

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 6, 2023
6:00 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, February 6, 2023, 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/annual reorganization meeting held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Dave Zdarko, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously.

The treasurer's report, for January 2023, was read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Dave Zdarko, and carried unanimously.

Correspondence

PA Department of the Auditor General – 2022 Pension State Aid Overpayment

The Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General has asked the township to return an overpaid 2022 allocation of the General Municipal Pension System State Aid. In the fall of 2022, the township received \$15,541.35 in state aid and sent the money to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) to meet the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO). According to a letter received from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, the original calculation was based on 2019 actuarial data from PMRS and a revised calculation was recently made using 2021 actuarial data. The township was asked to remit \$8,305.99 to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to account for the overpayment made by the state.

Venango County Board of Elections – Municipal Primary – Polling Place

Venango County has asked the township for permission to use the township building for the Municipal Primary Election that is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2023. The Supervisors were in favor of granting permission.

Venango County Tax Claim Bureau – Petition for Judicial Sale

A Petition for Judicial Sale has been filed by the Venango County Tax Claim Bureau and three properties in the township are on the list to be sold. A hearing will take place on March 30, 2023.

Venango County Regional Planning Commission – Comprehensive Plan Public Meetings

The Venango County Regional Planning Commission is in the process of updating the county's comprehensive plan and several public meetings will be held throughout the county to obtain public input. One meeting will be held in

Cherrytree Township on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the township building. The public is encouraged to attend.

Venango County Association of Township Officials – Spring Dinner – March 25, 2023
The Venango County Association of Township Officials will hold its annual Spring Dinner on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at the Sandycreek Township Volunteer Fire Department. Chrissie Kurelowech asked the Supervisors to let her know if they are interested in attending so she can make reservations.

PennDOT - Newsletter

Daniel McDaniel – Act 14, 67 & 68 Notification as Required by DEP

The township has been notified that Daniel McDaniel has applied to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) for permits to install a single residence sewage treatment plant at 492 Fairview Road.

Zoning

Permits

Z-2023-01	Joseph Ohl	409 Shreve Road	remove mobile home and replace with new 15' by 30' log cabin
Z-2023-02	Josh Fausnaught and Laurie Vargason	697 Old Route 8	new detached 30' by 40' garage

Zoning Report

Chrissie Kurelowech reported on behalf of Tim McGrath, Zoning Officer. Tim McGrath has been unable to find anyone at home at the Bliznesky property (1220 South Perry Street) and will send an enforcement letter to the owners in an effort to resolve the problem with accumulating junk on the property. He recently contacted Todd Fantaskey, Sewage Enforcement Officer, regarding the situation at 1721 Dempseytown-Gresham Road (Rodgers). Currently, there is a travel trailer on the property that has become a permanent residence and the septic system is malfunctioning, causing sewage to contaminate a neighboring property. Todd Fantaskey has attempted to contact the owner and, once the owner responds, Todd Fantaskey and Tim McGrath will visit the property together, along with the owner, to find a resolution.

Administrative Action

Resolution #23-41 – Zoning Hearing Board Appointment

On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Rob Kellogg, and carried unanimously, the Supervisors voted to adopt Resolution #23-41, appointing Tracy Zdarko to a 3-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board, effective January 3, 2023. Chrissie Kurelowech explained that Tracy Zdarko had been appointed to a 1-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board during the annual reorganization held on January 3, 2023, but that she should have been appointed to a 3-year term because all of the positions on the Zoning Hearing Board have 3-year terms. Prior to 2022, the Board of Supervisors appointed people to the Zoning Hearing Board every year. It was brought to the township's attention that the appointments should be for 3-year terms, so, in order to "stagger" the terms, in January of 2022 the Board of Supervisors appointed Jeff Nelson to a 3-year term, Thomas Wilks to a 2-year term, and Tracy Zdarko to a 1-year term. From that point on, all of the appointments to the Zoning Hearing Board should have been for 3-year terms. However, in January of 2023, Tracy Zdarko was appointed to a 1-year term, which was in error.

Committee Reports

VFD

Tom Huffman, VFD Fire Chief, reported that there were 12 calls since the last meeting. Of the 12 calls, 2 were in Crawford County and 10 were in Venango County. All of the calls in Crawford County were building fires. Of the calls in Venango County, 1 was a building fire, 3 were EMS, 2 were MVAs with injuries, 1 was an MVA with no injuries, 2 were dispatched and canceled, and 1 was a smoke investigation.

A state grant has been awarded to the VFD to purchase a positive pressure fan. Additionally, state grant funds will possibly be used for debt reduction on money owed for 2-41.

The VFD is applying for a FEMA AFG grant for 12 new SCBAs (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) and spare bottles. The cost of the new equipment is estimated to be \$95,000.00. The VFD is also part of a regional FEMA grant with Seneca for new turnout gear (15 sets at \$5,364.00 per set), totaling \$80,460.00.

Tom Huffman brought a tax incentive program to the attention of the Supervisors. Due to legislation passed in recent years, volunteer firefighter and emergency medical service personnel could be eligible for earned income tax credit, real estate tax credit, or both. The township would need to pass an ordinance to implement the program at the local level. The county and the school district would also need to take measures to implement the program in order for county tax credit and school tax credit to be given to volunteers. Tom Huffman said that 12 households in the township could possibly benefit from the program, depending upon eligibility criteria. If the program were set up to benefit only active members who answer calls, 8 people in the township would benefit. Additionally, the program could help the VFD to recruit new members.

EMA

There was no report.

Road

Lew Staub, Roadmaster, reported that the road crew spent 1 day hauling 2B gravel to soft spots, 3 days fixing intersections and holes, and checked the roads twice. They spent 3 days working on a ditch on Dempseytown-Gresham Road. The road crew also cleaned pipes, pushed trees off of roads 4 times, plowed and put antiskid down 7 times and put antiskid down (without plowing) 9 times.

As for equipment, the parking brakes were replaced on the 2014 Dodge and the dust shields were changed on the 2002 International and on the 2009 International. The power steering and brakes went out on the 2014 Dodge and replacing batteries fixed the problem. The coolant tank was replaced on the 2007 JCB backhoe. Five days were spent working on the grader's parking brake and oil cooler. The 2002 International had to be pulled back to the garage twice and repaired on the road once. The cam sensor was replaced twice and the pigtail wire harness was replaced once. The dash lights on the 2002 International were fixed and a coolant hose was replaced.

Old Business

Executive Session – Monday, January 30, 2023 – 3:30 p.m.

Jim Waugh announced that the Supervisors held an executive session on Monday, January 30, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., to discuss legal issues. In attendance were Jim Waugh, Dave Zdanko, and Rob Kellogg (Supervisors), Alan Shaddinger (Solicitor), Tim McGrath (Zoning Officer), and Chrissie Kurelowech (Secretary-Treasurer).

New Business**Township Clean-Up 2023**

Chrissie Kurelowech asked the Supervisors if they would like to schedule Clean-Up Weekend for the first full weekend in June, as it has been for the past several years. The Supervisors were in agreement to schedule Clean-Up Weekend for Saturday, June 3, 2023 and Sunday, June 4, 2023. The dumpsters will arrive on Friday, June 2, 2023 and will be removed on Monday, June 5, 2023. Six 30-yard dumpsters will be ordered. Chrissie Kurelowech will contact Harley Richards to make sure he is available to handle metal disposal. She noted that Tri-County Industries has added a fuel surcharge of \$40.00 per truck, per trip, which will increase the cost of the event. Last year, Clean-Up Weekend cost the township \$3,595.70.

Adjournments

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer