

Clifford Township Supervisors Meeting February 14, 2017

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

Business meeting held on Tuesday February 14, 2017. Chairman Dennis Knowlton called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Searle, second by Mr. Marcho. All in favor. Treasurer's report reviewed and will be put on file. List of bills reviewed. Mr. Searle made a motion to pay bills, except Clifford Auto and Clifford Supply, seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Mr. Searle made a motion to pay Clifford Auto and Clifford Supply, seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Mr. Marcho abstained due to potential conflict of interest.

Old Business: Atty. McGraw has contacted the woman who owns a trailer on Rt. 106 about removing her trailer. He has gotten a quote of \$1,500 to remove it and has been trying to reach her to inform her of the potential cost and the \$750 trailer grant money available to help with costs of removal. Atty. McGraw will also be looking into who owns the other two vacant trailers on Rt. 106 for potential removal.

Compensation for Sandy Wilmont for grant work was approved for 10% of the total of the grant money received. Once the money is received she will get payment.

Township Secretary, Joan Hertzog, has agreed to become a Notary in the near future. She will be working as Notary for the township only and an agreement will be worked out at a later time.

New Business: Kirsten Smith-Doyle from Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton spoke about the services her agency provides for Susquehanna County. Housing, food, transportation and counseling are a few. If you find anyone in need, please direct them to their agency. (570)207-2283.

Bill Kern from Countryside Conservancy spoke about the services his agency provides. They are a non-profit land trust, locally operated. They have preserves near Lackawanna State Park and two in Wyoming County and are working on a preserve in Dimock. They are a resource for the township to help with future development. (570)945-6995.

Keep PA Beautiful, Township Clean-Up Day's date has been set for Saturday, May 6th, from 9:00a.m.12:00p.m.

Spring Road Work Bid advertisement is to be done and a bid package review meeting will be set up with Dept. of Transportation, Ed Sumski as soon as possible.

Basketball Multi-Purpose Court Bid will be advertised and put on the website.

Mr. Searle spoke about the Emergency Management Webinar he attended and it raised questions. He would like Phil Price to be contacted to find out if the Township Emergency Plan has been updated in the last 24 months, if training is up to date and if there is a pet control evacuation plan.

Proposed Resolution #2-2017, by Tax Collector, Jan Price, was approved. Tax fees matching the amounts already listed on the Townships Fee Schedule will stay the same and the amount of \$12.00 for a returned check will be added to the next updated Fee Schedule as well as the fee of \$25.00 for a Land Use Permit.

The township has agreed to pay for the tax collectors computer program that it shares with Mountain View School District, in the amount of \$300.00 with the understanding that the software would be passed on the next tax collector. Also, as an employee of the township, the township tax collector will be reimbursed for training that she has already taken that was mandatory for her to do her job. Mr. Searle and Mr. Knowlton asked for pre-approval of training in the future.

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Road Report: Road Master, Kurt Booths, reported that the test holes on Elkview Drive has gone very well and the initial assessment of the road construction is favorable. The underlayment is not that bad. Mr. Booths asked Brozonis to look at a run-off problem that has been brought to his attention and he mediated between the township and the owners of the property as to what the township can do to fix the problem this spring. Mr. Booths has been getting familiar with the township roads and connecting with residents.

Road Report Continued: Cinders have been ordered. Mr. Marcho said Keystone will have a report by the end of the month regarding Elkview Drive. Also, he was contacted by a resident concerning the intersection at Idelwild, wanting a yield to the right sign put in and to take down the stop sign. Mr. Booths was given the information to look into further.

Planning Commission: Chair, Sally Fischbeck, addressed the Kochmer subdivision which has been passed and needed to be signed by the supervisors. The next public Zoning Meeting is to be held on Wednesday, March 8th. After viewing a webinar about medical marijuana questions have been raised that the Planning Commission would like to discuss with Tom Shepstone in April pushing the final Zoning hearing to May at the earliest.

Parks and Recreation: Sally Fischbeck inquired if grant money from the Endless Mountain Heritage Region has come in yet. Mr. Marcho said it has not at this time. Mr. Searle asked if the Park and Recreation people have been sent a grant for trash cans. Joan Hertzog confirmed that the grant was sent. Mr. Knowlton said he has been in contact with North Branch, who also works with land trusts like Countryside Conservancy and he said they, too, could be contacted in the future for planning development issues.

Tax Collector: Jan Price reported that 94% of taxes have been collected for 2016. The total amount for the year for Real Estate is \$168,904.16 and the total for Fire Protection is \$14,666.22. December collection is \$7,042.53 Fire Protection \$587.07.

Permits Officer: Joan Hertzog issued three new permits. A Building Permit on Llyons Street, Demolition Permit on Oswald Johnson Road and a Land Use Permit Lily Pad Lane.

Historical Society: Mr. Searle said the Historical Society just sent out its newsletter.

Mr. Searle spoke about his concerns about the Governor budget. He asked for people to contact the governor office asking him to dismiss an extraction tax on the Act 13 gas money. Atty. McGraw will keep up on the proposed extraction tax. Also, Mr. Searle and Mr. Marcho spoke about the possibility of residents paying for state police.

Student, Gabe Hunter, from Scranton Prep. School attended the meeting as part of a class project.

Joan Hertzog/Secretary
Adjournment 8:10 p.m.