

CHERRY TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 5, 2024

The regular meeting of the Cherry Township Supervisors was held on March 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Municipal Building. Those present were Mr. William Smith, Mr. David Mishler, Mr. Gary Blausner, and Mrs. Carolyn Yeager.

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were no public comments.

The minutes of the February 6, 2024 meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. Mr. Smith made a motion to accept the February minutes. Mr. Mishler seconded the motion. All three supervisors voted yes. The motion carried.

The financial report as of March 5 was reviewed. Mr. Smith made a motion to accept the financial report. Mr. Mishler seconded the motion. All three supervisors voted yes. The motion carried.

Mr. Smith gave the Road Master's Report. Two days were spent doing winter maintenance, plowing and skidding. Gravel patching was done Township wide, on all dirt and gravel roads, as needed. A lot of gravel was put down on the back side of Tinker, where it mudded out. Cold patching was done on Coaltown where the clay surfaced. We extended a culvert at the corner of Redbrush and Coaltown. It was washing out, so we cut out the ditch and extended the pipe to try to fix the problem. Ditches were cut and cleaned on Chambers, Pry, and Coaltown, toward Branchton. Rip Rap was installed on a culvert crossing on Pry Road. We laid down a lot of heavy stone to stop erosion at that spot in the road. We are in the process of starting over to cold patch throughout the Township where holes have surfaced. We also plan to go around the Township to patch dirt and gravel roads again.

Mrs. Yeager asked if we are going to advertise for tar and chip this year. Mr. Smith stated that he will formulate a plan and we can advertise in April to open bids in May. We really need to chip seal and coat a couple of roads we have done to preserve them.

Mr. Mishler made a motion to accept the Road Master's Report. Mr. Blausner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Smith gave the Equipment and Maintenance Report. We removed the spreader and tailgate wings on the Mack truck so we could use it to haul gravel to patch roads. The spreaders were left on the one-ton and the Volvo in case of snow. We lubed the under bed of the Mack truck, washed the Volvo and the backhoe, and tightened a wiper on the Volvo. We had the Mack truck at Tri-County for the coolant leakage. The truck was built with the new style plastic clamps, so Tri-County replaced them with the steel type clamps and so far, we have had no further issues. Other than that, we have had no blown hoses, or major repairs. The equipment has not been used much this winter. Mr. Mishler asked if the broom is ready to go

for sweeping this spring. Do we need new brushes put on before we start? Mr. Blausner noted that it wasn't used much after the new brushes were put on last year, but we will check them to be sure. If we don't get much more snow, we may be able to start sweeping this month. Mr. Mishler made a motion to accept the Equipment and Maintenance Report. Mr. Blausner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Yeager reported that Collin Fantaskey had provided no report for the work being done at 210 Pipestem Road. Last she knew, he was to go to the property with the Soils Scientist to determine whether there was a viable spot for a new system to be installed. She has had no word on whether or not that has happened. Mr. Smith made a motion that we terminate Collin Fantaskey as our Sewage Enforcement Officer for poor service to the residents and negligence in providing paperwork to the Secretary for work that has been completed. The motion stated that the Board will appoint Mark Reidenbach as our primary SEO and Jacob Sutton as the backup SEO. Mr. Reidenbach presented a work order to the Township for \$2000.00 to help cover expenses to complete all unfinished work that Collin has started. Also included in the motion was that Mrs. Yeager request, from Mike Gallagher, a draft of a letter to Collin, letting him know of his termination, asking for him to turn over all paperwork to the Township for the past three years for the work he has done in Cherry Township. Mrs. Yeager has not received any completed paperwork for the past three years. Mr. Blausner seconded the motion. All three supervisors voted yes. The motion carried. Mrs. Yeager will contact Attorney Gallagher for his assistance in this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Reidenbach asked that the Township consider adopting an ordinance, or adding to our existing Sewage Enforcement Ordinance, a statement that sewage testing be completed as part of any property transfer in the Township. It would make things easier so that the Township cannot be held responsible for malfunctioning systems. Mr. Mishler asked that Mrs. Yeager speak with Attorney Gallagher to see if this has been done by any other Townships, and just exactly what Mark is referring to, if he has seen this before. The Board is not completely in favor of requiring a seller to test the septic system before selling the property. Mrs. Yeager will contact Attorney Gallagher.

Duane Anderson has requested that he be paid for the eight days of vacation he did not take in 2024, before he submitted his resignation. A discussion followed as to how we can adjust the personnel policy and the Employee Handbook to make arrangements for payment of vacation when an employee resigns. It was agreed that an employee will earn one day of vacation for every 5 weeks he works in any calendar year, starting in January of each year. An employee is required to give a 2 week notice of his resignation, and is not eligible to use vacation days during that two week period. If the employee has vacation days that he has earned, but not taken, he will be paid for those days in his last pay received after his resignation. Another

stipulation of extra days paid is that the employee cannot use sick days during his 2 week notice, unless he provides a doctor's excuse as to why he was out sick. In light of the fact that we had nothing specified in the Employee Handbook regarding being paid for unused vacation days upon an employee's resignation, Mr. Smith made a motion to pay Duane for the 8 days he is asking for. Mr. Mishler seconded the motion. Mr. Smith and Mr. Mishler voted yes. Mr. Blausner voted no. The motion carried. Mrs. Yeager will make adjustments to the Employee Handbook to reflect the Board's decision on unpaid vacation days upon an employee resignation.

A discussion took place regarding advertising for a new employee to fill Duane's spot. Mr. Smith stated that he and Mr. Blausner have discussed the matter, and they feel we really only need a part-time person. He has talked with Wes Bowser, who lives on Kiester Road, and Wes is interested in the position on a part-time basis. A rate of pay was discussed, and it was decided to offer \$21.00 per hour. Mr. Smith will talk with Wes again, to see what he is willing to do for us. Mr. Smith asked that Mrs. Yeager discuss with Attorney Gallagher whether we need to appoint a new employee at a public meeting, or can we just put him to work. She will check with him on that. If need be, and if Wes is not interested in the job, we will consider advertising for a part-time position.

Mr. Mishler stated that we are spending a lot of money on propane this year, and feels we need to make some adjustments to cut back on the cost. Mr. Smith indicated that they can try turning down the thermostat when they leave at the end of the day, since it is set and they never change it. Mr. Mishler also asked if we might look into a smart thermostat that can be programmed to turn the heat down at a certain time of the day, and come back up when more heat is needed. Mr. Smith stated that he can look into that.

The Board reviewed the request received from the Butler County COG for us to become a dues paying member of the COG. Mr. Smith noted that we have not used the COG since we purchased the GMC dump truck around 20 years ago. It was decided that we really have no interest in joining the COG at this time.

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and to sign checks to pay all bills. Mr. Mishler seconded the motion. All three supervisors voted yes. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.