

Wednesday, May 7, 2014
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING – MILLER SHAFT

Chairman Cooper opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., with the salute to the flag.

Roll Call: Supervisor William Cooper – present; Supervisor Rick Olshavsky – present; Supervisor Jeffrey Kostan – present; Solicitor C.J. Webb – absent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Benny Selapack questioned why Portage Township was paving road surface and doing the digging for Drive-Inn. Supervisor Cooper stated that this was in the Agreement and that Judge Kinary suggested the Township handle this because of learning where the electric wire placement exactly would be, this would benefit the Townships knowledge of such wiring.

A concerned Portage Resident described an incident to the Board regarding a tri-axle truck driving on the wrong side of the road by the railroad track to avoid hitting the pot holes. He asked the Board to please push the issue to either have the rail road track removed or fix the pot holes. Also can PennDot be made aware of this and even Norfolk Southern and complain to them and if they repair one then why not the other. The Board agreed to notify PennDot and Norfolk of the Townships concerns regarding this. This resident also was concerned of the dust that turns to mud when they do water, can something else be used instead of water.

Bill Offman questioned the Board regarding the garbage that is in his yard from the Drive-Inn. Mr. Offman wondered if the Code Enforcement Officer ever talked with the Drive-Inn owner. The Board will check with the Code Officer and Supervisor Cooper and Supervisor Kostan will go check out his yard.

Supervisor Bill Cooper then spoke regarding the meeting they had with Amfire on Monday, May 5, 2014. He stated that Amfire sent a letter out to all the trucking companies to have numbers placed on all their trucks. They discussed the ponds mainly the one with the rubber in it. But was assured by Amfire something will be done (rocks and no trespassing signs). Amfire also spoke of the number of trucks that come through. When Amfire knows that there is a train coming in on a certain day they divert all the trucks to the other cleaning plant leaving only the Madison Mine trucks coming in. Supervisor Cooper felt this would reduce truck traffic.

John Nicholson stated no – they did a safe route for school survey. They are not in compliance with the safe route for school. While conducting the survey 15 – 20 trucks came through. Mr. Nicholson stated that it was continuous.

Renee Maul voiced her concern with the speed. She had another close call the other day with a red tri-axle truck. This is when Supervisor Cooper immediately spoke as to what Amfire would like the residents regarding the speeding trucks to do. A telephone number was given to Supervisor Cooper to be given to the residents. (814/736-4400 – tipple) They were instructed to call this number of any speeding or dangerous coal truck driver they see. It is obvious that once the numbers are on the trucks it will be easier to identify.

John Nicolson asked the Board what is the proposal for them (coal trucks) to get off the road. Maybe an alternate route or break the train.

Supervisor Cooper stated that these concerns were brought up to Amfire officials. Amfire can force this issue to make the Township widen this road which means taking the residents property. Some residents feel this can only be done if no alternate road is available.

John Nicolson said before Amfire could take property have them prove they have the ability to do this. Mine Road is the alternate route.

Supervisor Olshavsky related to the residents that the Township has 33 foot right of way. If Amfire does not want to look into the alternate route or new access then we will force improvements at their cost. The 33 foot right of way still does not resolve the issue with the safety of the kids walking on that road. Supervisor Olshavsky stated that when talking with Amfire they let it be known that the Township wants the ultimate solution to this problem, an alternate route altogether. This was expressed to Amfire and also expressed that the Township would help in any way to get this done. Supervisor Olshavsky shared with the residents that they made it clear to Amfire at the meeting, they (Supervisors) are there for our people.

John Nicholson asked if Amfire could break the train stating it is the law. Once they break the train and an alternate route proposed, keeping the break in the train, this would force Amfire to move quicker as to getting the alternate route in effect. After further discussion regarding Amfire, Amfire assumes all responsibility regarding plowing, the sign etc.

Benny Selapack asked if the Township knew why Amfire does not want to break the train. There is absolutely no cost for them. Supervisor Cooper said that Amfire stated costs are the reason. Maybe contact Norfolk Southern regarding blocking the road. Sara Bloom of Norfolk Southern is contact person.

Jim Nicholson wanted to know what is most cost effective for the Township to have this resolved. An alternate route would be Amfire's cost responsibility. Slowing truck traffic, using Cooney Strip for a route, break train, scale on other side of tracks, are all suggestions to help solve this situation.

Supervisor Cooper will advise Amfire to remind truckers school will be out soon. Also Supervisor Cooper asked to keep track of trucks, how many, write dates down, also if you make calls to the tippie keep track. This will be taken to Amfire to relate to them.

After further discussion regarding the above, Supervisor Olshavsky and Supervisor Cooper both say this will take time to resolve. They will not let this go and the Township is here to get the best and ultimate answer which is in their opinion an alternative route.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 2, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting

Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to approve the April 2, 2014, Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes as presented. Supervisor Kostan seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

April 16, 2014 Special Meeting

Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to approve the April 16, 2014, Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Supervisor Kostan seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

Secretary’s Report

The secretary’s report was presented to the Board, and Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to accept the secretary’s report as presented. Supervisor Cooper seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer’s report was presented to the Board by Supervisor Olshavsky, Supervisor Cooper made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as presented. Motion seconded by Supervisor Kostan. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

FUND	Bal: 12/31/2013	Rec'd. 1 st Quarter	Exp. 1 st Quarter	Bal: 12/31/2014
1st Summit MM	271,631.35	375.33		272,006.68
GENERAL	496,410.52	427,560.87	277,195.20	646,776.19
STATE	218,165.88	301.45	0.00	218,467.33
3 S&T CD's	142,003.12			142,003.12
ALL	1,128,210.87	428,237.65	277,195.20	1,279,253.32

Road Master’s Report

The Road Master’s report was presented to the Board by Supervisor Cooper which included the following:

- Street Sweeping
- Repaired machinery as needed
- Cleaned drains and catch basins
- Helped with Earth Day road cleanup
- Patched holes as needed
- Replaced road signs that were damaged this winter

Supervisor Kostan made a motion to accept the Road Master’s report, seconded by the Supervisor Olshavsky. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

Code Enforcement Officer’s Report

The Code Enforcement Officer’s report was presented by Supervisor Cooper which included the following:

- Further investigation of dog barking and garbage at a residence on Circle Drive – contacted resident no response.
- Complaint of paint chips from the drive-in screen blowing into neighboring yard – will contact manager of the drive-in to resolve the issue
- Complaint of burning garbage blowing into neighboring yards on Wesley Avenue – will investigate

Supervisor Cooper made a motion to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's Report as presented, Supervisor Kostan seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

Old Business

Discussion was held regarding Amfire Complaints under Public Participation.

New Business

Supervisor Olshavsky stated the Water Authority asked for the Township to waive the fees for a improvement project along Cemetary Road to allow to place more pipe in the ground. This is for everyone's benefit to improve the water pressure and also to add fire hydrants to that area. Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to approve waiving the fees for this project, with Supervisor Kostan seconding this motion. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

The new 2014 Truck Equipment package was explained to the Board and the residents by Supervisor Olshavsky. The new truck package is from J & J Body as a Co-Stars state bid priced at \$51,376.00. Supervisor Olshavsky said this truck is the same as previous truck with some minor adjustments. Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to accept the Co-Stars package submitted by J & J Body Walsh at \$51,376.00, this motion was seconded by Supervisor Cooper. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

The Road Inspection was done with the Supervisors and a PennDot representative. The following roads were selected to do the paving project for 2014: Plane Road, Sportmans Road, Robel Road, Hufford Road, Woodland Blvd, Church Street, Jefferson Avenue, Conemaugh Avenue, Blair Street, Elwood Drive, Cemetary Road, Burkey Drive, and Popish Road. An estimate was given to the Board. No roads were paved last year so the money received from last year was banked. Thus using monies received last year and this year for the 2014 paving project. A motion was made by Supervisor Olshavsky to apply for County Aid and to advertise for bids for the Liquid Fuels 2014 Paving Project. This motion was seconded by Supervisor Kostan. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to purchase two replacement augers for the paver the Township owns at an estimated cost of \$3900. Supervisor Cooper seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to purchase two new weed eaters from Ray's Lawnmower Sales & Service, Inc., with a price quote on Echo brand for \$863.98. Supervisor Cooper seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

Supervisor Olshavsky then made a motion to purchase a new 12 inch back hoe bucket. He stated the Township has never owned one the always borrowed from the Water Authority which seemed

to always be in use by the Authority. Supervisor Kostan seconded this motion to purchase the bucket at a cost of \$1,057.29 through Groff Tractor & Equipment, Inc. **Motion carried 3-0.** Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Kostan – yes.

Before adjourning the meeting Benny Selapack asked if the Board ever looked at Chicotas Lane about double seal coating it. He stated you can only cinder this road not salt it. This is not a liquid fuel road as of yet. The Board wishes to still get this done sometime in the near future.

Adjourn

Supervisor Cooper made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Kostan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Those visitors who signed the sign in sheet: Glenn Calderwood, James Nicholson, John Nicholson, Karen Maul, James Wagner, Elwood Selapack, Joe Walters, John Waksmunski, Kelly Cernetich, France and Renee Maul, Al Maul, Bob Lutz, Amanda Petrunak, Justin Dennis.

Submitted respectfully by: Michelle Kostan, Township Secretary

Minutes Subject to approval by the Board.