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CUMMINGS TOWNSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The Cummings Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on February 9, 2021 at 2:00 pm at the Cummings Township Municipal Building, with Walter Braddock and Richard Bierly present and Michael Yohe participating via telephone.

Public Attendees: Zoning Liaison Will Wolfe, Bill Koppenheffer, Diane Stephenson, Paul Satazahn, Denise Dieter, Esquire, Chief Nathan DeRemer and Officer Fioretti of the Tiadaghton Valley Regional Police Department

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation:

Diane Stephenson – Little Pine Creek Road

Resident Diane Stephenson discussed her concerns about safety issues on Little Pine Creek Road and questioned who is responsible for notifying residents and businesses when there is a road closure, stating that in the fall there was an electronic sign installed, with no prior notification to residents, stating that the road would be closed up to one hour at a time and said she believes there should be more communication between PennDot and the Township.

Solicitor Dieter stated that the Township Supervisors have been corresponding with PennDot Officials, Senators, Legislators and the Lycoming County Commissioners about safety concerns on Little Pine Creek Road and basically were told that PennDot will fix the road when they can, and in the meantime, will only make repairs when there is an emergency, and according to Solicitor Dieter, the lack of communication by PennDot is not something that is unique to Cummings Township.

Solicitor Dieter explained that the PennDot has sovereign immunity and the Township has governmental immunity but the one exception to immunity is the condition of the road and Solicitor Dieter said in one of the letters to PennDot she put them on notice that the dangerousness of this road would make the State vulnerable.

A discussion was held and it was suggested that Supervisor Bierly be contacted when there is an issue with the road and he will contact PennDot.

Supervisor Yohe agreed with Mrs. Stephenson and said he attended the Williamsport Area Transportation Survey Meeting where a lot of these issues are to be mediated and budget allocations made and said he was essentially told that he was wasting his time because the State cut the money from our District's budget and funds are only to be used for projects that are approved or on their schedule and to take care of emergencies.

Supervisor Yohe said it is obvious that the Township has no influence over PennDot and as Denise stated they are not responsive to the Township, adding that he believes it will take citizens getting involved and putting pressure on them. He suggested it may take something grassroots to embarrass PennDot officials because they have no accountability to the Township Supervisors and they basically have no money.

DRAFT

Bill Koppenheffer – Waterville Water Association

Bill Koppenheffer reported on behalf of the Waterville Water Association that the water rates are increasing by \$5.00 beginning July 1, 2021.

Waterville Fire Company Mobile Kitchen

Bill Koppenheffer said the Waterville Fire Company is looking for a place to store its 28 ft. mobile kitchen and would like some type of structure with a roof.

A discussion was held with regard to placing a structure on the Township's property behind the fire hall to store the mobile kitchen and Solicitor Dieter said an agreement between the Fire Company and Township would be needed.

SPCA Property

Donna Bierly asked about the status of the purchase of the SPCA property and land swap with DCNR/Bureau of Forestry.

Solicitor Dieter explained that the State required her to provide them with a "mock" title policy for the land for their legal counsel to review and the title search is taking longer than expected due to Covid. As soon as the title search is complete, Solicitor Dieter will put together a title policy for Tom Stahl of DCNR to forward to Harrisburg for review. Once that is approved, Solicitor Dieter must get a document to all property owners in the Development for them to sign releasing the Township from the restrictions of the Development.

Donna Bierly

Donna Bierly said she discussed getting AED's and First Aid Kits from the Fire Company to be installed in the Township Building.

Donna Bierly also suggested that a bench be purchased for outside of the museum for visitors to utilize and suggested a wooden bench be purchased.

Mrs. Bierly also said that the cleaning lady for the Township has concerns about PennDot vehicles traveling too fast through Waterville because the salt spray is being thrown back onto the windows and porch of the township building. She said there was also an incident where the snow thrown by the plow knocked down a fence in a resident's yard.

A discussion was held about having the old church bell and school house bell cleaned and the possibility of building a bell tower.

Paul Satazahn reported that Hope Hose Fire Company just installed a bell tower on their property maybe they could provide information on cleaning the bells and on a bell tower to the Supervisors.

Diane Stephenson

Diane Stephenson said that in last month's meeting minutes there was a discussion about cell towers and asked if there are any plans for a cell tower stating she does not have cell service at their residence.

DRAFT

Solicitor Dieter reported that a cell tower was installed at English Center and a variance was granted in Pine Township for another tower.

Supervisor Yohe said that DCNR was considering allowing FirstNet, part of the AT&T State project, to use an abandoned tower off of Dam Run Road on Ramsey Road which would only benefit FirstNet users such as the State Police. Cummings Township residents only have the ability to get an internet extender in their homes and if they have have fiber optics through cable service.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Vice Chairman Bierly asked for questions or comments on the minutes from the January 4, 2021 Reorganization Meeting or the January 4, 2021 monthly meeting, there being none, Supervisor Braddock made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Supervisor Bierly, MCU.

Approval of Treasurer's Report:

Supervisor Braddock made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted; seconded by Supervisor Bierly, MCU.

Zoning Report:

Zoning Liaison Will Wolfe reported that he received one call about an addition for a garage and forwarded the information to Code Inspections.

As to the Recreational Vehicle Permit Application, Will said he believes the new application is fine.

Supervisor Yohe said the RV Permit Application is ready to go and information along with the permit application will be placed on the Township website and there will be hard copies for individuals to pick up at different locations.

TVRPD Police Report

Chief Nathan DeRemer introduced Officer Fioretti of the Tiadaghton Valley Regional Police Department and presented the Police Report for the month of January which included eight calls for service for the month as follows: disturbance on North Route 44 Hwy; one ambulance assist; three lift assists; one vehicle ran off roadway on Little Pine Creek Road; Warrant Service and a disabled vehicle in the roadway on North Rte 44. Highway with no citations or arrests.

Road Foreman's Report:

Roadmaster Bierly reported on the following items:

- Snow removal – Roadmaster Bierly commended employees for doing a good job with snow removal