

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Regular Meeting – February 10, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

The Jefferson Township Board of Supervisor regular meeting was called to order on Monday February 10, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. as advertised, by Chairman, John Cypher. All rose to pledge the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were Chairman, John Cypher; Vice-Chair., Lois Rankin; Supervisor Braden Beblo; Manager, Leo Rosenbauer; Sec/Treas., Lois Fennell, and Assistant Sec/Treas Angel File.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Executive Session on Personnel was held on Feb. 3, 2025 at 9 AM with all three supervisors, the township manager, and the collective bargaining unit attorney in attendance. William Pitts from the Butler Eagle announced audio recording of the meeting.

MINUTES:

Motion by John Cypher to approve the Jan 6, 2025 Re-organizational and regular meeting minutes as written and distributed. *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

FINANCIAL:

Lois Fennell, Sec/Treas., reported that the bills paid between the Jan. 6, 2025 meeting and Feb. 10, 2025 meetings totaled \$17,546.16. Bills presented for payment from the General Fund this evening totaled \$32,644.36. No bills were presented for payment from ARPA, State, Impact Fee, or Capital Reserve Funds. The balance of all funds after payment of the bills presented was \$3,352,538.79. *Motion* by John Cypher to pay the bills presented and any other bills that come and are due prior to the March 10, 2025 meeting. *Second* by Lois Rankin. All agreed and *motion carried*.

PUBLIC BUSINESS or COMMENT: None.

ROAD REPORT:

John Cypher read the report as follows:

- On going winter maintenance was done as needed or directed. Approximately 800 tons of salt has been used so far, and 30 tons of anti-skid. A fair amount of both salt and antiskid had to be screened due to frozen lumps.
- 517 tons of salt has been ordered in January 2025. 203 more tons will need to be ordered before July 31, 2025 to meet our minimum requirement for the salt contract.
- Between snow and ice events the road crew removed the snow fence equipment from 6330 JD and installed the front broom with new bristles. The Ventrac and the Ferris mowers have been serviced. All trucks have been kept washed, greased and minor leaks and repairs have been taken care of. The plow edge on 2017 Mack was changed and several wear shoes on the plows were replaced. Oil change and service was performed on the 2019 F550. All garage floors have been kept clean and free of debris.
- On January 17th, the road crew removed the down spouts on the North side of the office building and cleaned out the main rain gutter. All were full of solid ice and was creating an ice issue at the corner of the entry door.

RECREATION BOARD REPORT:

The Recreation Board met on Wed., February 5, 2025. John Cypher gave the report due to the absence of Brian Patten.

BASEBALL ASSN.: www.knochyouthbaseball.com Josh Harbison will be SABA's co-representative to the Rec. Comm. this year *Motion* by John Cypher to appoint Josh Harbison as the SABA's co-representative to the Recreation Committee this year (along with Justin Thompson) with the caveat that

RECREATION REPORT, cont.:

they only get one vote if both are present at the Recreation meeting. *Second* by Lois Rankin. All agreed and *motion carried*. League signups are now open – through the end of Feb. (See website for details). They are hosting a free T-Ball clinic on March 1, 2025 10:30 – 11:30AM at Lake View Athletic Club- all interested are welcome. The first scheduled game of the year is a Knoch Middle School game on March 24th, weather permitting. In-house League opening day is expected to be later in April, TBD.

POOL ASSN.: www.sebcopool.com The Pool has the following needs/openings for this year: a maintenance person; lifeguards and concession workers; Board of Directors volunteers; anyone who is interested can apply at the pool's website. They will leave the admission/pass prices the same for 2025. Opening Day is scheduled for May 24th.

SOFTBALL ASSN.: www.sagsa.org Registrations are now open. The offseason maintenance for the surface of field # 5 was completed. The first Knoch High School game is scheduled for March 12th, weather permitting.

SOCCER ASSN.: www.knochsoccer.org Registrations are now open, travel teams through 2/16 and in-house teams through 3/16. Opening day is scheduled for 3/29. The offseason maintenance for the fields was completed with good results. They are in need of a Concessions Manager for this upcoming season in order to have concessions open for the year. Interested people can contact them through their website.

PARK PROJECTS:

1. Sophia Greene has completed the installation of the gaga ball pit, with construction happening in early November. We thank her for her generous donation to the park and her commitment to community service.
2. The installation of 2 new bathroom units in the park is scheduled for mid-February. One between the softball and T-ball fields (Fields 5 & 6) and one near the soccer concession stand.
 - a. It was noted that this project will be of great benefit to the park and the recreation committee members thank the township for adding these restrooms to the park.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leo Rosenbauer reported on the Jan 20, 2025 Planning Commission meeting was cancelled; however, he wanted to discuss two topics regarding proposed ordinances.

- 1) The Supervisors discussed a draft Solar Ordinance that several planning commission members prepared. They took no action but will review the draft and decide later.
- 2) Attorney Marshall has recommended revisions to Part 18 of the Subdivision and Land Developments Ordinance (Chap. 22). *Motion* by Lois Rankin to authorize advertisement as drafted by the attorney. *Second* by John Cypher. All agreed and *motion carried*.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion by John Cypher to appoint Lois Rankin to the BCATO Advisory Board as of 1/1/2025 (retro-active). *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

Revised resolutions/agreements on sharing the maintenance of Constitution Ave. are expected from the Saxonburg Borough manager, Steve May, as a result of the Oct. 15 and Nov. 18 2024 meetings. So far, nothing has been received by our manager. The manager will be following up again.

As requested by Lois Rankin the proposed police agreement from Saxonburg Borough was placed on this agenda for discussion this evening. After some discussion the supervisors voted. *Motion* by Lois Rankin to decline the proposal and keep State Police coverage as they deem it adequate for our township needs at this time. *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

Significant discussion took place on a possible resolution on "Public Business and Comment". The drafts prepared by the attorney will be reviewed by the Supervisors for possible adoption at the March 10th meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Supervisors discussed possible participation in a proposed Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan with Buffalo Township, Clinton Township, Freeport Borough, Saxonburg Borough, and Winfield Township. Lois Rankin attended a meeting however the manager was not able to attend subsequent meetings. It was noted we do not have adequate infrastructure, we do not have zoning, and it is not in our 2025 budget. *Motion* by Braden Beblo to decline participation as there is no interest at this time. *Second* by Lois Rankin. All agreed and *motion carried*.

The manager announced that the 2025 Tree Trimming Project was awarded to Stephenson Tree and Landscaping Service, LLC and as quoted for \$19,500.00 (for trimming on West Jefferson Rd, Victory Rd, Frazier Rd, Burtner Rd, and 8 trees in the park).

NEW BUSINESS:

A thank you letter was received from Butler County Humane Society for the \$500 donation for 2025.

The manager was notified that Jefferson Township received the \$125,000 DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant for the pool renovation project. The manager noted that the Supervisors will need to authorize advertising for bidding at the March 10th meeting.

Motion by Lois Rankin to proceed with application for the 2025 DCED Greenways Trails and Recreation Program grant for the trail improvements at the park again. *Second* by Braden Beblo. All agreed motion carried. This grant is for up to \$250,000 with a 15% match from the township. Application is due in April 2025.

Lance Welliver from the Butler County Parks and Recreation Dept. has verified that a federal freeze on funds will NOT apply to our current pool grants which total \$925,000 toward the \$1.1 million "plus" pool renovation project.

It was announced that the payroll checking balance was increased to \$20,000 to prevent any possible overdrafts due to going with a new 3rd party payroll processor and the potential increase in wages and benefits.

PUBLIC BUSINESS OR COMMENT: No forms were submitted this evening.

MISC. BUSINESS FROM TWP. OFFICIALS:

Lois Rankin requested that she be registered for the "State of the County" sponsored by Chamber of Commerce on March 20^h at the Atrium.

Manager Leo Rosenbauer commented on the following:

- South Butler Community Library sent a thank you for the basket prepared by Lois Rankin it was for the Fall Booktoberfest.
- He was able to secure a permanent agreement with the property owner at 271 Victory Rd. for the township trucks to turn around.
- He and Brian Noah are creating a simplified building permit for out-buildings that are not regulated under the PAUCC (such as sheds, or decks under 30 inches in height.)
- The Butler County Parks and Recreation annual park renovation grant application is due by Feb. 20th. *Motion* by Lois Rankin to adopt Resolution 542 to apply for the grant for the electrical service at the pool bath house. *Second* by John Cypher. *All agreed; motion carried*.
- Jeff Howard called with a preliminary quote for the insurance package renewal. The price is expected to be about 9 or 10 percent higher than last year. Once the booklet is received, Mr. Rosenbauer will notify the Supervisors. The invoice may be due and payable on or before the March 10th meeting.

MISC. cont.:

- He noted that Liberty Pointe is questioning the billing from HRG, Inc. for inspections. Our attorney has advised that this is NOT a township issue; HRG & Pitell (Liberty Pointe) must follow the MPC guidelines; may possibly hire a third-party engineer to review the bills in order to settle the matter and if not, it could to arbitration.

Chairman John Cypher read his State of the Township Address for 2025:

As we embark upon the journey to navigate a new year and era in our country, we all tend to reflect on the years past.

2024 Elections have brought about changes in Federal, State, and County officials. At our local township level, this may result in new or changed regulations, rules, and laws to be enacted. The Supervisors of Jefferson Township will then have to comply with the mandates which are handed down by the higher levels. Supervisors and Township Officials are sworn to oath as their duty.

Public order, safety, and enjoyment are priorities of Jefferson's Supervisors. This includes road and right-of-way maintenance, new development, business, home and building construction – all which must comply. Laws and Ordinances must be obeyed by all -- drivers, users, residents, developers, and taxpayers. It is the township who must enforce.

In many cases, local 'township' officials are the only in-person 'face to face' contact a person is likely to experience. All residents and property owners have the right to attend meetings of the Township Supervisors, address concerns, ask questions, or make comments.

We have continued to move forward to effect repairs or replace critical infrastructure, township equipment, buildings, Laura J. Doerr Park facilities, and normal maintenance without borrowing money. OUR budget is balanced.

We can reflect and look back to learn from the past, but in the future use that knowledge to chart a new path.

The Jefferson Township Supervisors continue the tradition of planning to spend within our means. With the continued diligence of all the staff and volunteers, we will work to move forward this year.

Motion by John Cypher to include this in the Feb. 10, 2025 minutes and in the February newsletter. *Second* by Lois Rankin. All agreed and *motion carried*.

ADJOURN:

Motion by John Cypher to adjourn at 8:33 P.M. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. All agreed and *motion carried*.

ATTENDANCE:

Evie Gross, Bob Veselich, Jim Rankin, Robbi Rankin, Mark Burd (from Rep. Marci Mustello's office), Doug Lefever, Dennis Kriley and William Pitts (from the Butler Eagle)

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular Supervisors' meeting is Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7 P.M. at the municipal building.

Prepared by Lois J. Fennell and Angel File.