

## Benezette Township Meeting Meeting Minutes – July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Benezette Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup>, 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, 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.

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 JUNE 2023 TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES:

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT JUNE 2023 TOWNSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

TAR & CHIP PROJECT COMPLETED: Supervisor Hanes gave a brief update, stating the tar & chipping projects that the township had scheduled with Jay Township were completed and came in approximately \$500 under budget.

COPELLO RIGHT-OF-WAY: Supervisor Ruffo explained that the township had received a letter from an attorney with some questions about a right away "back here" (Copello property). It has been turned over to our solicitor and there won't be any more discussion about that at this time.

DONATIONS: Supervisor Ruffo made a motion to donate \$100 to Mt. Zion Cemetery Association. Supervisor Hanes seconded that motion. Motion carried. Supervisor Ruffo made a motion to make \$100 donation to the Jay Township Fire Department. Supervisor Hanes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

\$7,000 LIQUID FUEL COUNTY AID: At different times of the year the township is notified of different amounts of money the township will be receiving. We were just notified that we will be receiving \$7,000 in Liquid Fuel money. We are just going to recoup that \$7,000 and put it towards the tar & chipping that was done this year.

SCHOOL HOUSE COMMITTEE: Bridget Rucki spoke on behalf of the School House Committee. She stated that they were very happy to see that a new roof would be going on the school house, but they were a little slighted that they were not asked what they would like to see. They would like to get the school house placed on the National Historical Register and they wished that the dormers could have stayed on the building because taking them off decreases the chances of getting on the Registry. She presented a check for \$10,000 to the township to be used towards the roof. Both Supervisor Ruffo and Supervisor Hanes thanked them for their donation. Mrs. Rucki thanked everyone who helped in any way to raise funds for a very worthy cause. Applause was given to the School House Committee for their gracious donation. Many comments and questions regarding the dormers were received. It is cheaper to remove the dormers than to re-do them and the dormers are a main source of where the bats are coming in and out.

GREG KIGHT: Mr. Kight introduced himself and stated he and his brother had recently purchased some property on the right going up Winslow Hill near Dennis Millers' (Burkes') property. He gave a brief rundown of his family history and then stated, "It is a commercially zoned property, so they have submitted plans to put a commercial property in there. The plans are to build "mom and pop" type businesses in there. They are looking at a glassblower from North Carolina, a wildlife portrait studio and other local artisans. This is to bring more people into Benezette and help with the economy and such. Supervisor Ruffo asked what the square footage might be? Mr. Kight stated 3000-3500 square feet 2 story commercial building. Bob Davis questioned if they were within the sewer service area? Troy Reinford stated that they are looking to break ground in about four months or so.

Second Street Garage: Supervisor Hanes discussed what some of the issues were with the Second Street Garage. She stated that the current roof is leaking terribly, the exterior needs painted, some weed eating and general maintenance needs done. She will be getting an estimate for the roof and report the progress at the next township meeting.

ROADMASTERS REPORT: WAS IN YOUR PACKETS. Supervisor Hanes gave a brief rundown of the work that they are doing which mainly has been on Winslow Hill.

Zoning Meeting: Supervisor Ruffo briefly stated the highlights of last weeks meeting regarding zoning.

TOWNSHIP PUBLIC FORUM:

Bob Davis—questioned what account the \$7,000 Liquid Fuel money went into? Is there any chance of rethinking maintaining the dormers on the school house? What was the cost difference between leaving the dormers on and taking them off? Questions / comments for Mr. Kight. What’s the purpose of the Second Street Garage today? Could that building be sold and just build another garage over here? Why have the zoning meeting so close to the regular township meeting? The document that you are talking about is a zoning document?

Bert Reis—comment on the dormers...stating they bring a lot of light into the building and he found it hard to believe that it cost more to take the dormers off than it would to leave them on. Did the contractors just not want to mess around with the dormers? What would the cost be to re-do the dormers? Happy as heck to have Dollinger road done. They did a good job and he’s happy to see it finally get done.

Jim Borza—Was the bid already awarded (for the roof)? Doesn’t believe you can change the specs in a bid after it has already been awarded. What is the status of the pipe on his road? How does the zoning affect the rentals that already exist? Are you just worried about (zoning) in town or all of Benezette?

Bridget Rucki—can parts of the dormer be saved? Wanted to remind everyone that the Schoolhouse Committee holds a meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month and everyone is welcome to attend.

John Roush: Which trailer was painted? Do we have this building set up for use as an emergency center in case of a blackout? Can we contact the State Police and let them know if a tree comes down on 555 it’s not our responsibility because they called him? Can I get a copy of last week’s meeting minutes?

Donna McKain: Good job on the tar & chipping. Questions / comments to Mr. Kight

Troy Fisher: Do you intend on sweeping up the loose tar & chipping. Dangerous to motorcycles. Questions / comments regarding contacting the power company.

Dave Weber: What are State Police Fines?

Doug Gatton: Last fall you (the township) said you were looking at multiple zoning ordinances to put into place. There’s no deadline in speaking at the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting?

TOWNSHIP PORTION OF THE MEETING ADJOURNED:

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

## SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION TO ACCEPT JUNE 2023 SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES:

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT JUNE 2023 SEWAGE TREASURER’S REPORT:

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

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

EFFLUENT PUMP STATION: We have spoke with our engineers, D.E.P. and PennVest and now we need to make a motion to get the financial assistance funding resolution adopted, so that we can move forward with PennVest to get our funding for that. Supervisor Hanes made a motion to move forward with the PennVest Financial Assistance application. No comments received. Supervisor Ruffo seconded that motion. Motion carried.

SEWAGE OPERATOR’S REPORT: In the packets. NO COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS.

SEWAGE PUBLIC FORUM:

Troy Reinfeld: question regarding Marc Nero project.

Bob Davis: Grinder pump coming from what expense account? Questions about the effluent pump station.

John Roush: Is this financial assistance a grant or are we going to have to pay back some of the money? Can we reject their (PennVest’s) proposal?

SEWAGE MEETING ADJOURNED:

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