

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE
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REGULAR MEETING

MAY 15, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER, MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Chairman Cole called the May 15, 2023, 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; Road Crew Employee, Keith Snow; and Residents, Dave and Mary Ann Birchard.

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

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

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Mr. Bauer thanked the Board for accommodating his request to reschedule the May Meeting for this evening.

PUBLIC REQUESTS BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT: Dave Birchard of Ridge Road stated that he had a number of matters to bring before the Board. First, Mr. Birchard questioned why the Board had changed multiple meeting dates so far this year. Mr. Cole stated that the changes were due to conflicts in the Board members' schedules. He further noted that the 2023 meeting schedule was set at the Organizational Meeting in January, and this evening's meeting was the only one that had been rescheduled. Mr. Birchard questioned how the public would know about the changes to the dates. Mr. Cole stated that they are properly advertised, as well as posted accordingly at the Municipal Building and on the Township's website. Mr. Birchard also questioned whether Ms. Merritt had scheduled office hours. Ms. Merritt stated that since COVID, she has been holding office hours by appointment. Mr. Cole added that security concerns with Ms. Merritt being at the building, often times alone, has contributed to the decision.

Mr. Birchard also questioned why the Township no longer holds an annual clean-up day and suggested that one be held every couple of years. Mr. Cole stated that the last time the Township held a clean up day was at the request of some 20 residents, approximately half of which actually used it when it was scheduled. Accordingly, with the lack of participation versus the actual cost of the service, it did not make financial sense for the Township to sponsor one. Mr. Birchard also questioned whether any additional information had been received from the County with regard to the Starlink pilot program that Eric Henry had spoken of last fall. Ms. Merritt stated that the Township had never received any information on such a program, nor had the Township received any additional information about the broadband expansion project being undertaken by the County.

With regard to dust control, Mr. Birchard questioned whether the Township would be putting anything down this year. Mr. Cole stated that the Township has been looking into other options that are permissible for use and noted that Mr. Klapthor would be reporting on it later in the meeting.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

CAJA – Minutes from the March 7, 2023 meeting were received from CAJA. Mr. Bauer had nothing additional to report 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 regular meeting of the French Creek Council of Governments is scheduled for Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 11:30 AM.

TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE – The next meeting of the Crawford County Tax Collection Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the West Mead Township Building, if there is business to address.

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

PROJECTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion – Cable Franchise Agreement. It was noted that the Township was waiting for Armstrong’s response to the proposed revisions to the Cable Franchise Agreement.

Discussion – Repairs/Maintenance Needs at the Municipal Building. It was reported that Engineer Porter presented his findings on the repair and maintenance needs of the Municipal Building at the April 10, 2023 Regular Meeting, and that a copy of the Mr. Porter’s report had been provided to the Board for their convenient reference. Mr. Cole noted that it is apparent that something needed to be done in order to preserve the life of the building. He suggested that the Board hold a special meeting in the upcoming months to specifically discuss and determine a plan of action, with Mr. Bauer and Mr. Blystone agreeing.

Discussion – Nuisance Ordinance. The Board reviewed the final draft of the proposed Nuisance Ordinance, which contained the requested revision to address tires. Accordingly, the Nuisance Ordinance would be placed on the Agenda for the Board’s authorization to publish their intent to adopt said Ordinance at the June Meeting.

Bid Results for Joint Seal Coating. Ms. Merritt reported that the 2023 joint seal coating bid opening was held on April 20, 2023 at Sadsbury Township, with bids being received from Suit-Kote Corporation at a unit price of \$1.78 SY and Russell Standard at a unit price of \$1.99 SY. Accordingly, the bid was awarded to Suit-Kote for a total bid amount of \$724,153.84, with the Township’s total bid of \$93,321.84. Additionally, Ms. Merritt has provided the Board with an updated Road Funding spreadsheet, reflecting YTD Expenses and contracted expenses.

Crawford County Conservation District – Dirt and Gravel Road and Low Volume Road Applications. It was noted that Mr. Klapthor and Ms. Merritt were working on the Grant Application for the Henry Road sluice pipe replacement, in cooperation with Rockdale Township.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request of Venango Borough. Ms. Merritt noted that a letter was received from Venango Borough requesting the Township’s financial contribution for the replacement of the Venango Volunteer Fire Department’s unrepairable siren. Said request has also been made to Venango Township and Woodcock Borough, with Venango Borough requesting a contribution amount between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

Motion by Mr. Bauer to make a financial contribution to Venango Borough in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the sole purpose of replacing the Venango Volunteer Fire Department’s current siren. Second by Mr. Blystone.

Cole: Yes

Bauer: Yes

Blystone: Yes

ROADMASTER'S REPORT: A written report has been submitted by the Roadmaster. Mr. Klapthor further reported on furniture being dumped on both Henry and Humes Hill Road and questioned the Board's position in removing it. Discussion was held on the need to make sure that it is located within the Township's right-of-way, so as not to be removing it from private property. Mr. Klapthor stated that he would take pictures of the items and ensure that they are not located on private property prior to removing them.

Mr. Klapthor also reported that he was approached by the Jamie at the REC who questioned whether the Township would be open to the REC gridding down their pile of used concrete, in exchange for a percentage of the pile. The Board was agreeable to the proposal and suggested that Mr. Klapthor request that the Township retain approximately 25% of the pile.

Mr. Klapthor and Mr. Blystone explained a situation that has arisen at the end of Griffith Road, created by a complaint made to PennDOT by Dale Widdison. Mr. Blystone stated that the sluice pipe that goes under Route 86 on the northern corner of Griffith Road, sits approximately 5-6' deep, which consequently requires the ditch to be deep. Mr. Widdison has reported to PennDOT that people have been driving into the ditch due to its deepness and is concerned that it has created a safety issue. PennDOT has stated that it is the Township's responsibility since the sluice collects the water coming from the Township's ditch. Accordingly, PennDOT has stated that if the Township purchases the materials to install a grate and close the ditch, then they would undertake the work. Mr. Klapthor stated that he had priced the materials necessary and anticipated it costing approximately \$1,200-\$1,500. The Board was in agreement to purchase the materials and have PennDOT do the work on the Township's behalf.

With regard to dust control, Mr. Klapthor stated that he has obtained prices on alternative products for dust suppression. He reported that a MC-70 application was quoted at \$5.00 per/SY (approximately \$47,000 per/mile), Dust Clear G at \$2.48 per/gallon (approximately \$4,500 per/mile), and Ultrabond 2000 at \$1.48 per/SY (approximately \$13,900 per/mile). He further reported that Seneca Mineral has quoted their salt brine product at \$.31 per/gallon. Ms. Merritt stated that it has been represented that the DEP's position on Seneca Mineral's product is that they do not regulate products, therefore, the DEP's residual waste regulations are not applicable. However, with Seneca Mineral's product being a salt brine, the DEP could determine that a violation has occurred should they receive a complaint that the Township was spreading such a product.

Mr. Birchard questioned whether a resident could personally pay for road improvements. Ms. Merritt stated that there was a provision in the Second-Class Township Code which addressed this subject and would provide Mr. Birchard with a copy of the applicable section. Mr. Cole stated that the Township would continue to look into solutions for the dust issue and discuss them again at the June meeting.

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 April 10, 2023 Regular Meeting, as presented.
Second by Mr. Blystone.

Cole: Yes

Bauer: Yes

Blystone: Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no additional 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 8:00 PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Debra E. Merritt", written in black ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Debra E. Merritt, Secretary