

Clifford Township Supervisors Meeting November 12, 2019

Supervisors Present: Dennis Knowlton, Barry Searle, Chris Marcho
Solicitor: Joseph McGraw Secretary: Joan Hertzog

Business meeting held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019. Chairman Dennis Knowlton called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Motion to approved amended September 2019 minutes, Preliminary Budget minutes and October minutes by Mr. Searle seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Treasurer's report reviewed and will be put on file. List of bills reviewed. Mr. Knowlton made a motion to pay all bills except Clifford Home and Auto. Second by Mr. Searle. All in favor. Mr. Searle made a motion to pay Clifford Home and Auto. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Mr. Marcho abstained due to potential conflict of interest.

Old Business –

- A) Susquehanna County Library Donation – Mr. Marcho made a motion to donate \$250 and ask them to help with Clifford's Little Free Library. Seconded by Mr. Searle. All in favor.
- B) Wind Turbine – Atty. McGraw spoke with Mr. Shepstone to review the Comprehensive Plan to cover wind turbines. Cost \$150 per hour. Meeting to be scheduled for next month.
- C) Opiates Class Action – Upon Atty. McGraw's recommendation, Mr. Searle made a motion to not opt out of the class action. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor.
- D) Property Ordinance – Atty. McGraw will be drafting a property protection ordinance for township review.
- E) SR 106 – Road Master Booths will continue to work with PennDOT to obtain permission to put up pedestrian signage at the intersection of SR 106 and SR 2008.
- F) Property Opportunity – Mr. Searle made a motion to purchase the formally leased Innanen property for the appraised price of \$61,000. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Mr. Marcho stated Act 13 funds will be used and a Land Acquisition Grant has been submitted for that would pay for half of the cost. Mr. Wilson expressed his appreciation for the legacy the supervisors are leaving for the township by adding another 1,000 ft. of stream front, woodlands, nature trails and other recreational opportunities.

New Business –

- A) PA Ag Ombudsman Program – Mr. Searle attended a PSATS webinar to help protect farmer's rights in the Clifford area at the state level.
- B) Grants Available to Help Farmers and Small Businesses from DEP – this information will be put on the township website.
- C) Approve Proposed Budget and Advertise – Mr. Searle made a motion to approve and advertise the proposed 2020 budget. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Mr. Searle also stated the new budget includes funding for two new bridges, no new taxes but due to lack of fire and EMT volunteers there may be an increase in 2021 to pay for those services.
- D) Mobile Home Removal Grant Application – Mr. Marcho made a motion to approve Mr. Savino's application to remove two campers on his SR 2014 property. Mr. Knowlton seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Marcho proposed using Act 13 funds for new grant initiatives. Funds would be made available for new property owners of blighted or distressed properties to help with demolition and sewage up grades. This would be expanding on the townships successful Mobile Home Removal Grant that continues to increase property values. Mr. Knowlton made a motion to have Atty. McGraw prepare a contract for the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Searle. All in favor.

Road Report – Road Master Booths reported salt and cinders are ready to go. Barhite's did a good job this past Monday.

Planning Commission – Chairperson Fischbeck reported the Friends of Fern Hall's subdivision is waiting on a letter of intent and once received everything will be sent to the county for approval.

Park and Rec – Mr. Marcho reported the township will receive the final payment for the DCNR Grant for the Multi-Purpose Court. Thank you to all of the volunteers and parks ground maintenance. Christmas Village will be December 6th at 6 pm. Sandy Wilmot is looking for someone to take over. Thank you to Brandon Freely. Mr. Rupp asked if volunteers could be sent an email with information on when to get the garage ready. Mr. Knowlton commented on the fantastic Children's Garden.

Joan Hertzog Secretary/Treasurer
Adjournment 7:43 pm