

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
December 5, 2022
6:00 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 6:00 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 Monday, November 7, 2022, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Dave Zdarko, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer's report, for November 2022, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

FirstEnergy – 115kV Transmission Line Rebuild

Chrissie Kurelowech told those in attendance that she recently received an email from FirstEnergy regarding the rebuilding of a transmission line that extends from Erie County to Indiana County. She said that the email contains a link to an interactive map of the project and a link to a website where public comments can be made. Don Deliman requested that the email be forwarded to him.

PennDOT Newsletter

PMRS – 2023 MMO – Calculation Error

The Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) has notified the township that the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) worksheet that was recently submitted by the township is incorrect due to the fact that PMRS provided the township with an incorrect "Normal Cost Rate" to use to calculate the MMO, causing the MMO to be lower than it should be. PMRS recalculated the 2023 MMO worksheet with the correct "Normal Cost Rate" and the new 2023 MMO is \$6,659.00, which is \$35.00 higher than the original 2023 MMO that was presented to the Supervisors earlier in the year. According to PMRS, the changes are immaterial and, therefore, the Supervisors do not need to vote to accept the new 2023 MMO.

Zoning

Permits

None

Zoning Report

Chrissie Kurelowech read a report submitted by Tim McGrath, Zoning Officer. During the month of November, he attempted 3 visitations of the Bliznesky property but nobody was at home. He will visit the property again after December 19, 2022.

On November 15, 2022, Tim McGrath met with the Supervisors of Cornplanter Township to discuss the Cherrytree Township Zoning Ordinance regarding solar projects. This was not an official Cherrytree Township representation and he went as a personal favor to the Cornplanter Township Supervisors. Cherrytree Township will not be billed for time or mileage related to the meeting, but Tim McGrath just wanted to let the Cherrytree Township Supervisors know that he went.

Tim McGrath is preparing the annual report required by the zoning ordinance to submit to the Supervisors regarding permits approved, denied, and any other projects within the township.

Tim McGrath is preparing a letter to the Cypress Creek organization regarding their submittal of the additional permit continuation fees of \$10,000.00. He will forward the letter to Chrissie Kurelowech to distribute to the Supervisors and to Alan Shaddinger, Township Solicitor, for review and comment.

Administrative Action

Resolution #22-50 – 2023 Budget – Vote to Adopt

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #22-50 (2023 Budget). Anticipated income for 2023 is \$694,275.38 and anticipated expenses total \$692,744.00.

Health Insurance Renewal - Vote

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that she recently received options for employee health insurance (2023) from Frank Riley, of Loesel-Schaaf Insurance Agency, and forwarded the information to the Supervisors for review and consideration before the meeting. If the township renews the current plan (UPMC Inside Advantage PPO \$1,250/\$2,500 \$20/\$40 \$10/\$20/\$40 Rx, the premiums will increase by 9.38%, which will increase the township's health insurance cost by \$4,686.55 if the employees continue to pay 10% of the premiums. Another option is to move to another plan, UPMC Inside Advantage PPO \$1,250/\$2,500 \$20/\$40 \$15/\$30/\$50 Rx, which will increase premiums by 6.43% compared to the current plan. If the township moves to the UPMC Inside Advantage PPO \$1,250/\$2,500 \$20/\$40 \$15/\$30/\$50 Rx plan, the township's health insurance cost will increase by \$3,211.48 if the employees continue to pay 10% of the premiums. According to Frank Riley, the only difference in the plans is the cost of prescriptions. Frank Riley also provided other options to the township, but they were all significantly more expensive than the two UPMC Inside Advantage plans. On a motion made by Dave Zdarko and seconded by Jim Waugh, the Supervisors voted to switch the employee health insurance plan to UPMC Inside Advantage PPO \$1,250/\$2,500 \$20/\$40 \$15/\$30/\$50 Rx for 2023 (Waugh-YES / Zdarko-YES / Kellogg-abstained). The employees will continue to pay 10% of the premiums through payroll deductions.

Complaint – Occupied Travel Trailer – Malfunctioning Septic System

The township recently received a complaint regarding 1721 Dempseytown-Gresham Road. The people currently living at the address have moved out of the house into a camper and have tied the camper into a malfunctioning septic system that once served the

house. Sewage is running onto the neighboring property. The township was notified of the sewage issue in June of 2022 and Todd Fantaskey, Sewage Enforcement Officer, visited the site and confirmed that a violation does exist. Chrissie Kurelowech said that Todd Fantaskey has begun enforcement regarding the sewage violation. Any sewage complaint must be investigated promptly. Additionally, it is a violation of the township's zoning ordinance to permanently occupy a travel trailer. Chrissie Kurelowech asked the Supervisors if they wished to pursue zoning enforcement on the travel trailer being occupied permanently. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdanko, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to start zoning enforcement proceedings regarding the travel trailer located at 1721 Dempseytown-Gresham Road. Chrissie Kurelowech will notify Tim McGrath, Zoning Officer. Bill James provided some information as to who currently owns the property and who is currently living on the property. One of the owners listed on the county tax map is deceased and the other owner does not live at the property even though the tax bill is mailed to 1721 Dempseytown-Gresham Road.

Committee Reports

VFD

Tom Huffman, acting VFD Fire Chief, reported that there were 23 calls since the last meeting. Of the 23 calls, 4 were in Crawford County and 19 were in Venango County. Of the calls in Crawford County, 3 were building fires and 1 was dispatched and canceled. Of the calls in Venango County, 3 were building fires, 6 were EMS, 1 was an MVA with no injuries, 6 were public service, and 3 were dispatched and canceled.

A Venango County Fire Chiefs Association meeting will be held at the Cherrytree Township VFD at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, 2022.

An insurance services audit took place on Wednesday, November 30, 2022. The last insurance services audit took place over 10 years ago.

Venango County would like an updated list of landing zones. Currently, there are no landing zones listed for the township.

Tom Huffman said that the VFD has purchased equipment to install dry hydrants (Cherrytree Road and near Electralloy). He asked if the township is responsible for installing them. Lew Staub, Roadmaster, told Tom Huffman that the township will install them in the spring and advised him to let the road crew know a week or two in advance and it will be put on the schedule.

EMA

There was no report.

Road

Lew Staub, Roadmaster, reported that the road crew spent 10 days blowing leaves, 2 days grading bad spots, 2 days cutting trees up, 5 days opening pipes with a backhoe, and 2 days fixing washouts. They checked roads twice, plowed and put antiskid down twice, and ditched a half-mile on Fairview Road.

As for equipment, filters were changed on the 2007 JCB backhoe and on the 2019 JCB backhoe. Spreaders were put on the trucks and the steps on the 2007 JCB backhoe were rebuilt. U-bolts, top plate, wheel bearing, and races were replaced on the 2009 International.

Old Business

There was no "Old Business".

New Business

There was no "New Business".

Executive Session

The Supervisors went into executive session at 6:25 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Jim Waugh said that the purpose of the executive session was to discuss a personnel issue.

Adjournments

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer