

Benezette Township Meeting Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2023

The Benezette Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday January 3rd, 2023 at the Benezette School House located at 105 Schoolhouse Road, Benezette, PA. A workshop began at 5:00 PM with the township meeting starting at 6:00 PM. Present were Supervisor/Roadmaster Mitchell Hanes, Supervisor Pamela Mong and Secretary/Treasurer Krista Meyer. Please see the attached sign in sheet for residents and guests present at the meeting. Supervisor Hanes called the township meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance and thanked everyone for attending.

MOTION TO ACCEPT 2023 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 2 NO: 0

MOTION TO ACCEPT JANUARY 2023 TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 2 NO: 0

MOTION TO ACCEPT JANUARY 2023 TOWNSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: Gerry Quickel commented on the update on treasurer report.
SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 2 NO: 0

TREE CANOPY UPDATE: Supervisor Hanes gave an update on the Tree Canopy project. It should be completed within the next 2 weeks.

SCHOOL HOUSE ROOF ADVERTISEMENT: Supervisor Mong published an advertisement for the School House roof. We will accept bids and open them during the April 2023 Township Meeting. At this point there was only one inquiry. Supervisor Hanes explained that they will be putting together a spec sheet so that all contractors are bidding the same job.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: Supervisor Mong has been working on the handbook. The drug policy that will be included was adopted on March 7, 2017. Anytime we have a new hire and they will be driving our vehicles they are required to take a drug test. The second item was holidays. On February 4, 2020 holidays that went into effect included 6 holidays; New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving & Christmas Day. Employees will receive time and a half if working the holiday. Supervisor Mong feels that we can go through this handbook and get it done a bit faster. Supervisor Mong and Supervisor Hanes will come up with 2 more items to be added to the handbook that will be worked on and added at the next meeting.

ADMINISTRATION FEES: In January we adopted an Administrative Fee Resolution that would add a 10% fee onto the permit amount for sewage and building permits. We have since learned that we cannot put a fee on building permits. Administrative Fee Resolution 2023-1 was amended to only put an administrative fee on sewage permits. Supervisor Mong made the motion to adopt the amendment. Supervisor Hanes made the second.

COMPLAINT LETTER: We received a complaint letter from an anonymous source concerning a property in Medix that has some burnt material that needs cleaned up. Supervisor Hanes talked with the property owner and the property owner is planning on rebuilding in August 2023.

JAY TOWNSHIP FIREMAN'S REPORT: Report is in the packet. This comes out once a year.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS: Anyone that is interesting in running is encouraged to go to the County starting February 14th and pick up a packet. There are 3 positions available: a 6 year term township supervisor, 6 year term auditor, & 6 year term constable. We have not had a constable in many years. Packets will need turned back in to the County by March 7th at 4 p.m.

ELK CO. ASSOCIATION \$600 SCHOLARSHIP FUND: We have applications here at the township for any Elk County senior that would like to apply for the scholarship.

ROADMASTERS REPORT: Supervisor Hanes explained that Jeff Stefanak will be meeting with the conservation district to look at all the drains to see which needs to be replaced. We are hoping to apply for a grant. Recently there was a pipe that was clogged on Hulett Street that has been replaced. Dee Chaney said there are 2 areas coming down off Winslow Hill that has drainage going across the street. She wondered if digging a ditch could help fix the issue. Jeff Stefanak explained what the issues are and what the plans are to fix the issues.

TOWNSHIP PUBLIC FORUM: no comments

TOWNSHIP PORTION OF THE MEETING ADJOURNED:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 2 NO: 0

SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION TO ACCEPT JANUARY 2023 SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 2 NO: 0

MOTION TO ACCEPT JANUARY 2023 SEWAGE TREASURER'S REPORT:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 2 NO: 0

DEP FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: Jeff Stefanak explained we had a couple of verbal warnings. We have worked through all the hurdles. We are cleared and good to go.

GRINDER PUMPS: We have 9 grinder pumps in stock and they are \$6,391.00.

YEAR DISCOUNTS: We have had 53 accounts take advantage of the year discounts.

SEWAGE ISSUE: One of the sewer mains on Front Street was plugged solid. Efforts were made to get through the line with a snake. The use of a 4,000 pound jet was used to try to push through it and it was unsuccessful. Finally, there was a 53 foot new line that had to be bored in next to the plugged pipe. It cost \$4,500 to have a closed trench put in. Supervisor Hanes thanked Jeff Stefanak for his efforts.

SEWAGE OPERATOR'S REPORT: no questions

SEWAGE PUBLIC FORUM:

Gary McQuaide – brought up concerns with the Blue Sky and the sewage. He said that he received a letter stating that properties have to be hooked into the sewage system. He is concerned about the properties that do not have sewage and they are dumping their sewage into the ground. He asked the township is addressing the issue.

SEWAGE MEETING ADJOURNED:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 2 NO: 0

Meeting Minutes transcribed by Krista Meyer, Township Secretary