

**PORTAGE TOWNSHIP REGULAR MONTHLY
MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 5, 2014
MUNICIPAL BUILDING – MILLER SHAFT**

Chairman Bill Cooper opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with a salute to the flag.

Roll call: Supervisor William Cooper – present; Supervisor Rick Olshavsky – present; Supervisor Kostan – absent; Solicitor – CJ Webb – absent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Crum spoke regarding Beech Street being paved. Supervisor Cooper left him know nothing thus far. Until the budget is fully completed for next year nothing of this sort can be truly answered.

Bill Offman asked for an explanation on why they cannot pave his street by his house, with an answer from Supervisor Cooper that there was work already done up there and that paving a street for one house is not going to happen.

John Nicholson spoke regarding Amfire being sold and Shoemaker Circle residents are asking that the Township look into placing a safe route on the roadway which has been considered a hazard for elementary kids only. Supervisor Cooper then commented on a meeting that took place here at the Municipal Building between the Supervisors, AMFIRE, INNERPOWER, and PORTAGE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT regarding the safety of the elementary kids. Supervisor Cooper relayed the end result of the meeting was to have a mini bus pick up the kids. Supervisor Cooper did say once Rosebud is in control, the Supervisors would like to set up a meeting with them.

Jill Lamar spoke regarding the water issue in her yard. After some brief discussion, DEP, the Supervisors, and our Engineer are to schedule a meeting regarding this issue.

Supervisor Cooper then talked with Paul Maul regarding the noise study, stating that he did look into this and found that if the noise was to the point it worsened in any way, the Federal Government could be notified and they would come in and check it out.

Ray Asfar then spoke regarding various issues he brought forth for the Board to listen to. This lead to a lengthy discussion again pertaining to the issues of safety. He spoke of different codes and sections in the Pennsylvania Code.

Supervisor Cooper then explained again about the meeting the Supervisors had with Amfire and Innerpower and the School Superintendent regarding safety with the children. The end

solution was that the children would be picked up in their driveways with a minivan or minibus to make it safe for the children.

Tris Serenko then spoke regarding the Shoemaker Circle issue which she made reference to her memory of when she delivered mail up there on the color of the vehicle she drove in relation to the color of the vehicle that would pick the children up (minivan or minibus). She would think a big yellow bus would be more visible to the coal truck driver.

John Nicholson suggested maybe a one way road and asked if they got a petition with signatures, would the Township be interested in doing that. Supervisor Cooper said that would be a decision of the Board, but they are willing to discuss and confer with the Solicitor.

Supervisor Cooper then explained if they were to go up there to widen the road, the 33' right of way, residents would lose front porches, fences, anything that is on this right of way. The best solution Supervisor Cooper felt was to get together with Rosebud regarding the new alternate route, whenever Rosebud makes it official that the plant will still remain open. No one knows at this point what the plans are regarding this site even staying open.

Ray Asfar then spoke regarding August 9, 2014 Public Notice regarding existing rights, permits on the Township structure. The Supervisors need to investigate this and discuss with the Solicitor to be able to get a better understanding of what exactly Mr. Asfar was referring to.

There was a continuous discussion regarding the Shoemaker Circle's resident's concerns. RE: safety and bus issues, one way street possibilities. Through all this discussion, the Supervisors could discuss with the Engineer and their Solicitor for the one way street but they do feel the children should ride the new bus plan for the safety being offered by the school, and that maybe when Rosebud does take over sometime in January we can talk and find out what their plans might be for cleaning plant itself. Supervisor Cooper said not to make it harder on Rosebud, because you might be throwing any opportunity away for any type of improvement.

Benny Selepack questioned that once the road has been declared hazardous it could have 5 ½ ton weight limit then the children could walk it because it would then be deemed a safe route.

John Nicholson said the studies he has requested one being the one for the school (completed) and the other study for a posted 5 ½ ton weight limit could be done by the municipality as to the way he understood by John Ambrosini of PennDot that the Township reserves the right to make it a safe route and then impose the 5 ½ ton weight limit and place the sign. Then call the state and they can enforce it.

Joe Walters questioned as to whether a motion should be put forth when decisions are being made. Supervisor Olshavsky stated that if a decision needed to be put forth through a motion he would make the motion, but asking a question to the attorney doesn't always need to be a motion. A question is a question, a decision would need to be a motion. We will take all the

information and find the answers, Olshavsky stated. All options will be worked on and looked into.

Paul Maul asked about Norfolk Southern and breaking the train. Supervisor Cooper reminded him of the article that was published in the Dispatch in July. When the article was written, Supervisor Cooper and Amanda of the Dispatch, called Harrisburg regarding the breaking of the train. They listened together the conversation with PSATS and was told by them that the Supervisors have no authority to have or ask Norfolk Southern to break the train. It is up to the Coal Company and Norfolk Southern.

Supervisor Cooper then brought up about the Portage Park. He wanted to share with the residents how the park is in need of monetary help. They might have enough money to keep the park running one more year. Supervisor Cooper then shared if the situation doesn't turn around down there, we are not going to have a park. The Township, the Borough, and the School are going to contact Frank Burns to see what help the Park can receive. Jill Lamar told of the next meeting being scheduled in January. Asking for help and to work together as a community to save the Park.

Approval of Minutes

October 1, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting and the Special Budget Meeting held October 27, 2014

Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to approve the October 1, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting and the Special Budget Meeting held October 27, 2014 with Supervisor Cooper seconding the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.** Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Olshavsky – yes.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report compiled of the following work completed and worked on a daily basis:

- Listed all the correspondence received for the month of October, 2014 via the mail and email
- Completed payroll and payroll taxes for the month of October, 2014
- Received and posted all incoming revenue
- Completed all Municipal Lien Letters
- Completed bank reconciliations for the month of September
- Paid all monthly bills
- Received and addressed all incoming telephone calls

Supervisor Cooper made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report with Supervisor Olshavsky seconding the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.** Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Olshavsky – yes.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented to the Board by Supervisor Olshasky. He read the following:

The following is the Treasurer's Report for the Third Quarter, 2014. (July, Aug, Sept)

The General Account Fund showed revenues received totaling \$115,368.76, expenditures of \$274,400.00 showing a balance of **\$500,606.99**.

The Payroll Account showed revenues (deposits) totaling \$59,400.45, expenditures of \$49,283.38 showing a balance of **\$18,953.26**.

S & T Bank Checking showed revenues received totaling \$213,566.99, expenditures of \$191,413.33 showing a balance of **\$22,153.66**.

Liquid Fuels Account showed revenues (interest) totaling \$443.77, expenditures of \$19,475.51 showing a balance of **\$311,651.00**.

The above information is from the reconciled bank statements for the months of July, August, and September, 2014.

Supervisor Cooper made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with Supervisor Olshavsky seconding the motion. **Motion 2-0**. Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Olshavsky – yes.

Road Master's Report

The Road Master's Report was presented by Supervisor Cooper, with the Road Master reporting the following to the Board:

- Cleaned ditch and drains out from Caldwell Avenue down to the football field (approximately 80 feet)
- Cleaned ditch and drains out down on Soman Avenue (approximately 20 feet)
- Placed a new guardrail in Benscreek
- Replaced road signs in Oil City (signs looked to be purposely ran over)
- Cleaning fallen leaves as much as possible off various roads
- Started winter maintenance for the Township
- Placing snow fence up throughout the Township in areas where needed and where the Township has always placed snow fence
- Getting trucks ready also for winter, changed oil and filters in the backhoe and loader, and also in new truck

Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to accept the Road Master's Report with Supervisor Cooper seconding the motion. **Motion carried 2-0**. Supervisor Olshavsky – yes; Supervisor Cooper – yes.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Nothing new was reported for the month of October. But the Code Enforcement Officer did follow-up with a complaint received in September, 2014 located on Springhill Road. The Code Enforcement Officer stopped to see if any of the violations are now in compliance, which they are not. The next step is to have charges filed for non-compliance in accordance to the Portage Township Ordinances that are currently in violation. Until further information on this matter can be relayed, he will follow procedure with the necessary steps that need to be taken.

Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to accept the Road Master's Report with Supervisor Cooper seconding the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.** Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Olshavsky – yes.

Old Business

None

New Business

a. Variance for McQuillen

Approval for the Variance for the McQuillens was made into motion by Rick Olshavsky with all requirements completed. Motion seconded by Supervisor Cooper. **Motion carried 2-0.** Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Olshavsky – yes.

b. Purchase of a temporary building – two bids.

Two bids were received, wanted a temporary building to keep truck underneath. One bid was for an amount of \$8,000.00, the other bid was for a carport for \$3,488.00. Supervisor Cooper made a motion to purchase the carport bid for \$3,488.00 with Supervisor Olshavsky seconding the bid. **Motion carried 2-0.** Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Olshavsky – yes.

c. Donation for hockey Club

This will be tabled until they know if the Club has become an official entity and can show proof to the Board, then the donation can be approved. Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to table the donation for the Hockey Club with Supervisor Cooper seconding the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.** Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Olshavsky – yes.

d. Right to Know (designate new official)

Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to approve Michelle Kostan, Secretary to become the new designated official for Right to Know, Supervisor Cooper seconding the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.** Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Olshavsky – yes.

- e. Advertise 2015 Budget for public viewing

Supervisor Olshavsky explained the 2015 Budget needs to be advertised for 20 days. There will be no tax increase for the 2015 year. 1998 was the last year for a tax increase. Supervisor Olshavsky made a motion to advertise the 2015 Budget in accordance with the Township Code, with Supervisor Cooper seconding the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.** Supervisor Cooper – yes; Supervisor Olshavsky – yes.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Those guests in attendance: John Nicholson, Ben Selepack, Paul Maul, Joe Walters, John Crum, Kelly Cernetich, Jill Lamar, T Serenko, Bob Lutz, Justin Dennis, Amanda Petrunak

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Kostan, Township Secretary

