

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

February 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

The Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors' regular meeting was called to order by Chairman John Cypher, Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. as advertised. All rose to pledge the flag.

ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Attorney Marshall and the Board of Supervisors had a brief executive session following the Jan. 2, 2024 meeting to discuss possible litigation. Supervisors Cypher and Rankin attended an informational gathering with representatives from several other townships regarding possible development of 340 Riemer Rd.

MINUTES:

Motion by John Cypher to approve the January 2, 2024 re-organizational and regular meeting minutes as written and distributed. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

FINANCIAL:

The list of bills paid between the Dec. 12, 2023 meeting and Jan. 31, 2024 totaled \$177,747.95 (presented due to the Sec/Treas. being absent on Jan. 2, 2024.) The bills presented for payment at the Feb. 12, 2024 meeting totaled \$15,841.34. No bills were presented for payment this evening from the State Fund, Impact Fee Fund, or the ARPA Checking. The Balance of All Funds after payment of the bills presented totaled \$3,046,605.78. *Motion* by John Cypher to pay the bills presented and any other bills that come and are due prior to the March 11, 2024 meeting. *Seconded* by Lois Rankin. All agreed and *motion carried*.

RECREATION COMMITTEE:

The Recreation Committee met on Feb. 7, 2024 and a brief report was given by their president, Brian Patten. He noted that the Baseball Association is planning to rehab the lower concession stand this spring. Opening Day of the regular season is scheduled for May 4th. The Pool Association plans to uncover the pool in early March so needed repairs can begin. They are looking for a new maintenance person for the coming season. They are also hiring lifeguards. Please go to their website for more information. Opening will be Memorial Day weekend/ Closing will be Labor Day weekend. Pool renovation work is not expected to begin until after the pool closes this fall. The Softball Association is planning to renovate the dugouts this spring. Opening Day will be mid-April. The Soccer Association's opening day is set for April 6, 2024, weather permitting. There were no action items; however, they did discuss opening the park gates in early March (weather permitting) due to activities planned by the four organizations. John Cypher *moved* to proceed. Braden Beblo *seconded*. All agreed and *motion carried*. The Manager asked that the organization contact him because the gates still have township locks on them. ALL ASSOCIATIONS were asked to confirm their trash services dates with the Township via email.

Baseball: Website: www.saxonburgbaseball.com

Pool: Website: www.sebcopool.com

Softball: Website: www.sagsa.org

Soccer: Website: www.knochsoccer.org

RECREATION REPORT, cont.:

Supervisor Rankin would like to review the 'license agreements' and how the township can require financial reports (or audits) from the associations. Chairman Cypher said that since this will have to include legal review, it could be costly. After some discussion, Lois Rankin *moved* to put the discussion and decision on the March 11, 2024 agenda. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. John Cypher opposed. *Motion carried 2 to 1.*

Greg Bauer was present to note that volunteers are helping with the current maintenance issues at the pool (i.e. the heater) and volunteers are doing some fundraising for maintenance costs. John Cypher said he appreciates their efforts and that any fundraising events can be included in the newsletter and website. John Cypher then *moved* to include these ads in the newsletter and the website whenever Mr. Bauer notifies the office. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried.*

Manager Rosenbauer gave an update on the proposed new camera system at the park and gave an overview of the two quotes. Dream Home Integrations (which he noted as being 'proprietary' and changes/additions to the system can only be made via Dream Home. STS (which is used by Summit Township; the owner is local.) Both offered prices for 5 cameras, but both can be expanded to up to 16 cameras. Both have limited 'night vision' and Mr. Rosenbauer is looking into purchasing additional poles for additional 'dusk to dawn' lighting. Whichever company we use, the camera system is a full replacement; the old cameras are obsolete. The lowest price is from STS at \$6,240.00. Braden Beblo would like more detailed info before a decision is made; tabled until the March 11, 2024 meeting.

ROAD REPORT:

Chairman John Cypher gave the road report as follows:

- Approximately 600 tons of salt has been used this season. The township should be on target to be able to purchase the minimum quota per the Co-Stars contract, by July 31, 2024.
- The road foreman has contact Butler County Work Release (DUI and light offenders) for help at the park (as time and weather permit). He noted that there is no cost to the township and that his help will be limited to work at the park. *Motion* by John Cypher to proceed with the use of 'work release help' at the park. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried.*
- The grapple for the Trac-loader was repaired for around \$800.00.
- The new B-Wise equipment trailer was picked up 12/28/23 and with a few modifications made by the road crew, is ready for use.
- Five pallets of crack seal material need to be ordered. The cost should be \$8,662.50 pick-up price. Jefferson Township owes Summit Twp. ½ of a pallet borrowed last year to finish the job.
- The road foreman reported we may need to bid out some aggregate (600 ton of 2A limestone, 400 ton of #3 limestone, and 400 ton of #57 (2B) limestone) to replenish the stockpiles. Due to the estimated \$30,000 + cost, the road foreman suggested cutting the tonnage by half to begin replenishing the township stockpiles, and again in following years to keep up with their needs. Quotes will be obtained for review at the March meeting.
- Ballfield #6 has a damaged electric line on the southside of the fence. It is underground, could be repaired, or it could be replaced as it is no longer in use.
- The road crew is working on new park garbage cans, and guards for the electrical conduit for protection when they are mowing and trimming at the park.
- The road foreman asked if the Supervisors would like to ride along with him for a road review to go over the roads that he is thinking should be paved or sealed in 2024. They have planned to go on Thurs., Feb. 29th, weather permitting.

John Cypher read the quote list for the four excavators under review. They are all via Co-Stars. The road foreman recommends the Bobcat E360 as the best package to suit the township needs. Attachments that we do not purchase with it (and would not need use of very often) can be rented from

ROAD REPORT, cont.:

the dealer (Sarver True Value) or borrowed/rented from Buffalo Township in a pinch. The cost is \$91,561.36. Braden Beblo affirmed his recommendation as well. The equipment budget was set a \$110,000.00 for 2024, which will cover this purchase. *Motion* by Lois Rankin to proceed with the purchase of the Bobcat E60 55Hp, Non-DPF Excavator with warranty 24mths/200hrs via the Co-Stars contract. *Seconded* by John Cypher. All agreed and *motion carried*. The road foreman noted that it may take two months to get it here.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leo Rosenbauer, P.C. Chair., reported on January 15, 2024 P.C. meeting. First, the P.C. approved the JMAG, LLC Plan on Heller Road with four (4) contingencies. Mr. Leicher asked that the Supervisors table their decision as he is not ready for final approval. *Motion* by John Cypher to table the decision on the JMAG, LLC Plan on Heller Road. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

The P.C. reviewed a sample ordinance from Derry Township that would allow the township to notify property owners of dead or dangerous trees within the road rights-of-way to be removed by the property owner at their own cost. A copy was given to the Supervisors. Chairman Cypher stated that this is not a good practice, because once we notify the property owner and they don't remove the trees in a timely fashion, then the Township must proceed at the Township's cost; then seek reimbursement from the property owner...and 'good luck with that.'

The P.C. reviewed Part 4 to Part 7 of Chapter 15 on Motor Vehicles and Traffic. Leo Rosenbauer noted that 'terminology' referring to 'the police department' needs to be replaced by 'authorized township officials.' explained that it was suggested by P.C. members to reduce all township roads by 5 MPH, however, he was told by LTAP that reducing the speed limit on a road by 5 MPH without a study is allowed only following regulations on # of houses fronting the road. So, this cannot be done.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Last month the Supervisors voted to re-appoint Lois Rankin as cleaning person for 2024. This statement serves to clarify that Lois Rankin should have abstained (although the other two supervisors voted to approve the maximum hourly rate; actual rate is to be set by the Elected Township Auditors) and has now submitted an 'abstention memorandum' (dated 2/12/24). As a result, she said she was resigning as the 'cleaning person' for the township. Chairman Cypher said if she truly wants to resign, it should be done in writing and presented to the Board.

Last month the Supervisors voted to appoint Justin Demek (new BB President) and Justin Thompson (new BB Vice-Pres.) They wish to act as co-representatives to the Recreation Board from the Baseball Association. John Cypher *moved* to clarify that each organization gets 'only one vote' and if both co-representatives attend a Recreation meeting, only the President's vote can be counted. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and motion carried.

Last month (1/2/24) the Supervisors voted to appoint Lois Rankin and Braden Beblo to the BCATO Advisory Board for 2024. This serves to clarify that this was actually already done at the Dec. 11, 2023 meeting as requested by BCATO so that all appointees to their Board would have sufficient time to arrange for the first BCATO meeting on 1/4/24.

Last month (1/2/24) the Supervisors set the hourly rate for Doug Lefever and other part-time help if needed at \$20.00 hr. As Doug's position is CDL dependent, a non-CDL part-time hourly rate needs to be set. The Supervisors did not set a separate non-CDL part-time hourly rate because it would be dependent on 'talent set.'

Motion by John Cypher to ratify the 2024 tree trimming quotes (having received a third quote) and authorize the expenditure accepting the lowest quote from Stephenson Tree and Landscaping at \$17,650.00. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

NEW BUSINESS:

The manager noted that he is applying for the Butler County Parks Renovation Grant of 2024 to update the electrical service entrance to the pool bathhouse. Motion by John Cypher to adopt Resolution #524 committing the Township to the difference of \$3,250.00 (the Grant will cover \$7,500) for a total project of \$10,750.00. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*. The manager noted that the road crew will provide the trenching and install the conduit.

Authorize hiring of an assistant code enforcement officer, as approved in the 2024 budget. After a brief discussion, Lois Rankin *moved* to hire Brian Noah as proposed for hourly rate of \$20.00, with a maximum of 10 hours per week not to exceed \$10,000 per year as budgeted for 2024. He will receive mileage reimbursement for use of his personal vehicle at the IRS rate approved by the Supervisors at the Jan. 2, 2024 meeting (\$.67 'cents' per mile.) Duties will include: Preparation of violation and correction notice letters; Completion of Non-Traffic Violations Citation Forms; Verify validity of complaints and/or violations; Research as related to all of the above; Road Bond processing (inspections for bonding); and Driveway Occupancy Permitting (sight distance requirements, etc.) *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

3/2024-3/2025 Insurance Renewal from C. W. Howard Ins. Agency was received prior to this meeting. Jeff Howard met with the Manager and Sec/Treas. today, 2/12/24 at 10 AM. The total package (not including Public Officials and Workmen's Comp.) comes to \$28,438.00. Jeff Howard indicated that the 'annualized difference' is \$1,362, which is about a 5% total premium increase. *Motion* by John Cypher to accept the quote presented by C. W. Howard Insurance Agency. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

Renovations of the Ladies' Pavilion at the Park is \$2,434 over the estimate provided in Butler Co. Park Renovation Grant application (project estimate was \$19,200; the grant remains at \$7,500). *Motion* by John Cypher to authorize overage and total payment of \$21,634 (grant amount will be sent to us by the county.) *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

PUBLIC BUSINESS OR COMMENT: (This topic moved earlier due to the small children in attendance.)

Sheena Phillips and neighbors from Bullcreek Road came to address the Board regarding Wain Landscaping's operations. She said there are eight residential homes impacted by the noise and lights coming from their operations. They are mostly concerned about the noise generated from the trucks, lights, and voices during the night when they are getting their trucks ready for snow removal. Chairman Cypher attempted to explain that Jefferson Township has in the past looked into the possibility of a noise ordinance, which was abandoned because it is just too difficult to monitor and enforce and would place restrictions on all properties. Residents asked if an ordinance could be adopted.

Lois Rankin said that a lot of the ordinances need to be updated. Braden Beblo said the first thing to be finished is that 'buffer' required by the land development. It was agreed that the Manager will work to enforce the issues that would be in violations to the Township ordinance and require the 'buffer area' contingency from their land development approval.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunt were to attend to address the Board but requested 2/5/24 to withdraw from tonight's meeting.

Mr. Sprankle was to address the Board, but he called to say he was not coming tonight.

MISC. BUSINESS

The Manager noted several work items from January 2024:

- the right-of-way purchase at Frazier/Saxonburg Rd. must be reviewed by a new board to be established by PennDOT, and then the appraisal can be prepared.
- Pavilion renovations awarded to Zillweger Construction for \$21,634.00. A check for the deposit was included in the bill list this evening.

Chairman John Cypher shared this annual “State of the Township Address” as follows.

Jefferson Township, of Butler County, Pennsylvania, continues forward from 2023 to 2024. We can all be proud and thankful for where we are and when we exist.

We are fortunate to have scores of volunteers, including Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Department members, South Butler Library Organization, Laura J. Doerr Recreation Committee, Bulter County Humane Society, and Jefferson Township Planning Commission to perform the duties of our Township. Without their tireless and unselfish countless hours of volunteer service, Jefferson would not function as we know it today. Please continue to support these organizations by volunteering service, and support financially where appropriate. We all need to say, ‘thank you.’

The Supervisors of Jefferson Township thank our manager, Leo Rosenbauer, and Secretary-Treasurer, Lois Fennell, for their diligent work in securing grant funding for equipment purchase, building upgrades, park facility renovation and facility additions. All without borrowing funds.

Our road department is continuing to operate, as a top-notch crew, to maintain and improve forty-six miles of roads and rights-of-way, plus performing public works functions at Laura Doerr Park. Please respect and cooperate with the crew as they complete their work. The crew works, even in the worst weather and at the worst time of day, to keep our roads safe for all. Please say ‘thank you’ to them.

The Board of Supervisors is proactive, not reactive. The Supervisors are sworn to uphold federal, state, county, and township law. We cannot, and will not, find ‘loopholes’ nor ignore laws to bypass regulations. We do not reply or react to electronic media, hearsay, or gossip. All debate, discussion, and decisions must be made at ‘public meetings.’ The Supervisors vote and act upon fact, not fiction. With the help of our residents, we remain committed to being accountable and transparent.

With Liberty and Justice for all.

Motion by John Cypher to proceed to put the “2024 State of Township Address” in the newsletter. Seconded by Braden Beblo. All agreed and motion carried.

A letter was received from Consolidated Communications (letter of 2/1/24) giving notice that they are discontinuing their TV services. This means the Township will no longer receive ‘cable franchise fees’ after their decommission date of 3/26/24. This is about \$6,800 in income to the township.

The Council of Governments (COG) has been moved ‘under the stability of the Butler County Association of Township Officials (BCATO) as a sub-committee. Rachel Altman, the BCATO Secretary/Manager, will also become the Director of the COG. They are hoping to come together as a ‘County COG’ and have 100% membership. The new fee schedule was provided...Townships over 2,500 population the annual fee will be \$100.00. This matter was tabled for discussion at the March 11, 2024 meeting, as the letter and fee schedule were just received this evening.

The 1st Public Hearing of the 2024 CDBG funding is scheduled for March 11, 2024 at 6:45 PM. Butler County will advertise this hearing.

ATTENDANCE:

Bill & Mandi Foertsch, Brian Patten, Robert Veselich, Bruce & Diana Foehringer, Gretchen Foehringer, Bernie Shulik, Jim Rankin, Amber Lepis (from Rep. Marci Mustello’s office), Greg Bauer, Roger Cypher, Evie Gross, and William Pitt (from the Butler Eagle). Those that DID NOT sign in included: Sheena Phillips, John Moore, and other neighbors of Wain Landscaping.

ADJOURN:

Braden Beblo *moved* to adjourn at 9:36 P.M. on Feb. 12, 2024. *Seconded* by John Cypher. All agreed and *motion carried*.

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at the municipal building - 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA 16002.