

CUMMINGS TOWNSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2024

The Cummings Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on October 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Cummings Township Municipal building, with Michael Yohe, Walter Braddock, and Charles Rogers present.

Public Attendees: Connie Mitcheltree, Donna Bierly, Rick Bierly, Tom Mussington, James Capel, Sgt. Michael Crawford of the Lycoming Regional Police Department, and Wm. Dennis Buttorff, EMA

Pledge of Allegiance

Lord's Prayer

Public Participation

Resident Connie Mitcheltree asked if there was any progress on the cleanup of the abandoned house on First Street.

Chairman Yohe stated that the property is under new ownership and the plan is to renovate the house, however, when Zoning Officer Roger Hoy spoke with the new owner's husband, he learned that the owner is currently undergoing cancer treatments.

Resident Donna Bierly spoke to the Board about trucks using Spruce Road going off the edge of the blacktop on the curve of the road and she is afraid it is going to break up the blacktop on the edge of the road. Rick Bierly said he believes the berm needs widened and additional stone needs added to the berm.

It was the consensus of the Board to follow up with Roadmaster Craig Bierly on the matter.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Yohe asked for questions or comments on the minutes from the September 10, 2024, monthly meeting; there being none, Supervisor Braddock made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Supervisor Rogers, MCU.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

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

Recreation Committee Report

A report was not presented during the meeting, however, Donna Bierly reported that the park continues to be very popular and there is usually a lot of activity in the park.

Zoning Report

Chairman Yohe reported there were no new zoning, RV or building permits issued during the month.

He reported a property in Ramsey Village that has a maintenance code violation for tall grass and a disabled vehicle on the property and is in violation of the IPMC and the Zoning Officer will take steps to address these violations.

He also mentioned that there was an issue with the flood plain in Ramsey Village where a pavilion with overhang over the creek was built in the flood plain and whether it would have to be removed, adding that DEP will make the final decision on this issue.

Zoning Officer Hoy sent a certified mailing to the new owner of the Baney property about the tall grass and the grass was mowed and the owner is supposed to notify Roger before starting renovations at the property. The owner was advised that they have to maintain the property according to the township's codes.

Donna Bierly reminded the Supervisors about the tree that fell across Pine Creek after the last storm, stating it has not been removed and Chairman Yohe agreed to follow up on the matter.

Lycoming Regional Police Report

Chairman Yohe presented the Lycoming Regional Police Department report for the month that included eight incidents. Three of those incidents were a burglary, a camper fire and a crisis with a patient at Happy Acres. There were two issues on Dam Run Road and one issue on Ramsey Road involving a mental patient, two were unspecified on the road and one incident of an abandoned animal. A motor vehicle accident on Rte. 414 North Rte. 44 Highway and a public assist on Route 44.

Officers also worked on speed deterrents through Waterville and to date they've made six stops and four of the six were people who live in the area but no big trucks were stopped. All six were given warnings and all were going 13 mph over the speed limit.

A discussion was held and it was the consensus that vehicles traveling 50 mph or faster should be ticketed rather than receive a warning and Chairman Yohe agreed to relay that information to the Lycoming Regional Police Department.

Waterville Fire Company Report

Jim Capel of the Waterville Fire Company reported ten for September, six calls were in Cummings Township. Total man-hours - 345 for the month.

Emergency Management Coordinator Report

EMC Denny Buttorff provided an update on the storm damage caused by Hurricane Debby, stating there is some ambiguity as to whether FEMA funds will be available to properties that do not have are not a primary residence.

Roadmaster's Report:

Roadmaster Craig Bierly was not present for the meeting.

Solicitors' Report:

Solicitor Drier reported that there has been little movement in the Sweigart matter and as of the date of the meeting a guardian still has not been appointed for Mr. Sweigart.

Old Business:

Short Term Rental Ordinance No. 10-08-2024-01

Chairman Yohe presented Short-Term Rental Ordinance No. 10-08-2024-01 for adoption and explained that the ordinance has been discussed at various meetings and was advertised for adoption. He reminded those in attendance that anyone who currently owns a short-term rental is exempt from the new ordinance.

Supervisor Rogers made a motion to adopt Short-Term Rental Ordinance No. 10-08-2024-01; seconded by Supervisor Braddock, MCU

New Business:

Resolution No. 10-08-2024-03 – Fee Schedule for Short-Term Rental Permit

Chairman Yohe explained that the Short-Term Rental Ordinance provides that the fee schedule for short-term rental permits be set by the Board of Supervisors by Resolution. The initial short-term rental permit fee is \$100.00 and the annual renewal fee will be set at \$50.00.

Supervisor Rogers made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 10-08-2024-03 setting the fee schedule for short-term rental permits as presented; seconded by Supervisor Braddock, MCU.

Resolution 10-08-2024-02 – Appoint a Public Account to prepare 2024 Audit

Chairman Yohe asked for a motion adopt Resolution 10-08-2024-02 and appoint Lea Ann Plessinger, CPA, LLC to perform the 2024 Audit; motion made by Supervisor Rogers and seconded by Supervisor Braddock, MCU.

Fire Hydrant for Waterville Fire Company

Chairman Yohe explained that the Waterville Fire Company would like to have a dedicated fire hydrant and said it would be by agreement between the Fire Company and the Waterville Water Association. The Supervisors support this proposal because it is a public safety issue and hope to use Act 13 funds for the hydrant.

Supervisor Rogers, who is also a member of the Waterville Water Authority, said that he and other members of the Authority met with Operator Tom Dent and all agreed with providing a dedicated fire hydrant to the Fire Company.

Supervisors Rogers indicated that Tom Dent is in the process of contacting DEP to determine if they have any stipulations and believes one of the stipulations will be that parking will not be allowed within a 100-yard radius of the well. He said that the plan is to put a pump in the well, pipe it around the building to the park side and install a hydrant on Park Avenue.

The water for the fire hydrant will come from the second well and will not affect the water supply to residents. There will be an agreement between the Waterville Water Company and the Fire Company for use of the hydrant and in the event of a drought a marker will be placed at the hydrant to signify that water should not be drawn.

Budget Work Sessions

Chairman Yohe made a motion to schedule and advertise budget work sessions on October 23, 2024, and October 30, 2024 at 6:00 pm to prepare the 2025 Budget; seconded by Supervisor Rogers, MCU.

Correspondence: Notice that property reassessment activities have begun in the township.

Invoices

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Yohe made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Supervisor Rogers, MCU.

Chairman Yohe adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene S. Macklem

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Secretary/Treasurer