

**Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 1, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at the township building. In attendance were Jim Waugh, Rob Kellogg, and Shari Nelson, 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

Tim McGrath asked the Supervisors what the VFD needs to do to begin the process of transferring the property on the corner of Cherrytree Road and Buxton Road to the VFD so the VFD can apply for grants to construct a new building. This topic was last discussed at a regular monthly meeting held on November 7, 2022. The excerpt below, taken from the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on November 7, 2022, provides background on the matter.

Don Deliman – Proposed Land Transfer

In previous meetings, discussion was held on subdividing an 8.5-acre parcel owned by the township (corner of Cherrytree Road and Buxton Road) and transferring some of it to the VFD to possibly use for the construction of a new building in the future. There are two pavilions on the parcel that belong to the township and were built with money from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) and, consequently, the entire parcel cannot be transferred without the township having to return the grant money used to build the pavilions, as long as the pavilions are less than 25 years old, which is the case. The VFD has said in the past that it cannot get grant money for a new building if it does not own the property on which it intends to build. Don Deliman, VFD Trustee, presented the Supervisors and those in attendance with copies of a survey map of the proposed subdivision of the parcel of land owned by the township. According to the survey map, the existing parcel is actually 9.02 acres and would be divided into a 2.89-acre parcel and a 6.13-acre parcel. The 6.13-acre parcel would be transferred to the VFD and the 2.89-acre parcel would be joined with a 2.34-acre parcel owned by the township to create a 5.23-acre parcel that would be retained by the township. Don Deliman told the Supervisors and those in attendance that the VFD cannot get grants for a building if it does not own the property and that the members would like to build a new fire station. Dave Zdarko asked Don Deliman if he knew how large the new building would be and Don Deliman said that the truck room would be the same size as the existing truck room and the meeting room would be large enough to make money. Additionally, Don Deliman said that the VFD would like to also use the building as a training facility and he noted that the gun raffle was moved to Chapmanville in 2022 and very few people attended because it was not held in Cherrytree. Tom Huffman,

acting VFD Fire Chief, said that space would be needed for sewage, parking, and a building. It was said that the proposed building would include a 40' by 80' truck room and a 50' by 80' meeting room. According to the survey map, the building would have to be 80 feet from Buxton Road and 50 feet from Cherrytree Road. Dave Zdarko was concerned about taking property away from the township and limiting future expansion. Steve Anderson also expressed concern regarding leaving space for the township to expand and Don Deliman said that the township would have the VFD's old building. Cathy Allaman asked where the VFD will get the money to build the new building and VFD members who were present said they plan to get money from grants. Ron Stewart asked if the VFD will be completely independent from the township once it moves into a new building or if the VFD will expect the township to help cover expenses after the new building is built and Jim Waugh said that it would be nice if the township would continue to help the VFD with expenses once the VFD moves into a new building. Currently, the township pays for utilities, fuel, automobile insurance, workers compensation insurance, insurance on the building itself, supplies for the building, and part of the building maintenance expenses. Dave Zdarko also said that he was concerned about making sure the property would be turned back to the township if the VFD is dismantled, never erects a new building, etc. Jeff Nelson noted that, even though the VFD keeps saying that nothing can be done until the land belongs to the VFD, the land could be conveyed to the VFD and then it could be determined to be wetlands and unusable. Jim Waugh said he already talked to the Sewage Enforcement Officer and that the property is fine and the VFD cannot do anything until the property is conveyed to the VFD. Jeff Nelson suggested that a plan for the building be presented to the Supervisors for consideration. Jeff Nelson asked if there would be any stipulation with a grant that would require the money to be paid back if the VFD were to dismantle within a number of years after receiving the money and Dave Zdarko was concerned that the township could possibly be responsible for a loan if the VFD defaulted on it. No decision was made.

Tim McGrath noted that the property was given to the township for the betterment of the community and that the VFD would build a community center. Ron Stewart noted that Dave Zdarko, when he was a Supervisor, suggested giving the VFD a smaller parcel, not over 6 acres. A lengthy discussion took place. Tim McGrath asked Shari Nelson what the VFD would need to do to have the property transferred. Shari Nelson noted that the VFD does not maintain the current building as it should be maintained and was skeptical about the VFD maintaining a new building. Tim McGrath said that the maintenance of the building should not matter to the Supervisors because the property will be owned by the VFD. Rob Kellogg expressed concern about the township possibly getting saddled with the VFD's debt if the VFD were to close before a loan on the building could be satisfied. Ron Stewart noted that there are other small departments in the area that are on the verge of closing. Donna Stewart suggested that the citizens vote on whether or not to give the property to the VFD. Shari Nelson asked what would happen if the township transferred the property to the VFD and the VFD was unable to obtain a grant for a new building. Jim Waugh responded by saying that the VFD could construct the building in stages. Ron Stewart asked if the VFD will expect the township to help pay for expenses related to the new building such as utilities, insurance, etc., and Tim McGrath said that the VFD will not expect help with expenses, but said that the VFD might ask the township to plow the parking lot. Lew Staub noted that, if the parking lot is large, the road crew most likely will not have time to plow it. Tim McGrath noted that companies such as Electralloy (located on Petroleum Center Road) and Grand Valley Manufacturing

(proposing construction of a new building) will provide revenue to the township and will need the support of the VFD. Shari Nelson asked Tim McGrath if there is a business plan for the Supervisors to review and Tim McGrath said that the VFD needs the property and the rest will be up to the VFD. Don Deliman said that the VFD has explained everything before. He noted that the trucks are getting bigger, the VFD does not have enough space, and the land is not being used. Tim McGrath noted that the VFD services the community. Doug Nelson said that questions have been asked that the VFD is failing to answer such as, “Could the property be considered wetlands?” and “How large will the building be?”. Tim McGrath said that such questions do not matter and that the VFD has a responsible Board and passes audits, etc. He said the VFD needs a starting point. Tom Huffman suggested a petition signed by citizens. Shari Nelson said that she did not think a petition would be accurate because the VFD will pick and choose who is asked to sign the petition. Tim McGrath reiterated that a business plan for the project has nothing to do with the Supervisors. He asked Shari Nelson if a petition would satisfy her and she said “No”. No decision was made.

Minutes/Treasurer’s Report

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, March 4, 2024, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Rob Kellogg, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer’s report, for March 2024, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Shari Nelson, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

PSATS – Proposed Resolutions and Nominations Report

The Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) has provided proposed resolutions and nominations that will be considered at the PSATS Annual Conference, which is scheduled from April 14, 2024 – April 17, 2024. Shari Nelson plans to attend the conference.

Oil Region Alliance – ATV Trail Feasibility Study

The Oil Region Alliance (ORA) has asked the township to provide information regarding roads within the township that have been designated for ATV use. ORA would like to “recreate the region with ATVs and similar vehicles”, but “no properties were identified where owners would commit to any agreement for natural trails for ATV use”. Currently, there are no roads in Cherrytree Township that have been designated for ATV use.

PennDOT - Newsletter

Zoning

Permits

None

Zoning Report

There was no report.

Administrative Action

Cherrytree Township VFD – 2024 Pre-Planned Activities – Vote to Approve

On a motion made by Rob Kellogg, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to approve a list of 2024 pre-planned activities for the VFD. Chrissie Kurelowech explained that the list was submitted by Mark

McDowell, VFD Treasurer, and the township's approval was requested in an effort to satisfy workers compensation insurance requirements.

Salt Brine – 150,000 Gallons – Vote to Seek Bids

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to put 150,000 gallons of salt brine out for bid and plan to use it as dust suppressant. The salt brine must not be regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and must contain at least 25% chlorides. Bids will be opened and reviewed at the next regular monthly meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024.

Old Route 8/Black Road – Paving – Vote to Seek Bids

On a motion made by Rob Kellogg, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to seek bids to pave portions of Old Route 8 and Black Road. Chrissie Kurelowech said that Troy Cyphert, PennDOT Municipal Services Representative, was still working on the bid packets, but that bidders will have 2 options: Option A (Old Route 8 from Route 8 to the township line and Black Road from Route 8 to Old Route 8 – approximately 1.68 miles) and/or Option B (Old Route 8 from just south of Breedtown Road to the township line - approximately 1.00 mile). The township will receive \$45,000.00 in 2023-2024 County Liquid Fuels Aid to be used towards paving the stretch of Old Route 8 that runs from Breedtown Road to the township line, so that stretch of road (Option B) will need to be paved during the summer of 2024. However, the Supervisors will also consider paving Old Route 8 in its entirety and Black Road from Route 8 to Old Route 8 (Option A), during the summer of 2024, if the bids are low.

2024 Stone RFO – Review Quotes and Vote

Quotes for stone from Allegheny Aggregates, Inc., Hasbrouck Sand & Gravel, Inc., Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc., IA Construction Corporation, Hillside Stone, LLC, and Girts Sand & Gravel, LLC were reviewed by the Supervisors. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Shari Nelson, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to award Item #1 and Item #2 to the lowest bidder, Hasbrouck Sand & Gravel, Inc., and Item #3 to the lowest bidder, Hillside Stone, LLC. The total for all of the gravel is \$32,598.00. Quantities and prices are listed below. The full bid results are attached.

<i>Item #</i>	<i>Item Description</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cost Per Ton</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
1	AS1 Antiskid	1,200	\$7.99	\$9,588.00
2	2RC Gravel – Stockpile	1,500	\$12.49	\$18,735.00
3	2A Limestone	150	\$28.50	\$4,275.00

Committee Reports

VFD

Tom Huffman, VFD Fire Chief, reported that there were 14 calls since the last meeting. Of the 14 calls, 3 were in Crawford County and 11 were in Venango County. Of the calls in Crawford County, 1 was a building fire, 1 was a chimney fire, and 1 was dispatched and canceled. Of the calls in Venango County, 1 was a passenger vehicle fire, 1 was a heavy equipment fire, 8 were EMS, and 1 was a gas leak.

The VFD is selling meat raffle tickets (1/4 beef and a freezer) and gun raffle tickets. The annual gun raffle will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2024. The doors will open at 3:30 p.m., food will be available at 4:00 p.m., and the gun raffle will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Tom Huffman also reported that the VFD is waiting for Bradford Township (outside the City of Bradford) to receive its new truck. Once Bradford Township receives its new truck, the VFD will be able to get Bradford Township's used truck. The VFD has obtained a grant/loan through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to purchase the used truck.

EMA Office

There was no report.

Road

Lew Staub, Roadmaster, reported that, during the past month, the road crew spent 9 days scraping bad spots, spent 3 days cleaning pipes and pushing limbs off of roads, spent 2 days hauling gravel to soft spots, spent 4 days mowing brush, and spent 1 day cold patching blacktops. They plowed and put antiskid down once, put antiskid down (no plowing) 4 times, cleaned equipment, spent 2 days ditching in spots, and checked the roads once. They took the mower off of the tractor, put the broom on, and spent 4 days sweeping blacktops. The road crew also spent 2 days putting up new road signs, completing the project. They also worked on berm cutting and ditching along Old Route 8.

As for equipment, 2 days were spent working on the brakes on the 2017 Massey Ferguson tractor.

Public Comment - Continued

Brad Wescoat introduced himself to the Supervisors and to those in attendance. He recently returned to the area, after living in Virginia for 10 years, and is living in Cherrytree Township.

Old Business

Old Route 8 – Pipe Replacement

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that no additional estimates, to replace a pipe on Old Route 8, were received since the last meeting (March 4, 2024) and that McGregor Excavating's estimate that was presented at the last meeting was accepted and Troy McGregor was notified. At the previous meeting, the Supervisors voted to accept the estimate from McGregor Excavating unless a lower estimate was received within a reasonable amount of time. However, the person who had asked one of the Supervisors, prior to the meeting (March 4, 2024), about possibly submitting an estimate decided not to do so for this project. Additionally, Chrissie Kurelowech reported that someone else visited the office a few weeks ago and said that he would appreciate being given a chance to provide estimates as well for future pipe replacement projects in the township. She has his contact information on file.

Todd Fantaskey – Sewage Enforcement Letters

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that Todd Fantaskey recently sent sewage enforcement letters to the owners of three properties on Trout Run Road. He received a response from one, tested the system, and it failed. The owners of the other two properties have not yet responded.

New Business

2024 Seal Coating

Chrissie Kurelowech told the Supervisors that she recently met with Troy Cyphert, PennDOT Municipal Services Representative, and he recommended waiting until the summer of 2025 to seal coat the portions of roadway that are paved during the summer of 2024. This will give the new pavement time to cure. Usually, the township puts a seal coat on new pavement before the first winter to protect it. This will be discussed more once the Supervisors review and make a decision on the paving bids (May 6, 2024).

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer