

AGENDA: SUPERVISORS MEETING, MERCER TOWNSHIP, BUTLER COUNTY, PA
October 21, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7: pm by

Members present:

Visitors:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All attendees (please stand).

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Motion to accept the September 16, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes as printed: Second:

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Reich Subdivision:

Giesler Subdivision:

OLD BUSINESS:

Kozy Rest Sewage Expansion: Agreement has been finalized. Advertised for adoption in Butler Eagle on: 10-15-24. Motion to sign intermunicipal agreement and public private partnership regarding Kozy Rest Campground and Marion Township by . Seconded by .

Motion to adopt Ordinance #80 - Intermunicipal agreement and public private partnership regarding Kozy Rest Campground and Marion Township by. Seconded by .

Public Sewer:

1. **Incomplete connections/inspections (5):** Unchanged: D. Brown #2; K. Schumacher; R&M Holdings '09, LLC; McFeaters; Brandon (204 Boyers Rd).
2. **Delinquencies-Three or more months (10):** Updated: Ten (10) accounts (7 owners) currently are delinquent by 5 months or more. One has set up a payment plan on auto pay. One has agreed to pay extra as requested.
3. **Property Liens (9):** Unchanged: D. Brown (debt/connect); F. Carroll-Gillen (debt); S. Heller (debt); V. Kennedy (3 properties) (debt); R/J. McFeaters (connect/debt); G. Mullett (debt); H. Russell (debt).
4. **Notice of Claim:** Filed on H. Russell estate. Waiting for final tax return to be filed. House still being lived in.
5. **Sheriff Sale (5):** Updated: S. Heller; R. McFeaters; & 3 V. Kennedy properties. V. Kennedy properties were on hold if he paid as agreed. Missed March & July completely & has been late 5 of 10 months he has made payments. Did not pay as agreed in Aug. or Sept. Solicitor to inform his attorney we will be continuing Sheriff sale proceedings for non-compliance with the agreement if not paid in full. **S. Heller: Sale scheduled for Nov. 15, 2024 at 11:00 am.** McFeaters: Will be up for Judicial sale later this year.
6. **Auto Pay:** 44 of 120 accounts (37%) are set up on auto pay.
7. **Delinquency Rate:** Total-11%; Severe-8%.
8. **Sewer Lateral Inspections:** 1379 Eau Claire Rd. - passed; 4148 William Flynn Hwy. - pending.
9. **Grinder Pumps:** Alarm went off at Becker's. Marvin replaced pump and sent it for repair.
10. **Emergency Generator:** Marvin will keep an eye on it.

11. **Concrete Stanchions**: Marvin will look at cost to replace and provide a quote. Wants to complete before winter.
12. **Sludge Removal**: To be scheduled in Oct.

Private Sewer:

1. **On-Lot Sewage Permits (2024)**: (5) - A. Burnett; T. McDougall; D. Kellogg; S. Fisher; S. Lennon.

Municipal Office:

1. **Building Permits (2024)**: (15) - J. DiSanti (house); E. Meier (house/garage); L. Fulmer (garage); K. & R. Boozel (garage); Crossroads-North Tower (cell tower); King Autos (building reno.); D. Reich (machine shed); J. DiSanti (pool); J. Crum (solar panels); B. Diamond (solar panels); C. Linamen (modular home); A. Esquenazi (pole barn); C. Stuchal (ag. bldg. add.); K. & R. Boozel (house); R. Shields (trailer demo).
2. **Office Roof**: G. Ferguson inspected the roof and sealed several areas to help keep small animals from getting in.

Municipal Garage:

1. **New Dump Truck**: Delivery expected later this week. Hunter Truck Sales was paid \$133,836.00 for the chassis in August. Received the invoice from Stevenson Equipment, Inc. for \$90,200.00. **Motion**: to pay \$50,353.25 from **Liquid Fuels Fund** and \$39,846.75 from **Capital Reserve** for a total of \$90,200.00, which pays the balance of the new fully-equipped truck in full:
2. **Flagger Training**: G. Ferguson completed in office 9-18-24.

"For Love of the Lost"/Fish property: Hearing on 10-1-24 at 10 am. Magistrate filed in favor of the Twp. Mr. Fish has 30 days to appeal. We need to look at the **Junkyard Ordinance #38** because Mr. Fish is looking for information.

EMC/Weather - Emergency Management Coordinator: To attend FALL Boot Camp on 10-12-24 at SRAHS.

Shields Rd. Tree: WPP cut tree down on 10-15-24.

EMS QRS Agencies: Butler Co. 911 center has requested that municipalities designate a licensed agency to help respond to medical calls in our area. Harrisville VFC will be the designated QRS agency once they report that they have completed their licensure. A copy of the HVFC minutes from 10-8-24 reports they are working towards certification.

Holding Tanks in Township: New agreements have been sent out to be signed and recorded with the Butler Co. Recorder of Deeds and returned to office.

Allegheny Mineral Corp./White Oak Road Closure: Original Agreement: Aug. 19, 2019 until 2033. AMC would like to extend the agreement to be able to close the road for 5 years but begin later than agreed. Solicitor updated agreement proposal and sent to AMC on 9-9-24. AMC discussed with

Supervisors at 9-16-24 meeting. Solicitor to make changes and send new updated proposal to AMC.

139 Shields Rd: N. Graham (141 Shields Rd.) is asking if it's possible to have the abandoned & deteriorating house beside/behind him at 139 Shields Rd. removed. W. Long will contact the Solicitor to determine if there is anything that can be done.

200 Shields Rd: D. Crum asked the Twp. to look at ponding in her yard caused by plugged drains. Supervisors modified the Twp. culvert.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget 2025: Need to set proposed budget meeting, which must be advertised at least 20 days prior to the December budget meeting.

Election Day: (11-5-24) Office is closed.

Solicitor: Proposal for Services received for 2025. Rate increase to \$200/hr., min. billing 2/10 of an hour, min. 1 hr. for meeting attendance. Paralegal services: \$60/hr.

Millage Rate: Millage rate needs to be determined so it can be advertised and reported to DCED by the December 1st deadline if it is increased.

Fee Schedule rates: Administrative Sewage lateral inspections & private on-lot inspections application fees need to be increased due to increase of administrative responsibilities. Other fees need to be updated as necessary such as sanitary sewer connection fees.

Ordinance #80: Employee Handbook. Staff sent a copy to the solicitor to review, and changes were made. **Motion** to advertise Ordinance #80 Employee Handbook by . Seconded by .

Supervisor Compensation: As of December 1, 2024 a bill will be passed to increase the allowable compensation caps for township supervisors. Each board of supervisors may choose whether to implement all or part of the increase by ordinance or to leave current compensation rate in place. Increase can be from \$1,875 per year to \$3,145 per year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Liquid Fuels Fund Review: (10-8-24) Accounts were found in good order.

Green Lights on Twp. Vehicles: Law was passed that green flashing lights can be installed on Township vehicles as well as contractors doing Township work.

MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAINING:

Mercer Co. COG: (9-18-24) John.

PA1 Call Safety Day Conference: (9-19-24) John.

Butler Co. Tax Collection Committee (BCTCC): (9-24-24) Nikki attended. Berkheimer EIT collection contract is slated for renewal in 2026.

Municipal Grant Writing Workshop: (9-30-24) Nikki attended. Good information on DCED and PennDOT grants and the application process.

Butler Co. Local Government Officials Course: Three sessions: 9-28-24, 8:30 am - 2 pm (Finance & Governance)- Nikki attended; 10-12-24, 8:30 am - 2 pm (Powers & Duties)-Nikki attended; 10-19-24, 8:30 am - 1 pm (Infrastructure & Public Safety)-Nikki.

Butler Co. Municipal Outreach Mtg: (10-8-24) All 3 commissioners provided updates regarding the election, budget, infrastructure bank, and the BC3 training classes. Independence Health System spoke about their preparedness and response to the first Trump rally, financial improvement plan, insurance contracts and broadening services. A brief description was given regarding recovery, resiliency and person-first language for first responders training. The president of SRU gave a presentation regarding the student stats at SRU.

BCATO Safety Seminar: (10-9-24) Nikki & Lori attended. Received interesting and pertinent information. Received Right-to-know training.

Butler Co. COG: (10-24-24) 2-3:30 pm - Penn Township Munic. Bldg. Bill?

ROAD REPORT:

9/4/24 - Responded to a complaint on Valley View Rd.
9/19/24 - Bill and I repaired Mr. Bowser's driveway.
9/23/24 - Picked up 2 tons #4 stone for the project at Crum residence.
9/28/24 - John mowed.
9/30/24 - Mowed Shields and Glacial Till Rds.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

General Fund:	\$110,024
Sewer Fund:	\$74,349
Liquid Fuels Fund:	\$137,406
Capital Reserve:	\$55,481
Escrow Fund:	<u>\$5,017</u>
Total:	\$382,277

Motion to accept the Financial Report and pay bills due through the next month: Second:

ADJOURNMENT: **Motion** to adjourn meeting at pm: Second: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: