

# JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

## REGULAR MEETING

December 9, 2024

### CALL TO ORDER:

The Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors' regular meeting was called to order by Chairman John Cypher, Monday, December 9, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. as advertised. All rose to pledge the flag.

### ROLL CALL:

Those present were Chairman John Cypher, Supervisor Braden Beblo, Leo J. Rosenbauer, III Manager and Lois Fennell, Sec/Treas. Lois J. Rankin, Vice-Chair. was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED: None.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John Cypher announced that the Supervisors and the Township Manager interviewed another applicant for the sec/treas. trainee.

John Cypher announced that the Board of Supervisors met in an executive session on personnel matters following the November 11, 2024 meeting and on December 3, 2024.

William Pitts from the Butler Eagle disclosed that he was audio recording the meeting.

John Cypher announced that State Police Corp. Shawn Milkovich attended to report 'call volumes to the public and the Supervisors. He stated that there were 216 police related incidents in the year to date since Jan. 1, 2024. Most of these were 'likely' domestic and crashes, but there were miscellaneous incidents such as missing people, welfare checks, criminal mischief, etc. Rich Costini, a trooper from Troop D and their union rep., promoted the State Police stating that they have the expertise, the resources, the legal counsel, and better over local coverage. The PA State Police have been in existence since 1905. Chairman Cypher thanked them for their report and for their exceptional service in Jefferson Township.

### MINUTES:

John Cypher *moved* to approve the November 11, 2024 regular meeting minutes as written. *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

### FINANCIAL:

The list of bills paid between the Nov. 11th meeting and Dec. 9, 2024 totaled \$24,220.86 from the General Fund. Bills presented for payment from the General Fund this evening totaled \$74,871.83. No bills were presented for payment this evening from any other fund (State Fund, Impact Fee Fund, or the ARPA Checking.) The Balance of All Funds after payment of the bills presented totaled \$3,182,676.91. John Cypher *moved* to pay the bills presented, plus any bills that may become due prior to the January 6, 2024 meeting. *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

### RECREATION COMMITTEE:

The Recreation Committee has no meetings in November, December and January. There was no report this evening.

Baseball: Website: [www.knochyouthbaseball.com](http://www.knochyouthbaseball.com)

Pool: Website: [www.sebcopool.com](http://www.sebcopool.com)

Softball: Website: [www.sagsa.org](http://www.sagsa.org)

Soccer: Website: [www.knochsoccer.org](http://www.knochsoccer.org)

### ROAD REPORT:

John Cypher gave the road report as submitted by the road foreman.

- Park restrooms were winterized on 11/14/24.
- Park gates were locked up for the winter on 11/21/24.
- Leaf removal along the Township rights-of-way is nearly done. Some touch up blowing to do in the wooded areas the next time everything thaws out.

- Snow fence installation is about 90% completed. A section of snow fence was added to Frazier Rd. at the Callen farm.
- Winter maintenance is ongoing, approximately 46 tons of salt has been used so far, as of 12/2/24.
- The road crew removed a tree from the communication line along West Jefferson Rd. at the Heller Road intersection. Part of the tree was hanging in the east bound lane of West Jefferson.
- Between snow and ice events, the road crew will be keeping the snow removal equipment clean and ready to go, servicing the other equipment as time and weather allow, keeping the salt, fuel and gas replenished as needed, and repairing signage throughout the township.
- The road foreman and road crew request that the three Supervisors sit in and be part of the ongoing union negotiation as was done in the past (with the last two contracts.) John Cypher responded that unless the road crew wants to attend an executive session with the Board of Supervisors only, the matter cannot be discussed at a public meeting.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leo Rosenbauer reported on the November 18, 2024 Planning Commission meeting. The P.C. reviewed the DEP Component #1 for the Usell Septic Plan (Grant Usell) on Rockdale Rd. Two existing lots on a 50 ft. private right-of-way – Parcel C of 16.00 acres already with a dwelling and existing Revised Parcel A of 16.09 acres now ‘non-building’. Septic testing was done on Parcel A and the sewage module completed to convert it to a building lot. The P.C. voted to approve DEP Component 1 for the Usell Septic Plan, Revised Parcel A on Rockdale Rd. This evening, after a brief review, John Cypher *moved* to approve the DEP Component #1 for the Usell Septic Plan, Revised Parcel A on Rockdale Rd. *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

The P.C. approved signing the ‘non-building waiver form’ submitted for L. June Faust from the Faust/Noah Lot Line Rev. last month. No action for the Supervisors to take this evening.

The P.C. discussed and agreed with Leo Rosenbauer’s recommendation to add regulations to the Code of Ordinances on solar energy and other alternative energy resources and grading & excavation. John Cypher and Braden Beblo were in agreement to look into possible regulations on both and agreed that the engineer would need to provide input. The P.C. also reviewed current ordinances – Chap. 7 Burning: there was a general consensus to NOT revise this ordinance again (just revised in 2020); Chap. 8 Floodplain: this is a Federally mandated ordinance, but the definition for ‘structure’ needs to be uniform in our other ordinances; Chap. 9 Grading & Excavating: currently no regs.; and Chap. 10 Health & Safety: the P.C. members are to review this prior to the December meeting for possible revisions.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

An offer was made to a candidate for the secretary/treasurer ‘trainee’ position, but it was turned down. Another applicant has been interviewed. In anticipation of potential hiring, Braden Beblo *moved* to set the treasurer’s bond for the new sec/treas. trainee at \$750,000.00 to start. *Second* by John Cypher. All agreed and *motion carried*.

The 2024 Budget Introduction was distributed to the Board of Supervisors at the Oct. 14, 2024 meeting. There was no further discussion this evening. John Cypher *moved* to adopt the 2025 Budget Resolution #536 with no change in the millage (currently one (1) mill). *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

The revised resolutions/agreements with Saxonburg Borough on ‘sharing maintenance on Constitution Ave. following meetings on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> with Borough Manager Steve May was reviewed and commented on by the Township Manager and returned to Mr. May. The revised agreement will be distributed to the Supervisors for review when it is received back from Mr. May.

John Cypher and Braden Beblo tabled action on the proposed police agreement with Saxonburg Borough for further review and discussion by the Board of Supervisors.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Marlene Broman had asked to be on the agenda, but she did not attend this evening.

It has been 16 years since the tax collector's wage/salary was increased (currently \$240 month = \$2,880.00 year (since 2009). Tax Collector wages need to be set by Resolution at the Jan. 6, 2025 meeting before the petitions are submitted by candidates for the next term which would begin Jan. 2026 to Dec. 2029. After a brief discussion, John *moved* to prepare the resolution stating the rate at \$275 per month (or \$3,300) for adoption at the Jan. 6, 2025 meeting. This increase is \$420.00 for 2025, but divided by the past 16 years, it comes to about \$26.25 per year! *Second* Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

Liberty Pointe Partners sent a request for Drawn Down #8 of \$259,174.28. *Motion* by John Cypher to approve Liberty Pointe Drawdown No. 8 as presented in the amount of \$209,174.24 as reviewed and adjusted by HRG, Inc. as the asphalt paving was 84% complete at the time of inspection. *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*. This leaves a balance of \$185,575.14 in the line of credit for Phase I.

*Motion* by John Cypher to approve Pay Application #1 for \$62,822.25 (as reviewed and approved by HRG, Inc.) for the O'Hara Road and Janice Lane storm sewer project to CRS Contracting, LLC, which is funded in part by the Butler County Municipal Infrastructure Program by 80% with a 20% township match. *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

Foreman Bill Foertsch suggested that James Brian Turner should be moved from Tier 1 (\$24.48 per hour) to Tier 2 (at the rate of \$25.21 per hour per the current union contract effective immediately. John Cypher *moved* to move James Brian Turner to Tier 2 at the rate of \$25.21 per hour effective for the pay period 11/30 to 12/11/24 (paycheck date 12/12/24.) *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

## PUBLIC BUSINESS or COMMENT:

After some discussion the Supervisors present agreed to meet in an executive session with the road crew to discuss personnel matters immediately after adjourning this meeting.

## MISC. BUSINESS FROM TWP. OFFICIALS:

Leo Rosenbauer announced receipt of a letter regarding 'early warning signal testing' by Coherent (II-VI, Inc.) on Friday, Dec. 20 and Sat., Dec. 21 at 12 Noon.

Leo Rosenbauer reported receiving a call from Mr. Gombos who now owns the Nowick property that abuts the township park. He would like to post 'purple paint markings' along the property line. John Cypher said that would be no problem since the township prohibits hunting in the public park.

## ATTENDANCE:

Those in attendance were Evie Gross, William Pitts (Butler Eagle), Doug Lefever, Robert Veselich, Cpl. Shawn Milkovich PSP, Cpl. David Thompson PSP, Dennis Kriley, Paul Cypher, Jr., Bill & Mandi Foertsch, Garry Foertsch, Gerry Geibel, Brian Turner, and Rich Costini. There was at least one individual who did not sign in.

ADJOURN: Braden Beblo *moved* to adjourn at 8:05 PM on December 9, 2024. *Second* by John Cypher. All agreed and *motion carried*.

## NEXT MEETING:

The re-organization meeting, followed immediately by the regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2025, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at the municipal building - 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA 16002.