

Benezette Township Meeting Meeting Minutes – June 6th, 2023

The Benezette Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday June 6th, 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 Chairman/Supervisor Doug Ruffo, Supervisor Brandi 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 Ruffo called the township meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance and thanked everyone for attending. Supervisor Ruffo noted that in special attendance for this evening's meeting was Dave Cunningham of Keller Engineers and Corporal McCloskey from the PA State Police.

FLOW OF THE MEETING: SUPERVISOR RUFFO REMINDED ALL GUESTS ABOUT THE FLOW OF THE MEETING. THE SUPERVISORS WILL SOLICIT QUESTIONS WHEN NEEDED, BUT IF A GUEST HAS ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE HOLD THEM OFF UNTIL THE PUBLIC FORUM PORTION OF THE MEETING.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MAY 2023 TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor B. Hanes YES: 3 NO: 0

MOTION TO ACCEPT MAY 2023 TOWNSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor B. Hanes YES: 3 NO: 0

MOTION TO ACCEPT MAY 10TH, 2023 SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES TO APPOINT A NEW TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor B. Hanes YES: 3 NO: 0

WELCOME NEW SUPERVISOR, BRANDI HANES. BRANDI GAVE A BRIEF RUNDOWN OF WHAT SOME OF HER GOALS AS A SUPERVISOR WILL BE. SHE WAS WELCOMED WITH APPLAUSE FROM EVERYONE IN THE AUDIENCE AND WE WISHED HER THE BEST IN FULFILLING HER NEW ROLE AS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR.

TAR & CHIPPING ROAD UPDATE WAS GIVEN BY SUPERVISOR RUFFO. DOING ABOUT TWICE AS MUCH THIS YEAR AS WAS DONE LAST YEAR. IT WILL START NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 12TH) AND THEY SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY EARLY AFTERNOON.

SCHOOL HOUSE / TOWNSHIP ROOF: THE THREE SUPERVISORS MET WITH THE CONTRACTORS WHOSE BIDS WERE RECEIVED. THE SUPERVISORS DECIDED TO GO WITH A SHINGLE ROOF, REMOVE THE TWO REMAINING DORMERS, REPLACE ALL WOOD UNDERNEATH, INSTALL BAT DEVICES AND GO WITH A & A CONSTRUCTION AT A COST OF \$48,450. THE MONIES TO PAY FOR THIS WILL COME FROM AN EXISTING SAVINGS ACCOUNT. IT'S A TOWNSHIP BUILDING AND IT IS A TOWNSHIP EXPENSE. NO CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE WITH ANYONE FROM THE SCHOOL HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HELPING OUT WITH PAYMENT OF THE ROOF (per DENISE CHANEY'S QUESTION).

MOTION TO ACCEPT ROOF BID FROM A&A CONSTRUCTION AT A COST OF \$48,450:

FIRST: SUPERVISOR MONG COMMENTS: NONE SECOND: SUPERVISOR HANES YES: 3 NO: 0

NERO PROJECT: D.E.P. JUST NEEDED AN UPDATED DATE ON THAT PROJECT FOR THEIR FILES.

CROSS DRAIN REPLACEMENT ON WINSLOW HILL: THERE IS A CROSS DRAIN ON WINSLOW HILL IN FRONT OF THE GAME COMMISSION HOUSE THAT HAS FAILED AND IS IN NEED OF EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT. THIS PIPE NEEDS FIXED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID ANY ISSUES. THE TOWNSHIP HAS CONTACTED KINKADE CONTRACTING AND THEY WILL BE DOING THE REPAIRS NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 12TH) AT A COST OF \$8,850. THE ROAD WILL BE CLOSED WHILE THIS CONSTRUCTION TAKES PLACE, WHICH SHOULD BE ONLY ONE DAY. ALL RESIDENTS THAT LIVE IN THAT AREA HAVE BEEN CONTACTED REGARDING THE CLOSURE.

PENN DOT SR 555 ROAD WORK: SUPERVISOR RUFFO GAVE AN UPDATED REPORT OF THE WORK THAT IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON JULY 5TH ON SR 555 IN CALEDONIA & THE CALEDONIA CUT-OFF. THIS PROJECT WILL RUN UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER... ALSO, PENN DOT WILL BE TAR & CHIPPING SR 555 FROM WEEDVILLE ALL THE WAY TO DENTS RUN STARTING ON AUGUST 7TH AND FINISHING UP ON AUGUST 18TH.

ROADMASTERS REPORT: WAS IN YOUR PACKETS.

MOTION TO APPOINT BRANDI HANES AS ROAD MASTER:

FIRST: SUPERVISOR MONG COMMENTS: NONE SECOND: SUPERVISOR RUFFO YES: 2 NO: 0

TOWNSHIP PUBLIC FORUM:

BOB DAVIS—DOES THE SCOPE OF WHAT THE ACTUAL (ROOF) BIDS CHANGE AT ALL? WAS REMOVING THE DORMERS A PART OF THE ORIGINAL BID? EXPAND ON DISCUSSING THE NERO SITE ON WINSLOW HILL?

DENISE CHANEY—WHAT IS THE FINAL COST OF THE ROOF BID? HAVE YOU TALKED WITH ANYONE FROM THE SCHOOL HOUSE COMMITTEE ABOUT HELPING OUT WITH THE COST OF THE ROOF? WANTED TO THANK ANYONE WHO HELPED, CONTRIBUTED, OR BOUGHT AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE COMMITTEE BAKE SALE ON ELECTION DAY. “WE DID VERY WELL”. ANY MORE INFORMATION ON THE MILITARY BANNERS (BRANDI ANSWERED)? WHERE ARE WE WITH “HOW DO WE WANT THE TOWNSHIP TO LOOK IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS”? WERE THE BEARS CAUGHT AND RELOCATED?

JOHN ROUSH—HAS THE BID (FOR THE ROOF) BEEN AWARDED YET?

GERRY QUICKEL—QUESTIONED WHEN THE WINDOWS TO THE SCHOOL HOUSE MIGHT GET REPLACED? COMPLIMENTED THE TOWNSHIP ON THE NEW WEBSITE.

JEFF STEFANAK—COMMENT ON THE ROUTE PEOPLE WILL BE TAKING TO AVOID THE WORK BY PENN DOT ON SR 555.

JIM MCCLUSKEY—WAS HERE TO SUPPORT HIS DAUGHTER (BRANDI HANES) AT HER FIRST MEETING AS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR.

GAIL GERHART—WONDERED IF ANYONE FROM TOWN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PLAYING PICKLEBALL ON THE TENNIS COURTS?

TOWNSHIP PORTION OF THE MEETING ADJOURNED:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 3 NO: 0

SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION TO ACCEPT MAY 2023 SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 3 NO: 0

MOTION TO ACCEPT MAY 2023 SEWAGE TREASURER’S REPORT:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 3 NO: 0

GRINDER PUMPS: THE TOWNSHIP MOST RECENTLY ORDERED EIGHT GRINDER PUMPS AND WE ARE NOW DOWN TO FOUR.

DAVE CUNNINGHAM FROM KELLER ENGINEERS: SUPERVISOR RUFFO INTRODUCED DAVE AND HE SPOKE AT LENGTH REGARDING A CONFERENCE CALL / PRE-APPLICATION MEETING LAST WEEK WITH PENNVEST, D.E.P. & MANY OTHERS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING MONEY TO FIX THE SEWER LINE THAT RUNS FROM THE “FLOW” OUT TO TROUT RUN. THE TOTAL COST OF THIS PROJECT IS \$350,000. THE TOWNSHIP IS HOPING THAT FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT WILL COME FROM PENNVEST

REED BEDS: ALTHOUGH THE TOWNSHIP HAS TRIED TWICE TO GET THE NEW REED BEDS GROWING, BOTH TIMES WE HAVE FAILED MISERABLY. WE ARE CURRENTLY TALKING WITH THE COUNTY TO GET FUNDING TO TRY A THIRD TIME. WE WILL HAVE AN UPDATE IN JULY AS TO WHERE WE ARE WITH THAT PIECE.

SEWAGE OPERATOR’S REPORT: NO COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS.

SEWAGE PUBLIC FORUM:

JIM MCCLUSKEY—QUESTIONS, COMMENTS REGARDING PUMP / SEWER ISSUES

JOHN ROUSH—QUESTIONS, COMMENTS REGARDING COSTS OF THE REED BEDS AND PROBLEMS INCURRED.

SEWAGE MEETING ADJOURNED:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: None SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 3 NO: 0