

Clifford Township Supervisors Meeting February 9, 2021

Supervisors Present: Dennis Knowlton, Barry Searle and Chris Marcho

Solicitor: Joseph McGraw

Secretary: MaryAnn Tayoun

Business meeting held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at the township building. Chairman Knowlton called the meeting to order at 7:09pm. Motion to approve, January Reorganization minutes by Mr. Knowlton. Seconded by Mr. Searle. Motion to approve January Meeting Minutes by Mr. Knowlton, seconded by Mr. Searle. All in favor. Motion carries. Treasurer's report reviewed and will be put on file. List of bills reviewed. Motion to pay all bills except Clifford Home & Auto made by Mr. Knowlton, seconded by Mr. Searle. Mr. Searle motioned to pay bill for Clifford Home & Auto Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. Motion carried. Supervisor Marcho abstains due to conflict of interest.

Old Business –

JC Pipeline– Solicitor, Joe McGraw reports that he asked for a meeting. And requested that we come back to business matter. Mr. Searle said we could circle back. Mr. Knowlton reports we'll come back to JC Pipeline Business.

Pedestrian Bridge – Mr. Marcho reports an agreement needs to be signed to move forward with bridge project. Engineering came out today to mark and stake where bridge was to be placed. Someone would be out tomorrow to dig test holes and take soil samples for abutments. The process will cost \$15,000. Finalization of drawing and sending out Bids should be in May, and construction can start after approval of Bids. Have to be completed by 9/13 because of stream situation but feels there will be no problem. Mr. Knowlton questioned if Engineers are in agreement with time frame. Mr. Searle also wanted to make it known the funds would be coming out of the ACT 13Funds and not from the Budget of the Township Tax Payers. Motion to sign change order and agreement to move ahead with bridge project by Mr. Marcho, seconded by Mr. Knowlton, All in Favor.

Circled back to JC Prime Pipeline – Solicitor to organized meeting with all Supervisors and Pipeline for the following week at 6pm.

Mr. Searle reports on the matter of the Bridge Business, Sandy Wilmot, of the Township Historical Society would like to write for a Grant. Mr. Searle put in motion that Sandy Wilmot could apply for a Grant and be compensated 10% of the amount if she acquired a Grant for the Bridge Project with in the needed time frame. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. Motion carries.

Cemetery Building- Township Secretary reports a letter was mailed 1/25/20 to inform the Cemetery. Mr. Marcho reports he spoke with the Cemetery and they have the intention to tear it down but due to weather and timing they can't right now. Mr. Marcho also the Township is willing to help.

New Business –

Recycling Grant– Mr. Searle reported that some recycling Grants may not be awarded anymore. Mr. Searle also questioned how the Twp. Recycling Program is working. Mr. Marcho reports the bins have been labeled and signed for easier understanding. Mr. Marcho commended Kurt & Price for their great efforts and ideas to making the Recycle area better and stopping violators. Camera systems are working in the area. Mr. Marcho reports Secretary is to mail out letters to some violators. Road Master Booths reports it's getting better. It helps when the bins are picked up as scheduled. Solicitor reports the Litter Ordinance was finalized. Township Secretary reports its on file and added to the Township Website. Mr. Knowlton commended the efforts of the Twp. Staff for their hard work. Mr. Searle motions to implement Ordinance as posted, seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in Favor. Motion Carries.

Solicitor McGraw confirmed with Township Secretary that 911 Address Ordinance was posted on Twp. Website. Mr. Searle motioned 911 Address Ordinance be implemented. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. All in Favor. Motion carries.

Repository Properties - Mr. Marcho reports we received a letter from Susquehanna County Treasurer about repository properties that have been through two public sales and are not generating income from taxes. The Municipality needs to vote to accept any price by the bureau on the properties during the meeting. Motion made by Mr. Knowlton seconded by Mr. Searle. All in favor. Motion carries.

Tax Collector- Mr. Searle reports every four years during the new election it's decided what the compensation for the Tax Collector is going to be. The deadline is before the next meeting. Mr. Searle reports all the other Tax Collectors in the County receive compensation at 5% and she receives 4%. Consider raising to 5% so she's equal with the other tax collectors. Mr. Marcho questioned how School taxes and County compensate the Tax Collector. Mr. Knowlton questioned how it affected the Taxes. Mr. Knowlton asked the Tax Collector if the Township collects more or less than other Townships. Tax Collector, Jan Price reported "we do have a few more tax bills that are sent out, Bridge Water and Clifford Township are about the same".

Mr. Searle motioned to increase Janice Price, Tax collector from 4% to 5% to go into effect in 2022 if she's reelected. Seconded by Mr. Knowlton. Motion carries.

Mr. Searle voiced concern about possible flooding from snow melting. Barhite reports they can cut holes through snow banks if any issues occur with a fast melt or heavy rain. Mr. Marcho reports the generator service contract needed to be renewed and a notification of a new gas well Gibson Township.

Mr. Knowlton asked if there was any new business.

Sandy Wilmot, Clifford Twp. Historical Society and reports she met with Sam of Design Print, in Scranton, They would like to rework the Historical Society Website, to be able to purchase books online, constant contact, and an "Open Page" on the page. She expects an Estimate of cost will be received soon. Sandy also reports "we sold all 1000 copies of the book that was published in 2006. She would like to have a reprint. 400 copies would cost \$7,100.00. The Historical Society has 3,000. to put towards and is requesting the Township Supervisors donate would put 1,500.00 from Act 13. She reports a private donor is giving 300.00. The Historical Society to receive the profits of the books and that a certain amounts of books be put away for history purposes. Motion to donate 1,500. to Historical Society towards reprint copies made by Mr. Knowlton seconded by Mr. Searle.

Township Secretary reports receiving Phishing Emails, using Twp. Members names in the Email.

Mr. Knowlton checked for any new business. Continued on to reports.

Township Representative Reports:

Police Report – Greenfield Police Chief, Jeff Martin reports Januarys Activity Report for Clifford Twp.

1 Criminal Arrest, 3 Traffic Citations, 0 Non-traffic Citations,

40 Total calls for 911 Dispatches (2 crime reports, 11 Traffic, 7 EMS Assist, 3 Alarms, 2 Accidents, 1 assist other PD, 1 Domestic, 3 Suspicious Activity, 10 misc.)

Road Report – Road Master Booths reports no road complaints. Despite harsh weather, roads look good. Reports issues with getting cinders, they can't be made due to frigid temperatures

Planning Commission- Mr. Marcho reports Planning Commission requesting motion to approve Anzulis Subdivision. Mr. Searle made motion, Mr. Knowlton second, All in Favor. Motion carried. Mr. Marcho reports Planning Commission working on Barhite Subdivisions, Spedding and Swetter coming up.

Park and Recreation – Mr. Marcho reports date set for Fall Park Fest which is planned to be spaced outside with tents. Mr. Marcho also reports Sally F., Planning Commission Chair has been working hard on Grants for Park & Rec. Mr. Knowlton expressed his excitement in having the access to the wood trails from the Pedestrian Bridge.

Permit Officer – Twp Secretary Reports 1 Demo & 1 Building permit for a pole barn.

Sewage Office – SEO, Justin Ford's report was read and reported 1 sewer permit.

Tax Collector –Jan Price reports the 2021 County Taxes will be coming out soon

Fire Company – Phil Price reports they were authorized to receive Covid vaccines. 31 Fire calls 32 EMS Calls, Some major Fires with fatalities.

Historical Society – Sandy Wilmot reports annual newsletter was hot of the press, Glacier project for children's garden to be started as soon as they can. Sandy will be applying for a Grant for the project.

Next Clifford Township Supervisors Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 2021 at 7:00pm. MaryAnn Tayoun, Secretary/Treasurer

Adjournment 8:05pm

MaryAnn Tayoun, Secretary