jim Waugh stated that everyone else has to pay and Emery Fiely asked where it stops. Jim Waugh said people, on average, pay 20% towards their health insurance premiums and noted that he feels the employees are well cared for. Emery Fiely noted that he is just one of three votes and asked Rick Neely how long it has been since he has seen a raise. Rick Neely said it has been three years. The last time all employees received a raise was at the reorganization meeting held in January of 2016. Jim Waugh said, if you consider the health insurance, the employees are getting raises and that Emery Fiely and Lew Staub spent the raise budget for the year when they recently gave one employee an 11.5% raise in the middle of the year. It was noted that the COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) for 2018 is 2%. Ron Stewart said that he feels that not all jobs are worthy of raises each year and that wages for certain jobs need to max out at some point. Jamey Miller responded by saying that costs go up and, if there are no pay increases, employees move on. Ron Stewart said the government cannot keep raising taxes, especially on those who are on fixed incomes. Jamey Miller said that it is not fair to say the overtime is covering the health insurance and Jim Waugh said, in the case of Cherrytree Township, the employees are making wages above average for the jobs. Jim Waugh said, if the township employees were making average wages, he would agree with Jamey Miller regarding overtime. Jeff Langworthy stated that the road workers are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. He said there are low maintenance costs for the equipment because the road workers take care of it and that they earn the money they make. Don Deliman noted that Cherrytree Township has the highest tax rate in Venango County at 4 mills. Mark McDowell suggested reviewing plans in an effort to better meet the needs of the employees and to save money. If the employees are rarely using the insurance, then it might be better to move to a higher deductible plan that is less expensive. Currently, the employees have a \$500.00 individual deductible and a \$1,000.00 family deductible. Chrissie Kurelowech stated that the decision does not have to be made until the December meeting, scheduled for December 4, 2017, and suggested waiting for the quotes from other companies. Additionally, she said she would get the specs on the less expensive UPMC plans from Frank Riley and forward them to the Supervisors immediately. The current plan does not renew until January 1, 2017. No decisions were made. The Supervisors will vote on the matter during the regular monthly meeting scheduled for December 4, 2017.

Act 42 of 2017 – Category 4 Casinos

Chrissie Kurelowech shared a letter from PSATS (Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors) that said Act 42 of 2017 authorizes ten category 4 casinos (“mini-casinos”) to be placed in the Commonwealth and host municipalities to

receive 50% of the 4% local assessment fee paid by the casinos. A resolution prohibiting the placement of a category 4 casino within the township was included with the letter. Chrissie Kurelowech explained that, if the Supervisors are opposed to a category 4 casino being placed in the township, they could adopt the resolution prohibiting it and send a copy to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. None of the Supervisors were opposed to having a category 4 casino placed in the township, so no vote occurred and the resolution prohibiting it was not adopted.

Roof Quotes

Only one quote to repair/replace the roof on the township building was received. T. Cornell Gutters, LLC submitted a quote for \$8,600.00 to put a galvanized metal roof over the existing roof. Chrissie Kurelowech said she asked Troy Cornell about the possibility of coating the existing roof with rubber instead of replacing it, as discussed at a previous meeting, and he said that it would actually be more expensive than replacing the roof on the township building. He said that coating the roof with rubber works best on flat roofs and the roof on the township building is not flat. No decision was made.

Committee Reports

VFD

Don Deliman reported that there were 21 calls since the last meeting. Of the 21 calls, 2 were fires (1 brush fire and 1 building fire), 9 were EMS, 2 were MVA, 2 were searches for a person, 1 was a natural gas leak, 3 were public service, 1 was a malfunctioning alarm, and 1 was dispatched and cancelled. Mutual aid was given twice and received three times.

The fire that destroyed Fun Time Motorsports, located at 3380 State Route 8, is still undetermined and under investigation.

The turkey shoots are ongoing. There have been between 11 and 13 shoots per week, which is not as many as in previous years.

Cherrytree Volunteer Fire Department K-9 Search and Rescue recently searched for a man missing from Titusville and was unsuccessful. The dogs were not called upon to perform the search until the man had been missing for a week or more.

EMA Office

There was no report.

Road

Lew Staub reported that the road crew mowed along roads for 2 days, mowed the yard at the township building 3 times, stacked anti-skid for 6 days, stacked salt in the building, cold patched 2 culverts, graded bad spots for 8 days, blew leaves for 9 days, installed a driveway pipe, cut up trees 3 times, and fixed a ditch after logging damage.

As for equipment, they took the mower off the tractor and put the ditcher and leaf blower on. The JCB backhoe lights were fixed, the spreaders were mounted on the 2009 International and on the 2002 International. The 2014 Dodge had 2 bearings changed on it and also had a spreader put on it.

Old Business

There was no "Old Business".

New Business

There was no "New Business".

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer