

**Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors
Special Meeting
October 22, 2016**

A special meeting of the Cherrytree Township Board of Supervisors was held on Saturday, October 22, 2016, at 8:00 a.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 of Allegiance

Moment of Prayer

Public Comment

None

New Business

Mark Ritke – Bluebird Houses

Chrissie Kurelowech told those in attendance that Mark Ritke recently stopped and asked if the Supervisors would mind if he erected two bluebird nesting boxes on the township's property. He had put some on a property across the road from the township building years ago, but the property's new owners wanted the boxes removed. The boxes would be on poles and the only inconvenience to the township would be mowing around them. After a brief discussion, the Supervisors decided to allow the boxes to be on the township's property only if they are attached to existing poles.

Health Insurance Renewal

The premium for the employee health insurance (UPMC Inside Advantage PPO \$500/\$1,000 \$20/\$40), that is set to renew on December 1, 2016, will increase by 32% upon renewal. Currently, the township pays \$1913.06 per month, for three employees, and will pay \$2,525.24 per month, if the current plan is renewed. Of the three employees, one is on a single plan that is \$290.74 per month and will be increasing to \$383.78 per month. The other two employees are on family plans that are \$811.16 per month (per employee) and will be increasing to \$1070.73 (per employee) per month. Chrissie Kurelowech explained that she and Jim Waugh had recently met with Frank Riley, of Loesel-Schaaf Insurance Agency, to discuss options. She presented the Supervisors with a spreadsheet showing the costs, deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums, etc. for other plans that the township could purchase. None of the plans are Affordable Care Act Compliant. Chrissie Kurelowech said that, according to Frank Riley, the Affordable Care Act Compliant plans are much more expensive than the township's current plan and that he looked at plans from other companies and only found higher costs. Consequently, he recommends staying with a UPMC plan. A lengthy discussion took place. Several people in the audience voiced opposition of the township continuing to pay 100% of the health care costs for full-time employees and their families and said that most employers do not pay 100% anymore and many people cannot afford to buy insurance at all. On a motion made by Jim Waugh and seconded by Emery Fiely,

the Supervisors voted to renew the current health insurance plan (UPMC Inside Advantage PPO \$500/\$1,000 \$20/\$40) and to take a payroll deduction from each full-time employee for 20% of the employee's premium, if the employee wishes to participate in the township's health insurance plan.

Prepare 2017 Budget

Chrissie Kurelowech presented spreadsheets outlining the income and expenses for 2015 and 2016. The Board of Supervisors spent a great deal of time going through the spreadsheets, account by account, and budgeting an amount for each account for 2017. Jim Waugh, Supervisor and VFD President, asked for the township to provide more financial support to the VFD. He said they are in need of very expensive gear and a new tanker. Years ago, the township gave the VFD half of their annual truck payment, but suspended that support and never reinstated it. The Supervisors agreed to give the VFD a total of \$13,000.00, including the foreign fire payment from the state, which is usually between \$8,000.00 and \$10,000.00. Discussion was also held on purchasing a new tractor with a mower at a cost of \$120,000.00. The Supervisors budgeted \$60,000.00 for the tractor, with the intention of paying for half of it at the time of purchase and financing the other half.

Administrative Action

Adopt Proposed 2017 Budget

On a motion made by Emery Fiely, seconded by Jim Waugh, and carried, the Supervisors voted to adopt the proposed 2017 budget. Anticipated income for 2017 is \$673,854.67 and anticipated expenditures total \$640,255.67. Unless unforeseen expenses are discovered and amendments are necessary, the 2017 budget will be adopted at the regular monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. A copy of the proposed 2017 budget is available for inspection in the township office.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine C. Kurelowech, Secretary-Treasurer