

CUMMINGS TOWNSHIP MEETING  
APRIL 11, 2023

The Cummings Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on April 11, 2023, at 2:00 pm at the Cummings Township Municipal building, with Michael Yohe, Walter Braddock, and Richard Bierly present.

**Also in attendance:** Donna Bierly, Karen Purvis, Larry Shaffer, James Capel and Les Ritter of the Waterville Volunteer Fire Company, Carl Frech, Casey Lowmiller of Jersey Shore Area EMS, Bub Rainey, Diane Stephenson, Kim Shainline, Chief Nate DeRemer and Sgt. Michael Crawford of Lycoming Regional Police Department, and Zoning Liaison Jeff Markley

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Public Participation**

**Diane Stephenson**

Resident Diane Stephenson of Little Pine Creek raised concerns about noise created by individuals shooting semi-automatic hunting rifles at the shooting range in Little Pine State Park which is located approximately .75 miles from her home.

Mrs. Stephenson said individuals shoot at least 30 rounds at a time and she has been in contact with the Park Ranger for Little Pine State Park. She said that she learned that Little Pine is the only State Park that has a shooting range and most shooting ranges are on State Game Lands. She also said that a special permit is required for individuals to shoot semi-automatic weapons at the shooting range which is listed in the rules at the range, adding that one of the rules is that you can only shoot three rounds at a time.

There is also a concern that the range is being used after dark and is attracting suspicious individuals. Mrs. Stephenson said she would like to see the shooting range shut down or in the alternative, ban automatic weapons.

Sgt. Crawford recommended Mrs. Stephenson call 9-1-1 for officers to respond if there is shooting at the range after hours or any time there is suspicious activity occurring.

A discussion was held, and it was agreed that there would not be support from the community to close down the range or restrict the use of semi-automatic weapons. Chairman Yohe agreed to reach out to appropriate DCNR officials about enforcement of the rules at the shooting range.

**Kim Shaineline**

Resident Kim Shaineline of Little Pine Creek Road asked if the Supervisors have reached out to Tri-County about expanding the internet service, adding that Tri-County is currently running fiber optic lines on utility poles in the area.

Resident Carl Frech said his electric service is through Tri-County and at the present time the company is extending its fiber optics to customers served by Tri-County. Other residents who do not have electric service through Tri-County should call them if they are interested in internet services to be added to the for services.

Chairman Yohe agreed to reach out to Tri-County to obtain more information for residents.

### **Recreation Committee Report**

Donna Bierly of the Recreation Committee reported that there are issues with a certain group at the park and noted that the soccer net and volleyball nets were cut, and graffiti was carved into one of the musical instruments recently installed at the park. She also pointed out that the rules posted at the park are not being followed.

Chief Nate DeRemer suggested that should anyone see something happening at the park to contact the police immediately and, if possible, take photos to share with the police officers. He suggested the individuals be warned first and if the behavior continues, citing those individuals for violating park rules.

A discussion was also held regarding the possibility of installing some type of cameras at the park.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Yohe asked for questions or comments on the minutes from the March 28, 2023, 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 Bierly made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted; seconded by Supervisor Braddock, MCU.

### **Zoning Report**

Zoning Liaison Jeff Markley reported that the RV permit applications are being received and processed by the Township; a notice of violation was posted on one property; and one property owner who was cited for a violation through the IPMC has started to clean up his property.

### **Lycoming Regional Police Report**

Sgt. Michael Crawford provided the monthly police report listing five incidents for the month of March which included fallen trees and wires down on roadways. They also aided a couple of residents during the month.

Sgt. Crawford also reported that the Police Department received positive feedback about handing out fishing poles to children on the opening day of Fishing Season.

## **Waterville Fire Company Report**

Kim Shaineline of the Waterville Fire Company presented an overview of the incidents for the Waterville Fire Company for the month of March. There were 15 incidents for the month, 11 were in Cummings Township, two in Brown Township and two were mutual aid.

Kim noted that there were a lot of power lines and trees down on roads during the month so there were a lot of man hours in directing traffic.

She also reported that the fire company has been updating the fire danger level daily as it is fire season, and approximately 10 members recently completed training and received wildfire certifications.

The Fisherman's Breakfast was a success and the fire company raised approximately \$300 from that event which is a good way to connect with the community.

The Fire Company is also considering the possibility of holding a Community Picnic at the park and inviting Police Officers and Emergency Service providers.

Kim reported that the Sawdust Festival will be held at the end of the month and there are 12 carvers and 60 vendors planning to attend the event, adding that the carver's auction will be held at the end of the festival on Sunday.

## **Solicitor's Report:**

Chairman Yohe reported Solicitor Drier is currently working on revising the Solar Energy Ordinance for review by the township supervisors and planning commission and is also working on an updated draft of the Wind Energy Farm Ordinance.

Solicitor Drier also supported the Zoning Office with zoning/code enforcement activities during the last month.

The documents for West Side Drive have all been signed and recorded and the township may now move forward with installing the cul-de-sac.

## **Roadmaster's Report:**

Roadmaster Craig Bierly provided the following Roadmaster's Report:

1. Swept roads
2. Cleaned the snow equipment and stored it away
3. Filled potholes on roads and bridges
4. Prepared area in the park for the new restroom
5. Cleaned up trees and branches and ditches on Dam Run Road
6. Removed topsoil from end of West Drive and started work on the cul-de-sac
6. The memorial bench for Spence Graybill was installed at the park

## **Old Business:**

### **Woodchipper**

The Supervisors discussed the possibility of purchasing a woodchipper through CoStars for an estimated cost of \$22,000 or rent one from Pine Creek Township after providing 24 hours' notice to rent the chipper.

A discussion was held, and it was the consensus of the Board that in the short term they would like to try renting the chipper from Pine Creek Township and if it does not work out the Board will look into purchasing a woodchipper.

### **Additional Pickleball Courts**

Chairman Yohe said the Supervisors need more information before deciding whether to install additional pickleball courts and suggested in the meantime a time limit may be placed on the current court.

## **New Business:**

### **Casey Lowmiller, Chief of Jersey Shore Area EMS**

Casey Lowmiller, EMS Chief of Jersey Shore Area EMS gave a presentation about the history, response area and various challenges facing JSAEMS. Highlights of the presentation include:

- Citizen's Hose EMS transitions from Basic Life Support to Advanced Life Support adding Paramedics to the ambulances in 1986.
- Citizens Hose Company and Larry's Creek VFC merged in 2002.
- Provides coverage to 19 municipalities covering 525 square miles.
- Challenges include – declining volunteerism; community support for fundraising events; increased costs of equipment, apparatus and services; staffing; payroll; increasing call volumes; unfunded federal mandates; and poor reimbursement from insurance companies.

Chief Lowmiller finished his presentation by stating he was not requesting funding from Cummings Township but to thank the Board of Supervisors for its support, stating it is one of the few municipalities who support the EMS Agency by purchasing memberships for its citizens.

**Correspondence:** None

### **Invoices**

Supervisor Bierly made a motion to approve the invoices as presented; seconded by Supervisor Braddock, MCU.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Supervisor Bierly made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Supervisor Braddock, MCU.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene S. Macklem  
Secretary/Treasurer