

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

December 9, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors, held at the municipal building on 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA, was called to order by Chairman John Cypher at 7:00 P.M. on December 9, 2019. All rose to pledge the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were Chairman John Cypher, Supervisor Braden Beblo, Sec/Treas. Lois Fennell and Manager Leo Rosenbauer. Supervisor Lois Rankin was absent due to being out of the area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED: None.

MINUTES:

John Cypher *moved* to approve the November 11, 2019 regular meeting minutes as written and presented. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

FINANCIAL:

Chairman Cypher read the financial report. Bills paid between the Nov. 11th and Dec. 9, 2019 totaled \$6,692.06. Bills presented this evening for payment from the General Fund totaled \$23,137.71. There were no bills presented for payment from the State Fund. The total of all funds after payment of the bills presented was \$1,341,623.26. *Motion* by John Cypher to pay the bills presented plus any regular bills that may become due prior to the January 6, 2020 meeting. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

PUBLIC BUSINESS OR COMMENT:

Jerry Kennedy and his aunt were present to discuss water drainage issues at 160 Alwine Rd. Discussion included a larger culvert installed in the spring of 2019 within the Township's road right-of-way; the Kennedy's felt that the water drainage that appears across their property and that of their neighbors' has worsened in the last two years; it was stated that the water table has also been higher in the last couple of years; from past history (verbal) it is assumed that the natural swale through the aunt's property had been piped (installed by the property owners 50+ years ago) with a terra cotta tile drain has been blocked, has collapsed, etc. causing an overland flow through Mrs. Kennedy's and the neighboring property. Chairman Cypher, as well as Supervisor Beblo and the manager (Leo Rosenbauer) were all in agreement that this is NOT a township issue and the Township does not have authority to work on private property to work on the drainage. Mr. Kennedy said he was going to approach Concordia about the drainage from their property.

Rich Craft from Olsen Craft Associates, LLC attended to present questions from Clearfield Township regarding to MS4 (stormwater) matters. Although PSATS is opposing MS4 legislation/requirements as an 'unfunded mandated' there are townships already designated as MS4 and other townships waiting to hear if they are next (due to 2020 census) to be designated. The questions, which the Board will consider, are: 1) *Is the township an MS4 community or likely to become one by 2023?* Jefferson Township has already been designated a 'mini MS4' but successfully obtained a 5-year waiver. 2) *Is the township tracking stormwater BMP's and their maintenance?* 3) *Is the township open to stream/floodplain restoration as a stormwater management BMP?* 4) *Is the township interested in cooperating with others in our watershed* (specifically Buffalo Creek Watershed which is mostly located on the north/east side of Rt. 356. This watershed was the reason Jefferson Township was designated as a mini-MS4. The remainder of Jefferson Township is in the Thorn Run Watershed.) Mr. Craft has already approached Buffalo Township, Clinton Township and Saxonburg Borough. He plans to contact Winfield Township (Butler County) and West Franklin (Armstrong County) and perhaps others, as well.

RECREATION COMMITTEE: No report. They do not meet in November., December. or January.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT:

John Cypher read the road report. Trees were removed on Heller Rd. and O'Hara Rd. Some trees were removed in several spots along the park boundary line. The snow fence is installed; the railroad ballast was removed from under the overpass on Golden City Rd. The railroad company was contacted about the problem. "No Parking" and Speed Limit signs are being installed (where needed) in all housing plans. Truck maintenance was performed and trucks were set-up for winter. The part-time road employee was familiarized on township equipment and routes. Road salting/antiskid in progress....200 tons of salt were ordered on the new contract...winter is here.

The manager is in process of getting prices for tree trimming along Riemer, Marwood, Caldwell and Rancindin Roads. The Board was asked to consider the purchase of a leaf blower (in 2020) and possible replacement of the skid loader and 530 Truck (in 2021).

PLANNING COMMISSION: No report. The November 18, 2019 meeting was cancelled/no business.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Leo Rosenbauer gave a brief report to the Board of Supervisors on various township business items, including but not limited drainage issues on O'Hara Road (see Misc. Business.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The 2020 Budget was introduced to the Board of Supervisors in October. All three Supervisors have indicated that they have reviewed the proposed 2020 budget and authorized advertisement for adoption this evening, Dec. 9, 2019. *Motion* by John Cypher to adopt Resolution #441 adopting the 2020 Budget with tax millage remaining at 1 mill. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

Chairman Cypher noted that the Supervisors received a draft timbering ordinance for preliminary review. The Planning Commission will begin to review the proposed ordinance at their Dec. 16, 2019 meeting. A copy will be given to the road foreman for his input as well. The manager noted that a lot of sites to not clean up well after the project is completed.

Chairman Cypher inquired about the fee resolutions that need to be updated for 2020 (i.e. building permit minimum fee and percentage; road occupancy permit fees; professional services fees for attorney and engineer; and mobile home park 'renewal' fees. These are being worked on for consideration and adoption at the Jan. 6, 2020 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Currently Jefferson Township donates only to Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Dept. We gave \$8,000 in February 2018 plus an additional \$25,000 in Nov. 2018; and in 2019 we donated \$8,000. We are 'authorized to require a report on how these donations were spent. The Supervisors were asked to approve that a letter be drafted and sent to Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Dept. requesting a written report on how donations were spent over the last couple years...prior to anticipated donation in 2020. Both John Cypher and Braden Beblo agreed.

MISC. BUSINESS:

A notification letter dated 12/4/19 was received from DEP noting their receipt of XTO's 'water management plan amendment application dated Oct. 21, 2019 and noting its approval with various expiration dates for various 'sources'. These sources include PA American Water, Adams Twp. Municipal Water, etc.

Chairman Cypher noted receipt of a letter from II-VI, Inc. re: 'community early warning system' tests on Dec. 20 & Dec. 21, 2019 at 12 Noon.

MISC. BUSINESS, cont.:

Manager Leo Rosenbauer said that he and the road foreman were contacted by Albert Foertsch about a drainage problem on O'Hara Rd. (water is ponding near the road.) They both looked at the site. Apparently, the terra-cotta tiles and stone sump installed many years ago by Lee Graff and John Foertsch's relatives have deteriorated (*similar situation discussed with Pat Kennedy earlier in the meeting*). Chairman Cypher said this too is NOT a township issue and the township cannot work on private property. The current property owners can repair the field drains or take other measures on their own property to get the field to drain. If or when future-problems arise on the road or right-of-way the township will have to consider the best way to proceed.

It was noted that a pine tree fell across O'Hara Rd. The foreman was informed on Thanksgiving Day by a resident that Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Dept. had closed O'Hara Rd. The road department went out the day after Thanksgiving to discover that the tree fell onto communication lines. Our new part-time employee, Doug Lefever, was with him and they were both concerned that the fire department did NOT notify the township about the closed road, etc. Doug Lefever, a member of the fire department, is working to get more open communication.

ATTENDANCE:

Rich Craft, Evie Gross, Bill & Mandi Foertsch, Pat Kennedy, and Jerry Kennedy.

ADJOURN:

Motion by John Cypher to adjourn at 8:15 P.M. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*. The re-organization, following immediately by the regular meeting, is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7 P.M. at the Township Building, 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler.

Respectfully submitted by Sec/Treas. Lois J. Fennell