

CHERRY TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

The regular meeting of the Cherry Township Supervisors was held on November 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Municipal Building. Those present were Mr. Frank Fritz, Mr. David Mishler, Mr. William Smith, Mr. Gary Blauser, and Mrs. Carolyn Yeager. One resident was in attendance.

Mr. Fritz called the meeting to order. There were no public comments.

The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. Mr. Fritz made a motion to accept the October minutes. Mr. Mishler seconded the motion. All three supervisors voted yes. The motion carried.

The Financial Report as of November 6 was reviewed. Mr. Fritz made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All three supervisors voted yes. The motion carried.

Mr. Smith gave the Road Master's Report. Various roads in the Township were re-graded where there were spots that had wash-boarded or washed out. Those roads were Wolford, Redbrush, Chambers, and Grubb. Turnarounds were created on Pry and Kyle roads, so that the snow plow trucks can turn around. Gravel patching was done on Findlay, Beaverdam, Coaltown, Grubb, Moniteau, Wolford, and Redbrush. Overlay CP was put down on South Grubb, the intersection at Grubb and Branchton, and at Hambley Hill on Windy Road. Ditches were cleaned on Pry Road. Trees were removed and grape vines cut back on Coaltown, Roenigk, Pipestem, Redbrush, and Windy.

For the upcoming month, we will be cold patching, particularly on Saniga and Grubb, all roads will be checked for holes and patching needs, we will be cleaning out the beaver screens on Wolford, and doing general maintenance on the roads. Mr. Fritz made a motion to accept the Road Master's Report. Mr. Mishler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Smith gave the Equipment and Maintenance Report. The water tank and plumbing was pulled off the GMC. The truck was cleaned up and prepared for sale. Mr. Smith requested that Mrs. Yeager advertise in the Butler Eagle for bids on the truck. Mrs. Yeager will place that ad. The new plow hitch was installed on the Mack truck. Other work to get it ready for winter included putting a new cutting edge on the plow, auxiliary lighting completed, tailgate wings were installed, installed and painted side boards on the bed, and put all the tools in the truck.

We still need to put the spreader on it. There was a hydraulic leak and we took it back to Tri-County Truck Center. There were some clamps loose, and Tri-County fixed it.

We did some work on the One-Ton truck to get it ready for winter. Plow lights were fixed, headlight buckets were replaced because the wiring was not working. The module on the switch to turn the headlights from the truck to the plow had to be replaced. The bed was cleaned out and the spreader was set in. The one-ton is ready to go.

The heated mirrors on the Volvo are not working. We are still working on that repair. We swapped the good tires that were on the GMC to the Volvo. They were the same size and we were going to need new rear tires on the Volvo, so we swapped them out. The ones that we moved from the Volvo to the GMC are still good enough to pass inspection. The rims on the Volvo were painted. The side spreader mounts were corroded, so we pulled them off, cleaned them up, and painted them.

The instrument panel on the backhoe came off. We tightened it and put it back on. The GMC, the grader, and the roller were pressure washed.

For the upcoming month, we need to pull the rest of the spreaders out of the shed and install them. Then we will store the summer road equipment. Mr. Fritz made a motion to accept the Equipment and Maintenance Report. Mr. Mishler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The residents at 210 Pipestem Road have refused to pick up registered letters from Collin Fantaskey and the Township, regarding the malfunctioning septic system on their property. Mrs. Yeager contacted Attorney Gallagher, and he recommends sending the Sheriff out with a notice of intent for the Township to file court actions against them. After a brief discussion, the Board voted to have Attorney Gallagher send the appropriate paperwork to the Jenkins' via the Butler County Sheriff Department.

Mrs. Yeager has the SHARES grant paperwork for a new one-ton truck ready for submission and asked that the Board review it and make any additional changes or recommendations before she sends it off to DCED. The budget was reviewed, Mr. Smith provided a quote from Stephenson Equipment for a new one ton truck, and some re-wording was recommended. Mr. Mishler made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-02, providing agreement that the Township apply for \$110,000 for the purchase of a one-ton truck; chassis, bed, plow equipment, and hydraulics. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All three supervisors voted yes. The motion carried. Mrs. Yeager will make the final adjustments and will submit the grant request before the November 30 deadline.

Mrs. Yeager provided information from DaveVic Benefits Consultants for health coverage that they recommend for Mr. Smith. Since he is now the only employee applying for health insurance coverage, the Township can no longer provide him with group coverage. DaveVic provided several options for him from the Market Place. Mr. Smith has decided to choose the Highmark Blue Access Gold plan. Since this is an individual policy rather than a group, the Township cannot pay the insurance invoice for Mr. Smith. However, we can give him an increase in wages and he will pay for the insurance through those wages. He is required to pay taxes on the wage increase, by law. Per the stipulation in the Employee and Personnel Manual, the Township pays 80% of insurance premiums and the employee pays 20% of the premium. Rather than have Mr. Smith pay us his 20%, the Board agreed that by him paying the taxes on the total wages we pay him to cover the premium, that would constitute his payment of 20% of the premium. Mr. Mishler made a motion to increase Mr. Smith's hourly wage by \$5.02 an hour to cover the cost of his health insurance. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mrs. Yeager stated that she will make the adjustment to the hourly wage beginning next pay, as Mr. Smith's individual coverage begins December 1, 2023, and premiums are paid one month in advance. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The proposed budget figures for the 2024 Township budget were reviewed. Mr. Smith made a motion to advertise the adoption of the 2024 budget at the December 5, 2023 meeting. Mr. Mishler seconded the motion. All three supervisors voted yes. The motion carried. Mrs. Yeager will place the ad in the Butler Eagle.

Mr. Smith met with the minister at the Methodist Church in Annandale regarding Shanda Sable's animal trespassing issue. The chickens and peacocks are still creating havoc on his church property. Mr. Smith informed him that the Township does have an Ordinance now, providing for control over such incidents and that he should document everything and get pictures of what is going on so, if needed, we can file with the magistrate to force her to get the animals under control.

Mrs. Yeager reported that the State Auditor General's office was out to audit the 2021 and 2022 Township books. Everything was in order, and no citations were issued.

There were no public comments at this time.

Mr. Fritz 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 8:20 p.m.