

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE
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REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, AT 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER, MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Chairman Cole called the September 12, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 PM, in the Municipal Building, 22530 Electric Drive, Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, 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 Klapthor; and Residents, Patrick Hermann, Dale Gevin, Mary Ann Birchard, Dave Birchard and Ruth Dunton.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no public comments offered at this time.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: There were no comments from the Supervisors.

PUBLIC REQUESTS BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT: There were no requests made by prior arrangement.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

CAJA – Minutes from the August 3, 2022 were received from CAJA. Mr. Bauer reported that the transfer of the contract for the operation of the sewage treatment plant from Veolia to M. Davidson and Associates has gone well. He noted that they are conducting normal maintenance and have already been addressed some issues in house, rather than having to contract them out.

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 is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 11:30 AM.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – The next meeting of the Crawford County Tax Collection Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the West Mead Township Building.

SEWAGE – There was no report received from Michael Rinkevich, Sewage Enforcement Officer.

PROJECTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion – Repairs/Maintenance Needs at the Municipal Building. Ms. Merritt noted that an email was received from Engineer Porter advising of his availability on either Thursday, September 15th or Thursday, September 22nd, to meet with Mr. Klapthor to look at the structural issues of the Municipal Building. Mr. Klapthor advised that either date would work for him. Accordingly, Ms. Merritt will advise Engineer Porter of Mr. Klapthor's availability on either day.

Discussion – Nuisance Ordinance. As discussed at the July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting, Ms. Merritt is continuing her work with Solicitor Shaddinger in order to provide more specific regulations, concerning garbage and waste, contained in the proposed nuisance ordinance. Once completed, the Board will be provided with a revised draft of the ordinance for their review and consideration.

Discussion – Cable Franchise Agreement. Ms. Merritt advised that the Township is still waiting to hear from Armstrong’s counsel on the Township’s proposed agreement. Once received, a public hearing will need to be held prior to the enactment of a renewed Agreement.

Ordinance No. 03 of 2022 – Consideration and Enactment. Ms. Merritt reported that Solicitor Shaddinger reviewed and subsequently approved the proposed Ordinance. Accordingly, Ordinance 03 of 2022, the Township’s revised holding tank ordinance, was advertised for consideration at this evening’s meeting.

Motion by Mr. Blystone to adopt Ordinance No. 03 of 2022 an Ordinance Authorizing the Use of Holding Tanks for Sewage Disposal and to Regulate Their Use and to Provide for Remedies and Penalties for Violations. Second by Mr. Bauer.

Cole: Yes

Bauer: Yes

Blystone: Yes

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion – Request of the Cambridge Springs Heritage Society and Historical Museum. As discussed at the August 8, 2022 Regular Meeting, the Township received a letter from the Cambridge Springs Heritage Society and Historical Museum requesting an annual donation to help defray their operating costs. Following the meeting, and at the Board’s request, Ms. Hendrickson has provided the Township with a copy of the Society’s 2022 Budget, together with a Wish List and a copy of the Society’s recent grant application to the PA Historical and Museum Commission. Mr. Cole thanked Mr. Hermann for providing the requested information for the Board’s consideration. Mr. Hermann added that he would appreciate the Township’s support, as the Society, which is manned by volunteers, does a lot for the community. He noted that their current revenue stream relies solely on donations from the public following tours, membership fees, and selling merchandise.

Motion by Mr. Bauer to make a donation to the Cambridge Springs Heritage Society and Historical Museum in the amount of \$500.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act Fund. Second by Mr. Blystone.

Cole: Yes

Bauer: Yes

Blystone: Yes

Informational – Karl Gerdon Park Grant Award. It was noted that an email was received from Jessica Graf of Venango Borough, advising that the PA DCNR grant that was submitted for the Karl Gerdon Park improvements, was fully funded in the amount of \$381,500. Mr. Birchard questioned how much money the Borough was able to obtain for the project. Ms. Merritt stated that pursuant to the information the Township had received, they were able to secure grants and a cash total in the amount of \$723,412, as well as in-kind labor, equipment and material commitments in the amount of \$91,644, which provided a total funding amount of \$815,056 for the park improvements.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion - Request of Venango Township for Partnership in a Recycling Program Development and Implementation Grant. Ms. Merritt reported that an email was received from Venango Township inquiring whether the Township would be interested in partnering with Venango to develop a recycling program, utilizing the DEP’s Recycling Program Development and Implementation Grant. The Board stated that while they are not opposed to a recycling program, they were concerned with who would oversee and regulate such a program. The determined that additional information was needed before pursuing such a grant.

Authorization for Zoning Officer's Membership in the Pennsylvania Association of Zoning Officials.

Motion by Mr. Cole to authorize the Zoning Officer's membership in the Pennsylvania Association of Zoning Officials, in the amount of \$125.00 for the period of October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. Second by Mr. Bauer.

Cole: Yes

Bauer: Yes

Blystone: Yes

ROADMASTER'S REPORT: A written report has been submitted by the Roadmaster. Mr. Bauer questioned what Mr. Klapthor had found out about the rust on the pickup truck. Mr. Klapthor stated that the estimate to fix the rust as well as paint the truck would be \$4,500.00. He further reported that he could get it on the schedule to be completed in approximately 3 weeks. Mr. Bauer questioned how many miles were currently on the truck. Mr. Klapthor replied approximately 80,000. The Board determined that having the work conducted would be a good investment and authorized Mr. Klapthor to have the maintenance repair work completed. Mr. Bauer also questioned the berm on Thornapple Drive that was recently pulled. He stated that since the work was done, people appear to be driving on the shoulder, thereby creating a trench that allows water to flow onto the road, where it lays. Mr. Klapthor stated that he would look into it.

Mr. Hermann questioned whether Mr. Klapthor was content with the conditions of Ridge Road. Mr. Klapthor stated that he was, however, acknowledged that there were some potholes in the roadway. Mr. Hermann stated that it does not help that the Northwestern REC trucks continue to utilize the road as a shortcut to Route 408, although it is posted. Mr. Klapthor stated that the Township has regularly reminds the REC that they should not be traveling the road. Mr. Birchard added that the dust from Ridge is horrible and blankets his home. He too confirmed that the REC continues to travel the road, even though they do not have customers along the Ridge/Birchard Road route. He questioned what could be done to permanently stop the REC from unnecessarily utilizing the road. Mr. Bauer noted that enforcement is difficult since it is the State Police who are tasked with administering the weight limit postings. It was questioned whether a trail camera could be installed along the right-of-way to obtain evidence that they are traveling over the posted road. Ms. Merritt stated that legally she was unsure whether the Township would be permitted to do so, however would check with Solicitor Shaddinger.

Mr. Hermann then questioned what the Board's plans for Ridge Road were for next year and asked if hard surfacing the road would be included in the 2023 budget, noting that the Township had ARPA funds available. Mr. Birchard added that in prior years, MC-70 oil had been applied which controlled the dust for the entire year. Mr. Cole stated that the cost of MC-70 had increased substantially since that time and that it was not financially possible for the Board to use the product for dust suppression. Mr. Blystone added that it appears that there is more vehicular traffic on roadways, and that if MC-70 were applied, it would be riddled with potholes in no time.

Mr. Hermann questioned whether the Board had priced the cost of seal coating the road. Ms. Merritt stated that options for hard surfacing Ridge Road had been prepared in the Spring and reported the following costs. The estimated price for a single-seal coat was approximately \$16,000.00; the estimated price for a surface treatment which would include MC-70, and #67 aggregate, as the first layer and seal coat, with #8 aggregate, as the second layer would cost approximately \$58,000.00; asphalt consisting of 2 ½" (19mm) Binder, with a seal coat the following year, would cost approximately \$106,000.00; and, asphalt consisting of 2 ½" (19mm) Binder and 1" Wearing would cost approximately \$133,000.00.

Mr. Cole added that while it seemed that single seal coating the road would be a viable and cost-effective option, seal coat can not be applied to dirt road. The minimum that could be done to hard surface the road would be the surface treatment option.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion by Mr. Cole 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. Bauer to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2022, Regular Meeting, as presented.
Second by Mr. Blystone.

Cole: Yes Bauer: Yes Blystone: Yes

2023 Budget Preparation. Ms. Merritt reported that she has begun working on the 2023 budget and requested that the Supervisors and the Roadmaster, provide her with any budget items they would like included for the upcoming year.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Mr. Birchard questioned whether the Board is considering partnering with the County to bring expanded broadband service to our area using ARPA funding, noting that properties along Ridge did not have access to it. Ms. Merritt stated that while she was aware of the County's initiative, she had not heard many details about it. She stated that she would reach out to the County to see what such a partnership, specifically in terms of financial costs, would entail.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Cole moved to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Bauer. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.



Debra E. Merritt, Secretary