

Clifford Township Supervisors Meeting April 14, 2020

Supervisors Present: Dennis Knowlton, Barry Searle and Chris Marcho

Solicitor: Joseph McGraw

Secretary: Joan Hertzog

Business meeting held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at the township building. Chairman Knowlton called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Motion to approve March 10, 2020 township minutes by Mr. Searle. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Motion to approve March 27, 2020 emergency meeting minutes by Mr. Searle. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Treasurers report reviewed and will be put on file. List of bills reviewed. Mr. Searle made a motion to pay all bills except Clifford Home and Auto. Second by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Motion to pay Clifford Home and Auto made by Mr. Searle. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Mr. Marcho abstained due to a conflict of interest.

Old Business –

Meeting Advertisement – Mr. Searle made a motion to continue to advertise township meeting restrictions until the Covid-19 Pandemic limitations are lifted by the Governor. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor.

New Business –

Clifford Township Declaration of Emergency – The declaration was signed by township supervisors at an emergency meeting on March 20, 2020. Mr. Searle made the motion to extend the declaration as long as Susquehanna County continues their declaration in order to avoid renewing every month. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor.

Emergency Ambulance Coverage – An agreement was made between Clifford Volunteer Fire Company and Cottage Hose Co. Ambulance Corps of Carbondale for ambulance coverage during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Clifford Township will pay for the coverage in hope of being reimbursed by FEMA. The original thirty-day agreement is to be extended until the end of the emergency.

Mowing Bids – Barhite Excavating: \$95 per hour / Zemrzycki Excavating: \$75.00 per hour. After review, Mr. Seale made the motion to accept Zemrzycki Excavating bid. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor.

Parking Lot Paving Project – Barhite Excavating: \$27,500 / Como Construction: \$28,888 / Wayco Construction: \$39,490.21 / Bear Owen Paving: \$47,700. After review. Mr. Marcho made the motion to accept Barhite Excavating bid. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor. Noted this is the cost for labor and the township will buy the materials.

Updated Information on Township Website – Primary Voting Date changed to June 2, 2020, Covid -19 Resource Links, Agenda/Minutes for review before township meeting, Tax Paying Information, Census Information.

DCNR Land Acquisition Grant and Wellness Loop Grant – Mr. Knowlton made the motion to approve and sign the acceptance letters vowing to contribute any required funds for grant completion and to accept the re-naming of the Clifford Twp. Park Wellness Loop. Seconded by Mr. Searle. All in favor.

Park Complaint - Mr. Searle addressed a complaint made regarding people not practicing social distancing at the township park. He remarked that there is no staff to keep people separated, however, the township posted signs as to the CDC's recommendations, equipment has been removed and the restrooms are currently closed. After discussion it was decided that if the restrooms could be cleaned daily, they would be re-opened. The supervisors are happy to see the park being used responsibly.

Wellness Loop Blacktop – Mr. Marcho made the motion to move ahead with the paving of the Wellness Loop once the grant is accepted. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in favor.

Children's Garden Basement – Mr. Marcho made the motion to use Act 13 funds to pay between \$2,000 to \$3,000 to clean the basement due to dampness. Seconded by Mr. Searle. All in favor.

Annual Spring Clean-Up and E-cycling Event – Tentative date set: May 30th, 2020.

Township Representative Reports:

Police Report – Greenfield Police Chief, Jeff Martin reports they are getting to know the area and are looking for “hot spots”. They ask residents to call 570-282-7000 with any complaints and the number to be put on the township website. They would like permission to put lines down on problem roads to halt speeding. Bags of litter have been found on roads that they will look through to try to identify the owners in order to place fines. In March there were 26 emergency calls, 2 Animal, 1 Crime, 3 Domestic, 3 Vehicle, 4 EMS, 1 Litter, 7 Misc. calls – mainly

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questions, 1 Motor Vehicle, and 2 Burglaries – one arrest Friday and he hopes for another arrest by the next meeting. 3,800 miles have been traveled between the two townships this month.

Road Report - Road Master Booths reported a complaint on Thornhill Road regarding speeding and a request for a hidden driveway sign. He reports the area does not qualify for sign placement and the Greenfield Police said they will patrol that area more. Road condition complaints have been received for Tennessee Gas Rd. and Oswald Johnson Rd. Mr. Booths reports that the spring road work will begin shortly followed by calcium.

Planning Commission – Chairperson Fischbeck emailed report stated the Planning Commission voted by email to recommend the supervisors to accept the Larkin Land Development. Mr. Marcho made a motion to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Searle. All in favor.

Parks and Recreation – Mr. Marcho reported that they are still waiting on the permit for the park bridge.

Permit Officer – Joan Hertzog reports NEIC and SEO, Jay Lynch, will issue permits for emergencies only until Covid restrictions are lifted. NEIC is accepting building applications for review only.

Tax Collector – Janice Price reports via phone \$36,103.91 in Real Estate Tax and \$6,563.97 in Fire Protection Tax has been collected so far this year.

Fire Company – EMC, Philip Price, reports via phone that call volume is down due to the pandemic.

Historical Society – Mr. Knowlton reports that with a lot of hard work the cider mill is coming along nicely and it's appreciated.

Theresa Opeka asked for clarification on the Ambulance Agreement. It was explained that the township is paying for ambulance coverage using Cottage Hose Co. because our volunteer EMT's are at high risk for the virus. It is a 30 day agreement or until no longer needed, 12 hours a day with mutual aid from other fire companies at night.

Joan Hertzog Secretary/Treasurer
Adjournment 7:55 pm