

Benezette Township Meeting Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2023

The Benezette Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday December 5, 2023 at the Benezette School House located at 105 Schoolhouse Road, Benezette, PA. A workshop began at 5:30 PM with the township meeting starting at 6:00 PM. Present were Supervisor Doug Ruffo, Supervisor Pam 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 NOVEMBER 2023 TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES:

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT NOVEMBER 2023 TOWNSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

2024 BUDGET: Supervisor Ruffo stated that the budget rolled out last month and there have been no changes. Everything is budgeted as if nothing has changed. So, the salaries are budgeted as if nothing has changed. We recently laid off one employee, so there will be some savings there. We did budget for benefits for one full-time employee, which is the same that we have done in the past. A motion was then made to accept the 2024 budget.

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

DGLVR (DIRT & GRAVEL) PROJECTS: Supervisor Ruffo stated that one project on Winslow Hill that was approximately \$8,000 was reimbursed by the Conservation District. The other project was on Medix Grade Road. Two cross drains were completed. The new Board will have some projects to work with the Conservation District. Medix Grade will be needing some ditch work and putting some new stone down will be among the projects that will need to be worked on.

ROADMASTERS REPORT: WAS IN THE PACKETS. Supervisor Hanes asked if there were any questions regarding the Road Master report. No comments or questions were asked.

TOWNSHIP PUBLIC FORUM:

Chuck Brotherton: When does the new board take over? Is there a transition process? Supervisor Ruffo stated that the current board has talked to the two new incoming Supervisors and they have also talked with Krista Meyer and Supervisor Mong. He expects no issues with the transition.

Gail Gerhart: Just wanted to thank Supervisor Ruffo for the outstanding job he has done over the years that he has been a supervisor.

Bob Davis: Wished to thank both Supervisor Ruffo and Supervisor Hanes for their service.

TOWNSHIP PORTION OF THE MEETING ADJOURNED:

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

SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION TO ACCEPT NOVEMBER 2023 SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES:

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT NOVEMBER 2023 SEWAGE TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

PLANT OPERATOR CHANGES: Supervisor Ruffo brought everyone up to speed on the staffing changes at the sewer plant. Holly Martinchek has moved on. The township is going to retain her for a 6-month period for consultation. Jeff Stefanak took over as Sewage Plant Operator on December 1st. Jeff will be working at a rate of \$950 per month, plus any hours spent at the plant doing operational duties will be at a rate of \$20 per hour. It was also budgeted in to have Aidan Hoffman work 8 hours a week at the plant to eventually be able to cover for Jeff as Assistant Plant Operator.

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

SEWAGE PUBLIC FORUM:

Bob Davis: Is there any update on the pipe project? Supervisor Ruffo stated we have a call this Thursday with PennVest just to answer some questions and then on December 20th we have another call and then in January there is a meeting scheduled.

Brandi Hanes: Stated she had all of the notes for the military flags and poles for whomever wanted to take that over. She also thanked the two other Supervisors and the Secretary. Stating it had been a pleasure working with them.

Krista Meyer: She thanked Supervisor Ruffo and Supervisor Hanes for all they have done and then presented them with a token of our appreciation for the amount of work that they have done. She also presented Supervisor Ruffo with a Certificate of Appreciation from PSATS for his years of service. Cupcakes were available to share with everyone.

Doug Ruffo: Thanked the Board and Staff. He thanked the folks that attended the meetings—stating he appreciated them. He explained how and why he got into being a supervisor and described at length how things have changed for the better over the years. He also thanked our preacher, stating, she has been very supportive with the township trying to make this a better place to live. To his family.....he apologized. Stating they know he doesn't do anything half-assed. It's a 24/7 on call job and he appreciates his family's support with that. He was sorry for the personal attacks that his family took and expressed how much he loved them. To his haters...he forgave them. To the new board....he wished them well and offered help, if ever needed.

SEWAGE MEETING ADJOURNED:

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