

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE
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REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER, MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Chairman Cole called the September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 PM, in the Municipal Building followed by a moment of silence and the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Supervisors in attendance were Kevin Cole, Charlie Bauer, and Bernie Blystone. Also present was Secretary/Treasurer/Zoning Officer, Debra E. Merritt; Roadmaster, Dan Klaphor; and, Resident, Janet Morton.

IDENTIFICATION OF RECORDING DEVICES: There were no recording devices identified.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (AGENDA ITEMS AND OTHER MATTERS): There were no comments from the public at this time.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: There were no comments from the Supervisors

PUBLIC REQUESTS BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT: Mrs. Morton of Kreitz Road was in attendance to address the Board concerning the ongoing condition of Kreitz Road. Mrs. Morton stated that the road is dusty, potholed, wash-boarded, slimy, and salt covered, with stones flying off the road throughout the year. She noted that it is difficult to walk or ride a bike and that the road causes unnecessary car repairs annually. She indicated that due to the salt, she experiences rust issues with her car, and when she goes to have them corrected, the mechanic will not guarantee the work due to her living on a dirt road. She noted that while the road was just graveled, it does not fix the problems, but rather indicates to her that the issues will just continue. Mrs. Morton questioned when Kreitz Road will be hard surfaced, since there are even more rural roads have been hard surfaced for years.

Mr. Cole thanked Mrs. Morton attending the meeting and voicing her concerns. He explained to Mrs. Morton that none of the current Board members were involved in hard surfacing any of the rural roads that are hard surfaced today. He stated that the current Board has only been responsible for the maintenance of the hard-surfaced roads. He stated that unfortunately since many of the roads were hard surfaced before base issues were properly addressed, the Board has been spending the last number of years reclaiming the roads.

Mrs. Morton stated that she is unfamiliar with reclaiming roads. Mr. Cole stated that in the process of reclaiming, the roadway is ground up, cement is mixed in and the material put back down, with the intent of stabilizing the road. He indicated that the process is very expensive, and the Board has been forced to deal with a number of the hard surface roads in this fashion. He did report that all the roads that required reclamation are complete and that the Board has begun graveling roads that had been neglected for several years. He stated that he did not think Kreitz Road would be a candidate for reclamation because it is a dirt road.

Mr. Bauer stated that hoped that the new gravel would alleviate some of the problems that Mrs. Morton was reporting, specifically the potholes and slime. He echoed Mr. Cole's comments on the issues the Board has addressed regarding the need for reclaiming the hard-surfaced roads. He also noted that within the last few years, the Board has also had to address the condition Old Route 86, which was also an expensive project due to its length. He noted that it appeared that the Township has finally address its hard-surfaced road problems and have been able to get back to a seal coating cycle, as well as a graveling cycle.

Mr. Cole added that some estimates had been prepared in anticipation of tonight's meeting. He noted that an approximate cost to hard surface Kreitz Road with a triple seal coat could be upwards of \$70,000.00, which is roughly the Board's entire annual seal coating budget and a low estimate of hard surfacing the road with asphalt being \$150,000.00, which is almost the Township's entire road operating budget.

Mrs. Morton stated that while she understands the Board was not responsible for the previous Board's actions, she felt that this Board needed to undertake hard surfacing Kreitz Road, especially since it was basically the last gravel road in the northern part of the Township. She further noted that in the past she had been given the reason that the road had not yet been hard surfaced was because of the need to replace the Kreitz Road bridge. She noted that the bridge has been replaced for a few years and feels the Board should undertake the hard surfacing of the road.

Mr. Blystone stated that he understands Mrs. Morton's concerns as he too lives on a dirt road. He stated that the cost of addressing these hard surface issues that Mr. Cole explained have tied up the Township's road maintenance budget for many years. He noted that reclamation work was so expensive that the Township had opted to remove the seal coat from a portion of Center Street Extension in order to get it back to dirt so that it could be properly maintained.

Mr. Cole further noted that the Township follows the Township Planning Commission's recommendations on what roads are hard surfaced. He did note that if the Township ever gets into the financial position where we can begin constructing more hard surfaced roads, then Kreitz Road would be an optimal candidate, as it does connect to other hard surfaced roads. He also stated that before any gravel road would be hard surfaced, proper base repair would need to be undertaken so that the Township would not put itself in a place where the road would need reclaimed down the line. Mr. Cole also noted that there may be some grants available to assist the Township in hard surfacing the road, and that the Board would look into them.

Mrs. Morton stated that it did not sound like there was any intent to hard surface Kreitz Road, not now or in the future. She stated that graveling the road is simply putting a band aid on its condition, and that she feels that it should be hard surfaced just like all the other rural roads on the north side of the Township. Mrs. Morton thanked the Board for their time.

It was also noted that Mr. Birchard of Ridge Road also contacted the Township regarding his road. He reported that while he appreciated the graveling done last year, the road is consistently dusty, which makes his property and home dirty, as well as makes the road unusable for walking. He further noted that the Northwestern REC, who have no customers on Ridge Road, continues to travel the posted roadway causing unneeded damage and dust. Mr. Klapthor stated that he has repeatedly requested the REC to not travel Ridge and Birchard Roads. The Board requested that Ms. Merritt draft a letter, for the Board's review to the REC reminding them of the posted weight limits and further, formally request them to not travel the roadways if they do not have any customers along Ridge or Birchard Roads.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

CAJA – Minutes from the August 4, 2020 Meeting were received from CAJA.

ZONING/PLANNING –

- **Planning Commission:** There were no minutes received from the Planning Commission.
- **Zoning Hearing Board:** There were no minutes received from the Zoning Hearing Board.
- **Zoning Officer:** A written report was submitted by the Zoning Officer.

FRENCH CREEK COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – The next meeting of the French Creek Council of Governments scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 11:30 AM.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – The next meeting of the Crawford County Tax Collection Committee scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020, at 6:00 PM in the West Mead Township Building.

SEWAGE –There was no report received from Peter Homchenko, Sewage Enforcement Officer.

PROJECTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Pleasant Hills Stormwater Facilities. As discussed at previous meetings, a meeting needs scheduled to visit Pleasant Hills to identify possible catch basins and pipes which may require Township acceptance. Mr. Cole requested that the Roadmaster map out the current catch basins and pipes in Pleasant Hills in preparation for the Board’s visit when scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Solar Farm Ordinance. Ms. Merritt noted that due to the interest in Solar Farms by residents, as well as contractors, a sample Solar Farm Ordinance has been provided for the Board’s consideration. To adopt such an Ordinance, the Planning Commission will need to review and comment on the proposed Ordinance, as well as a public hearing held, prior to the Board’s official consideration and adoption. Ms. Merritt stated that it should be noted that this project will take some time, however if the Board begins to work on the Ordinance, they could adopt it in early Spring 2021.

ROADMASTER’S REPORT: A written report was submitted by the Roadmaster.

SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT:

Motion by Mr. Bauer to accept the Treasurer’s Report and make Payment of the Bills as presented. Second by Mr. Blystone.

Cole: Yes Bauer: Yes Blystone: Yes

Motion by Mr. Blystone to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2020 Regular Meeting, as presented. Second by Mr. Bauer.

Cole: Yes Bauer: Yes Blystone: Yes

2021 Budget Preparation. Ms. Merritt stated that she will begin the preparing the 2021 Budget, and requested that the Supervisors and the Roadmaster, to provide her with any budget items they would like included for the upcoming year. Mr. Klaphor noted that something the Board should begin considering was the condition of the garage, as many of the posts have begun rotting out. He stated that he knows it will be an expensive endeavor and felt the Board should begin planning for a new garage/building or a reconstruction of the existing garage.

Mr. Bauer questioned whether there were any grant monies available for a new municipal building. Ms. Merritt stated that while she did not believe that there would be any grants available, she was aware of low interest loans for capital construction. She stated that she believed they were offered by the USDA and would obtain more information for the Board’s consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no additional comments from the public.

FURTHER BUSINESS: There was no further business for the Board to address.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to be decided, Mr. Bauer moved to adjourn. Second by Mr. Cole. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Debra E. Merritt", is written over a horizontal line.

Debra E. Merritt, Secretary