

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

July 8, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

The Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors' regular meeting was called to order by Chairman John Cypher, Monday, July 8, 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, Lois Fennell, Sec/Treas., Attorney Matt Marshall, and Asst. Codes Officer, Brian Noah.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

William Pitts from the Butler Eagle once again was asked if he was audio recording the meeting, but had not disclosed that he was recording prior to the start of the meeting.; he acknowledged that he is audio recording the meeting.

Chairman Cypher noted that the Board and Township Attorney met briefly in executive session just prior to the start of this meeting on personnel matter.

MINUTES:

John Cypher *moved* to approve the June 10, 2024 regular meeting minutes as written. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

FINANCIAL:

The list of bills paid between the June 10th meeting and July 8, 2024 totaled \$379,658.14 (\$129,658.14 from the General Fund and \$250,000.00 from the State Fund. Bills presented for payment from the General Fund this evening totaled 5,140.96. 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 \$3,248,635.18. *Motion* by Lois Rankin to pay the bills presented. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*. *Motion* by John Cypher to pay any other bills that received and due prior to the August 12, 2024 meeting. *Seconded* by Lois Rankin. All agreed and *motion carried*.

RECREATION COMMITTEE:

The Recreation Committee met on July 3, 2024. Brian Patten reported this evening that Baseball and Soccer are basically done until fall. The Softball season is nearly over. Their annual tournament is on August 2, 3, and 4. They reiterated their concerns about the traffic interaction with pedestrians in the parking lot when crossing Doerr Park Drive. They asked if the Township could please mow around the outside of the ballfields in preparation for their upcoming tournament Aug. 2 to 4. There was no report from the Pool Association. Please see their report from last month (June 10th Supervisors' meeting) for details on ongoing plans. ACTION REQUEST: Mowing around the outside of the fences prior to the Softball Tournament Aug. 2 to 4.

Baseball: Website: www.knochyouthbaseball.com

Pool: Website: www.sebcopool.com

Softball: Website: www.sagsa.org

Soccer: Website: www.knochsoccer.org

ROAD REPORT:

Chairman Cypher gave the road report submitted by the foreman.

- Paving and shoulder backup is complete.
- Investigated the garbage truck damage to the new pavement on the cul-de-sac of Audrey Lane.

ROAD REPORT, cont.:

- More drainage work has been completed on Golden City Rd. and Becker Rd.
- The inlet area to a 48-inch pipe on Alwine Rd. has been tail ditched and lined with large riprap. The disturbed area was seeded and mulched.
- The 2017 Mack was taken to Coach in Butler for rear brake issues. New slack adjusters and rear brake chambers were installed. We have not received the invoice yet.
- The 2015 Ford F550 engine light was on for a few weeks and the truck went into a 'power reduce mode.' The truck was taken to MDDP on Caldwell Dr. It was scanned and codes were cleared. No other actions were needed. The total cost of \$168.
- The second berm mowing has been completed.
- Insite Pipe came and jetted out seven pipes, three of which have issues to be addressed. Trees need to be removed in front of the Township Maintenance Garage due to root issues. There is a willow tree at the corner of Audrey Ln. and Fisher Rd. that is causing issues with a 15-inch pipe and possibly surrounding area. At 687 Mushrush Rd. a 15-inch concrete pipe is half plugged with concrete debris, so this pipe will need to be replaced within the next year or so.
- 477 tons of salt will be ordered by the end of July to complete our 'minimum purchase' requirement on the current contract, otherwise they will charge us storage fees.
- The Ventrac mower had a hydraulic leak at the main line to the hydraulic pump and was taken back to the dealer for repairs since it is still under warranty. It should be ready for pick-up soon.

Manager Leo Rosenbauer noted that the paving project was good; our foreman was present with Wiest Paving during the 2024 paving project. He also noted that he had several non-compliant driveway issues (permits were not obtained prior to the work.)

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leo Rosenbauer reported on the June 17, 2024 Planning Commission meeting. The P.C. reapproved the Concordia Lutheran Ministries site plan for the 'sunshade' as they failed to have it recorded within 90 days. At tonight's meeting, John Cypher *moved* to reapprove the Concordia Lutheran Ministries plan. *Seconded* by Lois Rankin. All agreed and *motion carried*.

The P.C. discussed the possibility of adding regulations to alleviate 'excessive grass being blown onto roads by property owners/residents.'

The P.C. reviewed Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances. (Note: we have no regulations in Chap. 3 reserved for Bicycles.)

The P.C. members were given a copy of a sample solar ordinance...but they noted that it needs to include regulation on 'decommissioning' to prevent developers from abandoning the 'sites' after their life span (expected to be 20 years but could be much less.)

The P.C. were given a copy of an article (from Evie Gross) about 'gas well brine used for fracking' which they recycle, and it comes back from the ground with lithium in it...which might be extracted and used for batteries.

Mr. Durham has asked for approval of his modification request from back in March 2024. It was tabled for more information, and he asked at the 5/13/24 meeting that the decision be postponed. Finally, this evening he and Kevin Miller attended to report their proposal. The structural conditions of the original building were worse than the owner originally thought. The Supervisors' question was whether the foundation was sound and if the structure could be rebuilt on the existing foundation. Mr. Miller said he needs to replace at least two posts and then re-enforce the rest of the structure. John Cypher recused himself due to familial ties with the property. After some discussion, Lois Rankin *moved* to approve the modification requested by Chris Durham to repair/renovate the existing structure (same footprint) at 737 Freeport Rd. as explained by his contractor, Kevin Miller. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. *Motion carried 2 to 1* with John Cypher recusing himself. Mr. Durham was informed by the Code Enforcement Officer that he needs to acquire a building permit for the repairs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The 2024 CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding totals \$106,485.00 (with \$87,382.00 projects + \$19,103.00 admin. funds) per a recent email from Wendy Leslie, CDBG Coordinator, dated 6/21/24. *Motion* by John Cypher to designate the 2024 CDBG funds for housing rehabilitation. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*. The Chairman signed the 'general application certification' to be sent back to Wendy Leslie. The resolutions will be adopted next month and signed with the other paperwork required by the County.

NEW BUSINESS:

After some discussion between the Supervisors, the manager, and the road foreman. Braden Beblo *moved* to appoint Gerry Geibel as temporary/acting foreman while the road foreman is on vacation in September. *Seconded* by Lois Rankin. All agreed and *motion carried*.

The Township received Impact Fee (ACT 13 Funding) via the General Fund Checking on 6/27/24. It was transferred to the Impact Fee PLGIT account on 7/1/24. The total of \$129,531.23 is \$29,531.23 over the \$100,000.00 budgeted income for Impact Fees, so a 'Supplemental Budget Resolution' #529 needs to be adopted. *Motion* by John Cypher to adopt Resolution #529. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

After a brief discussion, John Cypher *moved* to enter into contract and ratify the agreement with the Code Enforcement Agency for 'secondary professional services.' *Seconded* by Lois Rankin. All agreed and *motion carried*.

PUBLIC BUSINESS OR COMMENT:

Only three 'public business slips' were submitted as follows:

- 1) Pat Knable regarding a driveway permit. She noted that she did not know that a driveway permit was needed for resurfacing/repairing her driveway. It was explained that if she were simply sealing or painting the existing driveway, no permit would be required. She did have her driveway resculpted, re-sloped, and resurfaced and therefore a permit was required. It was also noted that the 'contractor' was already aware, due to two other incidents, that he should have requested the property owner to get a driveway permit prior to the start of the work.
- 2) Marilyn Bain regarding Keck Rd. She explained the damage done by a group of boys (some township signs and road; some her own property and broken windows.) It was explained that the State Police were working on it. The Township will bill for damages to Township property, but she will have to talk to the State Police about her personal property damage.
- 3) Evie Gross, long-time Planning Commission member, regarding public comment. She understands that the Sprankle property was not on the agenda but stated that many development plans have come through the township with multiple municipalities involved...and when they were, all municipalities involved had to approve/sign off on the plans. His 'public event venue' needs to comply with the township ordinances (as well as state laws like Stormwater, ADA compliance, DEP Sewage and the PAUCC regulations) but he has never approached the Planning Commission. The Township Manager confirmed that the Township has reached out to Mr. Sprankle several times about his 'possible' development.

Township Attorney, Matt Marshall, stated that the public comment period is for Jefferson Township residents and property owners. It is for comment only and is not a 'question and answer period.' He said comments are limited to 3-minutes each and asked that 'speakers' should stand and state their name and address first. Only the following four people addressed the Board with comments:

- 1) Ford Stepp, 137 Bonniebrook Rd. - in regard to Sprankle appearing to be in compliance with Winfield Township.
- 2) Garrett Hartle, business address: 570 N. Pike Rd., but lives in Hampton Township - in regard to the township possibly passing an ordinance to regulate 'shipping containers'.
- 3) Jason Robinson, 62 Bonniebrook Rd.- in regard to the township not needing any new ordinances.

PUBLIC BUSINESS OR COMMENT, cont.:

- 4) An un-named commentor who did not stand and give his name - in regard to his confusion about if someone owns 80 acres (40 in one township where he dwells and 40 in an adjacent township, that the property owner would have to get permits from the township in which the development is to take place.

Final Comment by Chairman John Cypher:

The Township does not deal in ‘innuendos’, computer or social media, public opinion, gossip or subterfuge. The Township must deal with facts, stating again that there are Township Ordinances, as well as County, State, and Federal regulations that ‘we’ as a township are charged with enforcing. These regulations apply to anyone and everyone in the township.

MISC. BUSINESS:

Notification was received from Coherent (II-VI, Inc.) of the 6-month test on their Community Early Warning System – Fri., July 19th and Sat., July 20th 2024 at 12 Noon. A notice will be placed on the website.

A notice was received from Civil & Environmental Consultants to inform that PennEnergy Resources is applying to DEP for a minor modification to a previously authorized Erosion & Sediment Control General Permit (GP5) and Temp. Road Crossings (GP-8) for PA American Water Co. & Little Buffalo Creek to W58 Temporary Above-ground waterline project.

South Butler Community Library sent notification of their Booktoberfest on Sunday, 9/29/24. They are looking for raffle donors, sponsors, or financial donations. Set a cost if the township will contribute a basket this year. For more info., go to their website: www.southbutlerlibrary.org Lois Rankin is willing to prepare a ‘basket donation’ again this year. *Motion* by John Cypher to spend between \$75 to \$100 for the basket and contents. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

Lois Rankin said she would like to contact CCR (Center for Community Resources) to get a bin for collecting gently used (or new) coats again for this winter. When it is in place, the Township will put a notice on the website and newsletter. She would also like to promote “Hang Tough” and have the Township Office be a source for giving out stockings to be filled with items for cancer patients. The filled stockings could then be dropped off at the township. *Motion* by John Cypher to participate as suggested. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

Lois Ranking reported that the VFW 7636 on Dinnerbell Rd. (W. Main St. Saxonburg) is having a “Corn Hole Tournament” for “Wreaths Across America” on Aug. 10, 2024. She said there are over 500 needed for the Saxonburg cemetery. A notice will be placed on the website and in our newsletter.

Road Foreman Bill Foertsch addressed the public regarding the hazard of excessive grass clippings on the roadways stating that besides being a hazard to motorcyclists traveling over it, it is also a drainage issue which can cause clogged inlets and storm pipes which creates ponding of stormwater on the roadways.

ATTENDANCE:

Those present: Evie Gross, Robert Veselich, Bill & Mandi Foertsch, Jim Rankin, Bernie Shulik, L.C. Zacherl, Doug Sprankle, Paula Vaughan, Greg Bauer, Ford Stepp, Kevin Miller, Rhodes Kapp, Lea Spreng, Jeff Spreng, Dave Gillette, Albert Kasenter, Melanie Durham, Chris Durham, Pat Knable, David Mitchell, Drew Mitchell, Brian Patten, Garrett Hartle, Carol Freehling, Chrissy Keck, and Marilyn Bain. There were two names that ‘signed in cursive’ instead of printing that could not be understood) and there were several others who did NOT put their names on the attendance sheet.

ADJOURN: Lois Rankin *moved* to adjourn at 8:30 P.M. on July 8, 2024. *Seconded* by John Cypher. All agreed and *motion carried*.

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting is Monday, August 12, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at the municipal building - 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA 16002.