

**Benezette Township Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

The Benezette Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</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 Pamela Mong, 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 JULY 2023 TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES:

FIRST: Supervisor Mong COMMENTS: Dee Chaney questioned the meeting minutes in regard to Mr. Kight saying his property was zoned for commercial and she thought there was no zoning as of yet and no comments on the questions in the public forum. Jim Borza wanted to confirm that if people had something already there were grandfathered in.  
SECOND: Supervisor Hanes YES: 3 NO: 0

MOTION TO ACCEPT JULY 2023 TOWNSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT JUNE 29, 2023 SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES:

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

SARGENT DOLAN/STATE POLICE: Supervisor Ruffo introduced Sgt. Dolan from the PA state police in Ridgway. Sgt. Dolan has been a police officer for the last 20 years. Part of his duties is to attend township meetings to see what the community needs may be and how they can help. Bob Davis questioned whether he had any business cards. Gerry Quickel questioned if there was anything they could do to slow down the traffic by his house on 555. He lives on a curve that is 35 miles per hour and people go about 55-60mph. Sgt. Dolan responded that if anyone has issues with specific places and times, they could set up a patrol check for a half hour to an hour for a month during the busiest times. The trooper would monitor traffic. At the end of the month, it would be determined if it was an issue area depending on the number of cars vs. offenders. If it is a problem area then they can have their guys spend more time there. John Roush questioned whether tractor trailers are allowed to run Quehanna Hwy. John passed a tanker truck that was going 65mph and threw stones all over John's truck from the recent tar & chip. Kristy Blythe questioned if the State Police would have more of a presence during Benezette's busy season and concerns with teens driving for school. Supervisor Ruffo commented that they had addressed police presence and sheriff's car at the pre-rut meeting. Brian Chaney commended the young guys that they have seen out. Sgt. Dolan said if you need him call him.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE: The roof was finished last week. The initial quote was \$48,500 and they had knocked a couple thousand off. When they finished a bit early, they knocked another thousand off. The end price was \$45,500. We applied this year's Impact Fee money (\$14,622.52) and also our Impact Fee Savings (\$20,877.48). The School House Committee donated \$10,000. Supervisor Ruffo commented that we were very pleased with the folks that did the roof. Dee Chaney questioned if they kept the windows from the dormers. Sup. Ruffo commented that they need to come and get the windows asap so they do not get damaged. Gerry Quickel questioned whether this will resolve the bat issues. Supervisor Ruffo commented that they seen many bats fly out. The Game Commission will be coming to put up 2 more bat boxes and check to see if they are moving into the current bat box. That will be the ultimate goal. The Township also purchased a couple bat excluders to be installed if there still seems to be bats so they can get out and not get back in. Our next step will be to get up there and get the mess cleaned up stairs.

2<sup>nd</sup> STREET MAINTENANCE GARAGE: Supervisor Brandi Hanes address the work to be done to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Garage as it is needing attention. The price to replace the roof came in at \$7,450.00. We are going to have it repainted and the blockwork fixed. They will be working at getting it cleaned up around the building. Eventually putting a good base around it to fix the driveway so it can be used again. Sup. Hanes commented that for under \$9,000 they should have that building in tip top shape.

GARBAGE: Sup. Ruffo explained that Sgt. Dolan had come and talked with the supervisors about ways we an address illegal dumping. We will need to get with Waste Management and our solicitor on the garbage issue and the next steps.

ROADMASTER REPORT: Sup. Hanes said we have been doing some upgrades to Medix Grade with replacing cross drains. That will be paid for by the Conservation District. We have been up there with the brush hog and have a lot of tree clean up that needs done. They also have been brush hogging Winslow Hill and would like to clean all the drains out. Brian Chaney commented that Medix looks great. He questioned if they would be working on the potholes that are like landmines. The supervisors are

planning on bringing in millings that they received from PennDot to fill them in. Jim Borza commented that there are 2 potholes on Black Snake where it had settled after the work that was done recently.

TOWNSHIP PUBLIC FORUM:

Donna McKain – questioned if we could put a reserved sign up for when the pavilion is rented. The pavilion was rented for a family reunion and someone came before and was using the pavilion.

Jerry Willaman – questioned the Solicitor fee of \$5,700 and what was that used for. He questioned how long can the Township keep that up? He feels we should have a local solicitor.

Chuck Brotherton – Could the town have a list on their website of all the businesses and a brief description of their services? He talks with many people and they don't know what all is in Benazette. They go to the Township website and it doesn't say anything. He also talked about the elk. He has been coming here for 20 years and has been living here for 11 years. He used to sit and watch the wildlife and take many pictures. He feels the amount has been dwindling. He claims the reason is that the food plots are being planted in the northern counties vs. here. He would like the Township to approach the game commission to plant the plots here again. He thinks KECA and the Township have the most power to get something done.

Andy Sorg – questioned if the Township could get hidden driveway signs for by his place.

Troy Reinford – questioned if there could some placed by the Morning Mist/Blue Sky as well.

Supervisor Ruffo – said he will contact Daren (PennDot) to see what the distance is to place the signs before and after the hidden driveway. Signs will be ordered.

Dee Chaney – has noticed signs popping up all over. Are there any regulations that have to be followed or can they just put signs wherever? Supervisor Ruffo commented that currently there is nothing regulating this except for on 555 which is a State road which PennDot oversees.

John Roush – had heard a statement that building permits have been postponed for now? Will you be moving forward with the zoning and it be voted on next week?

Supervisor Ruffo – You will need to doing a zoning application first before the building permit. Next week's meeting is a public forum to get people's feedback on zoning. It will not be voted on at that meeting. It is not perfect by any stretch of the means and needs to be tweaked.

Troy Reinford – questioned if the Township had any companies come in and do a premature evaluation of what should be zoning and what should not be zoning, etc.?

Triston Reinford – questioned if we should source this out?

Supervisor Hanes – commented that we are in the very infant stages of this. How do we want this to look? What don't you want it to look like? What do we want? What don't we want? Is this worth moving forward?

TOWNSHIP PORTION OF THE MEETING ADJOURNED:

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

**SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION TO ACCEPT JULY 2023 SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES:

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT JULY 2023 SEWAGE TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

SEWAGE OPERATOR'S REPORT: In the packets. No comments or questions.

SEWAGE PUBLIC FORUM:

John Roush – questioned about the work on the pump to start? Is there a possibility we can get a grant?

SEWAGE MEETING ADJOURNED:

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

Meeting Minutes transcribed by Secretary Krista Meyer