

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING
November 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

The Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors regular meeting was called to order by Chairman John Cypher, Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7:03 P.M. as advertised. All rose to pledge the flag.

ROLL CALL:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Braden Beblo and John Cypher met briefly in executive session to discuss personnel matters.

MINUTES:

Motion by John Cypher to approve the Oct. 10, 2022 regular meeting minutes as written and distributed. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

FINANCIAL:

The list of bills paid between the Oct. 10th meeting and November 14, 2022 totaled \$65,248.46 (this amount included the new Ventrac tractor/mower). The list of bills presented for payment this evening from the General Fund totaled \$16,555.76. No bills were presented for payment this evening from the State Fund. The Balance of All Funds after payment of the bills presented totaled \$2,757,035.11. *Motion* by John Cypher to pay the bills presented and any other bills come and are due prior to the Dec. 12, 2022 meeting. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED: None.

RECREATION COMMITTEE:

There is no Recreation Committee meeting in November, December, or January, therefore no 'minutes' to report. The Manager asked the Supervisors to discuss the removal of a triple tree next to the walking trail at Softball Field #4. Cost for Stephenson's to remove and grind stump is \$3,000. John Cypher *moved* to proceed. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed and *carried*. They also discussed possible revamp (renovations) to the Ladies' Pavilion (i.e. replace T-111 siding, new countertop, steel soffit, etc.) John Cypher said that all three Supervisors need to look at the pavilion but agreed to 'budget' for possible project in 2023. (See Budget discussion under Unfinished Business.)

Baseball: www.saxonburgbaseball.com

Pool: Website: www.sebcopool.com

Softball: Website: www.sagsa.org

Soccer: Website: www.knochsoccer.org

ROAD REPORT:

Chairman John Cypher read the road report.

- Four trucks have been serviced and the 5th one will be done this week. All trucks will be ready for winter maintenance by the end of the week.
- Leaf cleanup at the park is almost completed. The Ventrac has made a huge difference.
- Leaf blowing along the roads is ongoing and will continue as weather allows. Please REMIND residents not to blow leaves and debris onto the Township roads, ditch lines, catch basins and drainage areas.
- The Ladies' Pavilion was winterized on November 1st.
- 141 Rennick Rd. has some cold patch added to the driveway to correct the entrance due to recent paving.

ROAD REPORT, cont.:

- Green Manor Drive, and Blakely/Bullcreek intersection had some patch work done.
- Tree trimming needs to be done this winter season on Heller, Dreher, Marwood, Becker (gas well to Township line). Consider getting bids (or quotes) for the Jan. 3, 2023 meeting, so that the work can be done by the end of March.
- The road crew will lock the park gates once the manager checks on the final dates that soccer needs them to be open and for the pavilion roof replacement. All the dumpsters are full 'again' and will need to be emptied before the gates are locked.
- Gerry Geibel, road employee, will come off probation Dec. 3rd. The road foreman is pleased his performance and knowledge and recommends having him stay on as a full-time employee at the highest level (Tier #2) per the union contract. (See action under New Business).
- The road crew has removed two bollards near Field #5 at the park. They are going to move forward in building the roadway through the wooded area behind Field #1 and down to Field #7 (to the yellow gate.) This roadway will help in future maintenance of the park and give better access. John Cypher said he agreed and moved to proceed with the access lane. Seconded by Braden Beblo. Agreed and carried.
- Manager Rosenbauer added:
 - o both mirrors on the 2015 F550 rusted and had to be replaced. The best price was from #1 Cochran; Gerry Geibel, road employee, installed them.
 - o the property owner at 173 Blakely was contacted to reduce 'access' to the property from the full length of the lot frontage.
 - o Brian Turner, road employee, got his CDL permit on 11/8; his training begins after 15 days.
 - o The core sample areas on Alwine Rd. and Riemer Rd. need to be sealed by Russell Standard.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leo Rosenbauer, P.C. Chair., reported on the Oct. 17, 2022 Planning Commission meeting. A revised Voller/Tebay Lot-Line Revision was submitted for review on Oct. 17th at which the P.C. recommended approval with two contingencies. Lot 1 with access to Keck Rd. will be 1.50 acres (existing 190-S5-C27 was 1.80 acre plus Tract A of .21 acre and less Tract B of .51 acre). The house is non-conforming on Lot 1. Lot 2 is a flag lot with access to Rt. 356 and it will be 2.11 acres (existing 190-S5-C28A plus Tract B of .51 acre and less Tract A of .21 acre). Lot 2 has an existing non-conforming building located within the front set-back area. The two contingencies have been satisfied: the two 'walk arounds' completed by the SEO on both lots has been paid by Mr. Tebay and the Butler County Planning Commission review letter has been received. *Motion* by John Cypher to approve the Voller/Tebay Lot Line Revision as presented. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. *Agreed and carried.*

The P.C. briefly discussed township ordinances needing revision (including but not limited to definitions and private driveways.) Leo noted just a couple of items that the P.C. discussed; 1) reducing the cartway width requirements and reducing the 'surface thickness'; and perhaps setting a minimum and maximum length; and 2) the possibility of increasing the lot size and frontage requirements. There was a brief discussion with the Supervisors, and they have no objections to either suggested revision.

Leo Rosenbauer reported that Kay Foertsch informed him that she will be stepping down from the Planning Commission when her term expires on 12/31/22. We hope to have two letters of interest to consider at the Jan. 3, 2023 reorganization meeting. Both Evie Gross and Bernie Shulik, whose terms expire on 12/31/22, are willing to serve another term.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The 2023 Preliminary Budget was introduced to the Supervisors at the Oct. 10, 2022 meeting at which they decided to not have a budget workshop. The following matters were discussed this evening:

- 1) Possible additional personnel, such as a separate 'code enforcement officer' and possible sec/treas. trainee (if current sec/treas. is ready to do so this year). After some discussion, both John Cypher and Braden Beblo agreed that more thought and discussion by all three supervisors needs to take place in the coming year and no funding will be added to the 2023 budget.
- 2) Possible fire tax to assist both the volunteer fire dept. and the volunteer ambulance service. John and Braden agreed that more thought and discussion by all three supervisors needs to take place in the coming year before placing a fire tax. As far as the additional 'up to' \$40,000 additional one-time donation to the fire department (already in the preliminary budget) John and Braden agreed to leave in the budget, but further discussion must take place before any 'additional one-time' donation is given. This is besides the annual donation (\$10,000 given in 2022 and planned for 2023.)
- 3) Possible West Jefferson Road Bridge maintenance, estimated cost approx. \$70,000. This maintenance, recommended by LTAP, would extend the life of the bridge 20 to 30 years. John Cypher and Braden Beblo indicated that this \$70,000 should be added to the budget.
- 4) Possible addition to the budget for proposed renovations to the Ladies' Pavilion. John and Braden in favor of including \$18,000 in the 2023 budget.

After discussion, John Cypher *moved* to authorize advertisement of the Proposed 2023 Budget as revised (including the \$70,000 for West Jefferson Road Bridge and including \$18,000 for renovations to the Ladies' Pavilion). *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed and *carried*.

Discussion on the proposed false alarm fire ordinance as requested by SVFC (tabled on 10/10/22): John Cypher is in favor of moving forward with such an ordinance but perhaps more stringent with increased fines (or graduated fines) and a township administrative fee. The Manager reported that Keith Frndak from Concordia called and is NOT in favor of such an ordinance. Braden Beblo is okay with such an ordinance but is concerned about who makes the determination what is considered a false alarm for possible fines (which is proposed to be the fire chief) and perhaps making it clearer what will be considered a 'false alarm'. It was agreed to have the Planning Commission review the proposed ordinance, which will eventually be reviewed by the attorney.

Discussion on the request by the library to place 'yard signs' at the park and at the township building advertising events at the library. The Supervisors said that allowing temporary signage would be a maintenance problem and possible safety issue. In the past, our policy has been to not allow other entities to place such signage. The library events are often noted in the newsletter and their website link is provided; also a link to their website is on our township website. The library is also welcome to place notices on the bulletin board in the township building hallway. It was suggested that they check with the pool or other organizations and perhaps they would permit something hung on their fences.

Motion by John Cypher to approve payment of the bond renewal of \$650.00 for \$800,000 treasurer's bond via Selective Insurance to C. W. Howard Ins. Agency. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed and *carried*. The manager's bond renewal (\$750,000 for \$625.00) was paid on 6/13/22.

Nothing definitive to report on the Great Belt/Bonniebrook Road intersection.

The Supervisors were informed that Dennis Sybert submitted an okay from his doctor for return to work (as dog officer.) Board voted to reappoint him at the May 9, 2022 meeting at \$60.00 per call & mileage (IRS rate). They agreed this evening that it is okay to reactivate him, and the manager will contact Mr. Sybert.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by John Cypher to authorize advertisement of the intent of the Supervisors to appoint a CPA (or accounting firm) at their Jan. 3, 2023 re-organization & regular meeting to examine all of the accounts of the Township for the fiscal year 2022. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed and *carried*. *The advertisement must be place at least 30 days prior to the expected date of appointment. A resolution is to be adopted on Tues., Jan. 3, 2023 (tentative #499). The elected auditors should meet on Wed., Jan. 4, 2023 to set the pay for any working supervisors.*

After some discussion about the garbage truck fire on Oct. 12th, noting that the fire started on Hannahstown Rd., but the driver wisely took the truck to the park parking lot to dump the contents. It was spread by the township loader and extinguished, then the material was reloaded to another truck. Approximate cost was \$1,340. John Cypher *moved* to send a letter to Vogel Disposal to request that rather than reimburse the township, to send the amount as a donation to the Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Dept. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed and *carried*. John Cypher is to compose the letter.

Motion by John Cypher to authorize the pay increase for Gerry Geibel from \$22.50 to \$24.00 at the end of his probation period (Dec. 3, 2022) (*see Road Report page 2 pf 11/14/22 minutes.*) *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

MISC. BUSINESS:

Bill's Interior Grooming cleaned the meeting room carpet on Friday, Nov. 11th.

PennDOT is holding their annual meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022 at 9 AM at the Jennings Nature Reserve. The Supervisors said to check with the road foremen. They agreed that he can attend.

ATTENDANCE:

Brian Tebay, Steve Graff, and Evie Gross.

ADJOURN:

John Cypher *moved* to adjourn at 9:06 P.M. on Nov. 14, 2022. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting: Monday, Dec. 12, 2022 at 7 P.M. at the municipal building- 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA 16002.