

Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
July 3, 2017

A regular monthly meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, July 3, 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.

**Administrative Action**

**Old Route 8 Culvert Replacement – Open Bids**

Mark Corey, township engineer, opened bids to replace the culvert on Old Route 8 (near Black Road). Bids were submitted by Russell Standard Corporation and Shingledecker's Welding, Inc. The bid submitted by Russell Standard Corporation was for \$158,870.00 and the bid submitted by Shingledecker's Welding was for \$48,900.00. After Mark Corey checked the calculations and made sure each bidder had provided the required documentation, the Supervisors voted. On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried, the Supervisors voted to accept the bid submitted by Shingledecker's Welding, Inc., for \$48,900.00, to replace the culvert on Old Route 8. The work should be completed by September 30, 2017. The Supervisors have applied for Act 13 funding through Venango County to cover the cost of the project, but no word from the county has been received yet.

**Public Comment**

Ron Stewart expressed displeasure about the roads near his home not receiving salt brine for dust suppressant until June 29, 2017. Also, he noted that there are 12 homes on Turkey Farm Road, which was recently paved, and 18 homes on the paved portion of Dutch Hill Road. He said that Dutch Hill Road really needs attention and there are many people who live along it and drive on it every day. He urged the Supervisors not to forget to ditch Dutch Hill Road and said it needs paved. Ron Stewart also told the Supervisors that the culvert pipe near the intersection of Shreve Road and Black Road is completely full again and needs dug out. Another issue brought to the table by Ron Stewart was the lack of maintenance on Miller Farm Road. He said there is a sign that says "No Winter Maintenance", but there is also no spring, summer, or fall maintenance. He asked when the road crew is going to take the grader over and fix it and said he talked to Lew Staub about it and was told that the road crew would fix it within a few days, but nothing was ever done. Lew Staub said the road crew was busy with storm damage and Ron Stewart said it never stormed between the time he complained and the time the road was supposed to be fixed. Emery Fiely said the road crew was busy.

## **Minutes/Treasurer's Report**

The minutes, from the regular monthly meeting held on Monday, June 5, 2017, were read, accepted, and approved, on a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Lew Staub, and carried.

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

## **Correspondence**

Venango County Regional Planning Commission – Bridge Inspection Reports  
*Two bridges, one on Barker Road and one on Stone Springhouse Road, were recently inspected by STV Inc. and several maintenance recommendations were made.*

Butcher & Winkler, Attorneys at Law–Property of Dorothy Harry (620 Old Rte. 8)  
*A letter was received from Attorney Richard Winkler regarding a stormwater drainage issue at 620 Old Route 8, which allegedly began a year ago when the township performed ditching work across the road from Mrs. Harry's home. Attorney Winkler asked for assistance in resolving the problem and said he would be happy to discuss the problem with the Supervisors. The Supervisors were in agreement that no action would be taken by the township. As discussed in previous meetings, they feel that the township is not at fault and that Mrs. Harry needs to hire a contractor to install a pipe in her yard. The township cannot perform work on private property.*

Northwest Commission – Local Technical Assistance Program Course Description  
*Several free road maintenance and safety courses are available through PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program.*

PSATS News Bulletin

## **Zoning**

### **Permits**

|           |                          |                   |   |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Z-2017-08 | Andrew and Rachel Schwab | 853 Fairview Road | addition to existing home (2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom) |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------|---|

### **Zoning Report**

There was no report.

## **Committee Reports**

### **VFD**

Don Deliman reported that there were 16 calls (3 mutual aid) since the last meeting. Of the 16 calls, 1 was a freight truck fire, 4 were EMS, 1 was an MVA, 1 was a search for a person on land (mutual aid), 6 were public service (trees down), 1 was a standby (no EMTs), and 2 were dispatched and cancelled (mutual aid).

The next flea market will take place on Saturday, July 8, 2017. There is a \$5.00 non-refundable fee per table. To reserve a table, contact Allen Wade at (814) 827-2567 or [jawade@gmx.com](mailto:jawade@gmx.com).

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual 20-Gun Bash (gun raffle) was held on Saturday, June 24, 2017. The numbers are not in yet, so the VFD does not know how much money was made, but the weather was great and the event seemed to be a success. The VFD still needs to put the picnic tables back under the pavilions.

The VFD has sold the 1989 International tanker that was recently replaced by a 2001 GMC 8500 tanker.

### **EMA Office**

There was no report.

### **Road**

Lew Staub reported that the road crew graded and raked 10 roads, oiled and chipped 13 roads, and ditched and opened pipes in 14 spots. They spent 3 days cutting up trees and pushing them off the roads. The road crew also cold patched 2 roads and mowed the yard 3 times. They took the spreaders off and put the bermer on. A road inspection was performed by the Supervisors.

As for equipment, new tires were put on the 2014 Dodge and the 2009 International is back from Five Star International. The 2002 International was taken to Walsh Equipment to have the hydraulic pump tested. A new style pump must be installed and the estimate, with pump and labor, is \$6,000.00.

## **Old Business**

### **Dumpsters – Overflow Issue**

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that she looked into getting a third dumpster and the cost would be an extra \$79.52 per month, which would make the total cost of the dumpsters \$238.60 per month. If the township wanted to have the two existing dumpsters emptied every week instead of every other week, the cost would be \$250.50 per month, as opposed to \$159.08 per month, which is the current rate. Recently, the township has seen an increase in dumpster usage, most likely due to the fact that Hydetown and Pleasantville removed their dumpsters. The dumpsters are usually overflowing with not only recyclables, but junk and garbage. Additionally, a lot of items are left outside the dumpsters. Chrissie Kurelowech said the township is in the middle of a 5-year contract with Tri-County Industries and would be required to pay the current dumpster fee for 6 months if the township breaks the contract. At \$159.08 per month, this would amount to a \$954.48 penalty. After some discussion, the Supervisors reluctantly made a decision to have the dumpsters removed. On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried, the Supervisors voted to have both dumpsters removed and to pay the \$954.48 penalty to Tri-County Industries.

### **Turkey Farm Road – Tail Ditch**

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that she contacted Gary Caldwell, as requested at the previous meeting, to see if he would be willing to allow the township to install a tail ditch on his property on Turkey Farm Road in an effort to resolve the drainage problem. He is not in favor of installing a tail ditch because he fears it will cause septic system problems for his neighbor, Ginny Kerr. Both Gary Caldwell and Ginny's son, Steve Anderson, feel that, if the township would run the new reverse ditcher in the ditches, when they receive it, that the problem would be solved. Additionally, Steve Anderson had Ginny Kerr's driveway pipe cleaned out by the VFD recently. The property owners feel that installing a tail ditch should only be done as a last resort. At this point, nothing will be done by the township until the new reverse ditcher arrives.

### **Timber Estimates**

As requested at the previous meeting, Chrissie Kurelowech obtained estimates on timber located on an 8.5 acre parcel of land at the intersection of Cherrytree Road and Buxton Road. Rod Bedow marked the timber. Chrissie Kurelowech asked four timber professionals for estimates and an estimate of \$8,512.00, from Blue Ox Timber, was the only estimate received. Jim Waugh made a motion to sell the timber to Blue Ox Timber for \$8,512.00 and to donate the money to the Cherrytree Township VFD. There was no second. A lengthy discussion was held and several ideas were brought up. Don Deliman said, as a resident, he was not in favor of donating the money to the VFD and Mark McDowell suggested the township and the VFD split the money. Lew Staub mentioned putting the money into a fund for a new fire hall. Emery Fiely suggested selling the timber, the township putting the money into a special fund, transferring the property to the VFD and using the money in the special fund to cover legal fees, and giving the VFD the remaining money to be put into a special fund to be used for the construction of a new building. On a motion made by Jim Waugh, seconded by Emery Fiely, and carried, the Supervisors voted to sell the marked timber on the 8.5 acre parcel at the intersection of Cherrytree Road and Buxton Road (parcel # 03,005.-045F.-000), put the money into a special fund, transfer the property to the Cherrytree Township VFD and use the money in the special fund to cover legal expenses, and to donate the remaining money to the Cherrytree Township VFD to be put into a special fund to be used for the construction of a new building. On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Lew Staub, and carried, the Supervisors voted to advertise for bids on the marked timber with the intention of opening and reviewing the bids at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2017.

### **Butler County Sewage Association – Deed Issues**

Chrissie Kurelowech reported that a resident recently inquired about having Butler County Sewage Association (BCSA) removed from her deed. While the township belonged to BCSA, several property owners were required to sign installation and maintenance agreements that were recorded at the courthouse and are still attached to their deeds. These agreements are between the property owners and BCSA and state that the property owners must put money in escrow and have their systems inspected by BCSA. Since the township no longer belongs to BCSA, the installation and maintenance agreements need removed from the deeds. At the time the township pulled out of BCSA, the Supervisors agreed to pay the township solicitor to correct the deeds. However, the work has yet to be completed by the township solicitor and emails to him regarding the matter have not been answered. Chrissie Kurelowech suggested having the property owners go to their own attorneys to have the deeds corrected and then having the township reimburse the property owners for their legal expenses. The Supervisors were not in favor of doing this. Chrissie Kurelowech will continue to try to make contact with the township solicitor and will report on the matter next month.

### **New Business**

#### **Radio in Township Office - RAMCO**

Chrissie Kurelowech asked the Supervisors for permission to purchase a new power supply for the radio in the township office. Currently, she can hear the road crew on the radio, but she cannot speak to them over the radio. She presented a

quote, from RAMCO Communications, Inc., for \$190.00. The Supervisors were in agreement to purchase the power supply from RAMCO Communications, Inc..

**Road Crew Worker – Pay Increase**

Emery Fiely made a motion to raise Dave Zdarko's regular hourly rate by \$1.75 per hour to \$17.00 per hour. Lew Staub seconded. Jim Waugh said he feels it sets a bad precedent because it makes Dave Zdarko's wages as high as the wages of most road masters in the county. Lew Staub said Dave Zdarko is worth it and the township needs to keep him. Jim Waugh requested a roll call vote. On a vote of 2 to 1, the Supervisors voted to raise Dave Zdarko's regular hourly rate by \$1.75 per hour to \$17.00 per hour. (Fiely – YES / Staub – YES / Waugh – NO)

The bills were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer