

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE
22530 Electric Drive, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403
Telephone: (814) 398-8327 – Fax Number: (814) 398-4900
Email: cambridgetwp@verizon.net

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 2022, AT 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER, MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Chairman Cole called the November 14, 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 Klaphor; Residents, Pat Hermann, and Dave Birchard; and Visitor, Eric Henry of Meadville Ambulance Service.

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

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

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: There were no comments from the Supervisors.

PUBLIC REQUESTS BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT: Eric Henry, Meadville Ambulance Service. Mr. Henry stated that he was in attendance to address the Board on the difficulties facing EMS, and to request financial support in order to continue providing coverage to the Township. Mr. Henry stated that Countywide, their ambulance service responds to 6,600 calls a year, and of those calls, 50% are billed to Medicare, 15% to Medicaid, 17% are non-billable, 9.8% to commercial insurance, and 7.1% to private insurance. He stated that unfortunately Medicare only 40% of their costs and Medicaid only covers 65% of their costs, leaving him to cover the remainder. Mr. Henry further stated that when a call comes in, his business has to respond, and has to transport a patient if they wish to be taken for care. He further noted that he is required to be available to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which requires him to incur readiness costs. Accordingly, Mr. Henry is requesting municipalities that he covers to provide a .5 mill of tax to help offset his service's loss.

Mr. Cole questioned what amount of money would be generated if every municipality agreed to provide this .5 mill of tax. Mr. Henry stated that it would generate his business approximately \$200,000 per year. Mr. Bauer questioned how many calls Meadville Ambulance responded to in the Township. Mr. Henry stated that they responded to 97 calls to Cambridge Township. Mr. Bauer further questioned how many of those calls refused treatment or were non-transport. Mr. Henry stated that he didn't know the exact number for the Township, however on average, it is approximately 30% of calls. Mr. Henry stated that currently the Township has 594 households, which would breakdown to about \$17.00 per household, should the Board to commit an amount equal to .5 mills of tax. Mr. Bauer noted that the 97 calls to the Township only equated to about 1% of the total calls Countywide. Moving forward, Mr. Henry stated that he would provide the Township with an Agreement for EMS coverage for their review and consideration and thanked the Board for their time and discussion.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

CAJA – Minutes from the October 4, 2022 were received from CAJA. Mr. Bauer further reported that CAJA has finalized their contract with Davidson and Associates for operation of the sewage treatment plant and is still working on finalizing a contract with Riverside Brewery in order to rectify the sewage discharge issues at the Brewery.

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, January 18, 2023, at 11:30 AM.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – The next meeting of the Crawford County Tax Collection Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2023, 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 stated that she contacted Engineer Porter to inquire as to when the Township would receive his report on the condition of the Municipal Building following his inspection on September 22nd, however as not received a response to date.

Discussion – Nuisance Ordinance. As discussed at the October 10, 2022 Regular Meeting, a revised Nuisance Ordinance has been prepared, specifically targeting garbage and waste and is being provided for the Board’s review and consideration. Ms. Merritt stated she required the Board’s input on what specifically they wished to address, noting the difference between garbage and rubbish. It was agreed that the proposed ordinance should address rubbish in addition to garbage. Accordingly, Ms. Merritt will make the required corrections, and forward the proposed ordinance to Solicitor Shaddinger for his review and consideration.

Discussion – Cable Franchise Agreement. Ms. Merritt stated that Solicitor Shaddinger is currently reviewing Armstrong Cable’s response and revisions to the Township’s proposed Cable Franchise Agreement.

Use of Trail Cameras Along Road Right-of-Ways. As requested, a trail camera has been purchased and will be installed to assist in the identification of vehicles exceeding posted weight limits.

County’s Broadband Expansion Initiative. Following the October 10, 2022 Regular Meeting, Ms. Merritt has reached out to County Planning Director, Zachary Norwood to obtain further information on the County’s broadband expansion initiative, specifically how the Township’s partnership would elevate the Township’s ranking in where broadband expansions would occur in the County. Mr. Norwood has advised that there will definitely be broadband expansion in the Township, as a number of Cambridge Township and Venango Township residents have responded to the County’s survey on broadband needs. She stated the County has advised that at the end of the year, they will be putting requests for quotes out to providers, that will include site specific information for broadband expansion, however at this time, they are still working on the maps and site areas.

She further reported on how a partnership with the County would elevate the Township’s ranking. She stated that she was told that if Cambridge Township partnered with the County, and Venango Township did not, then expansion at a site that was located in Cambridge and Venango Townships would be prioritized to Cambridge Township.

Mr. Henry added that the County is planning a pilot project with Starlink, wherein a resident could receive the necessary equipment, and one-year free service, provided they agree to pay for an additional year of service. Mr. Henry stated that once the details of the plan had been worked out, information would be forwarded to the Township for dissemination to their residents.

Proposed 2023 Budget.

Motion by Mr. Cole to advertise for public inspection the proposed 2023 Budget as presented, to include a potential \$5,000 contribution to the County for broadband expansion, and which contains no tax increase for adoption at the December 12, 2022 Regular Meeting. Second by Mr. Bauer.

Further Discussion: Mr. Hermann questioned whether money had been allocated in the budget to hard surface Ridge Road. Mr. Cole stated that at this time, money is allocated for the roads generally. Once the Board conducts their annual road inspection in the spring, then discussion on specific road projects takes place. Mr. Hermann questioned whether the road inspection is open to the public. Mr. Cole stated that it was.

Cole: Yes Bauer: Yes Blystone: Yes

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 Insurance Renewal. Ms. Merritt stated that the Township’s group healthcare renewal rates were received from UPMC and have been provided to the Board for their review and noted that the Board must make a determination on the proposed renewal by November 30, 2022. She further reported that she has obtained rates from UPMC for dental coverage, as it appears their plans are more cost effective, and provide better provider coverage than the Township’s current insurer United Concordia. Ms. Merritt advised that she is currently waiting on plan details from UPMC to compare coverages between the two insurers. She stated that she would relay the information to the Board once it was obtained so that a decision could be made prior to November 30th and could be affirmed at the December Regular Meeting.

ROADMASTER’S REPORT: A written report has been submitted by the Roadmaster. Mr. Hermann questioned whether Mr. Klapthor thought the condition of Ridge Road was adequate, noting the number of potholes that are riddled throughout the road. Mr. Klapthor stated that he felt Ridge Road was in rather good condition, however, would look at it and address any large potholes before winter hit.

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 October 10, 2022 Regular Meeting, as presented. Second by Mr. Bauer.

Cole: Yes Bauer: Yes Blystone: Yes

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

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 8:27 PM.


Debra E. Merritt, Secretary