

Benezette Township Meeting Meeting Minutes – January 2, 2024

The Benezette Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday January 2, 2024 at the Benezette School House located at 105 Schoolhouse Road, Benezette, PA. A workshop began at 5:30 PM with the Organizational Meeting starting at 6:00 PM and the regular Township Meeting immediately following (6:30 pm). Present were Supervisor Pamela Mong, Supervisor Tom Wilson, Supervisor Amanda Maholtz, and Secretary/Treasurer Krista Meyer. Please see the attached sign in sheet for residents and guests present at the meeting. Supervisor Pam Mong called the township meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance and thanked everyone for attending.

MOTION TO ACCEPT DECEMBER 2023 TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES:

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT DECEMBER 2023 TOWNSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT:

FIRST: Supervisor Wilson COMMENTS: Jim Borza question about the missing meeting minutes on the website. He later retracted as he seen they were posted. Bob Davis questioned about the entry for Jay Twp. Supervisors. Mr. Davis also questioned about the payroll being more detailed in the treasurer's report as it had been in the past.

SECOND: Supervisor Mong YES: 3 NO: 0

PILT – Payment in Lieu of Taxes: Sup. Wilson spoke of the increase in PILT money to \$2.40 per acre. Both DCNR and Game Commission has had this increase. DCNR was \$2 and now \$2.40. The Game Commission was \$1.20 and will increase to \$2.40. This means roughly a \$28,000 increase for the Township. This is great news.

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

TOWNSHIP PUBLIC FORUM:

Chuck Brotherton – What changes and differences does this new board have for the town? Sup. Wilson said that he would like to focus on saving money. He would like to look at the insurance policies, list of subscriptions, and make sure we aren't spending more than what we need to. Keep the roads safe. Supervisor Maholtz said improvements are always the goal. Sup. Wilson said he needs to go around and evaluate everything. Mr. Brotherton questioned about their jobs and how is that going to work during the weather and needs? The employees will do the work for the most part.

Dave Weber - questioned about the unpaid sewage accounts. There is approximately \$10,000 outstanding. Mr. Weber questioned what can we do to get them to pay their past due amounts. Mr. Weber questioned many violators is that? Currently we have 4 liens on accounts.

Dave Weber - questioned about the white pine that was cut down by Devil's Elbow side. It is laying on the side of the berm. What are you going to do with the plowing?

John Roush – questioned about the snow coming, in the past the township would do the Blue Sky going up the hill.... Sup. Wilson commented that he did that on his personal level not the township. Blue Sky is not one of the township roads and they cannot antiskid that. Mr. Roush questioned if the Township will be having an issue that the cinders are coming onto Winslow Hill.

Bob Davis – in regard to the logs on the side of the road... there is always road checks being done on the roadmaster report. He doesn't understand the point if the township is not going to eliminate the problem. Sup. Maholtz said she would like more of a detailed log to say exactly what they are doing. Sup. Wilson commented that they will not be doing road checks on a daily basis as that is extreme.

Dot Trayer – commented that there are limbs that come down daily. She said it is an ongoing battle for the Township.

Chuck Brotherton – questioned if there's a problem found shouldn't you take care of it? Sup. Wilson said the roadworkers should take care of it depending on what it is. Sup. Wilson said if it is trees down or wires, they need to come back and we will call professionals to come and take care of it.

Dee Chaney – questioned the drainage problem coming from Elk Life and the church that is causing water and sheets of ice been taken care of this year? Brian Chaney add that it comes out by the church parking lot. Sup. Wilson said that he will take a look at it during a heavy rain & remedy the situation if needed.

Jerry Willaman – questioned if there was any way we can get LED lights in the meeting room. Sup. Wilson commented that he has already been looking at the lighting in this room as the fans look like they are going to fall.

TOWNSHIP PORTION OF THE MEETING ADJOURNED:

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

SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION TO ACCEPT DECEMBER 2023 SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES:

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT DECEMBER 2023 SEWAGE TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

PUMP STATION SEALED BIDS: Sup. Wilson introduced Dave Cunningham with Keller Engineers. Dave Cunningham said that he will give a description of the project after the bids are opened. He had a listing of all the inquiries that if anyone wanted to write the amounts down, they were able to do so. Mr. Cunningham opened the bids:

1. McClellan Excavating - \$207,273.00
2. Continental Construction - \$282,248.00
3. Dave Roman Excavating, Inc. - \$268,430.00
4. Sippel Development Co. - \$147,909.00
5. Mansfield Sanitation Services LLC - \$119,500.00
6. Konzal Construction Co., Inc. - \$210,000.00
7. SE Construction Group LLC - \$211,228.00
8. Pennwest Contracting, Inc. - \$156,795.00
9. Guyer Brothers, Inc. - \$267,050.00
10. Greenland Construction, Inc. - \$231,000.00

The action to decide on a bid is going to be tabled for now until the bids can be gone through. It will be awarded at a later meeting date. Dave Cunningham thanked the contractors that attended the meeting and for their interest in the project. He wished them a safe trip home. Dave Cunningham explained the project to put in an effluent pump station. This project is to eliminate an ongoing issue. Currently there is a temporary pump that has been successful. This would be a permanent fix to this issue. The Township applied to PennVest & has been awarded a \$350,000 package (\$106,700 grant & \$243,300 low interest loan). We have a conference call with PennVest on January 8th to go over the bids. Jerry Willaman questioned the liability on the original construction. Mr. Willaman believes that there should be some recourse on the original construction. Sup. Wilson questioned why this worked for so long and now it doesn't? Dave Cunningham talked about the paced chlorination for the past couple of years. The consent order with DEP, the township has been under that order for the past 5 years. Bob Davis questioned whether there will be any more projects that will be coming down the road. Dave Cunningham said that they had fixed many things that were bigger issues. This is an issue that was just discovered after they went through their "wish list". The reed beds need some work, but that is just an operational thing which needs to be addressed. It shouldn't be a huge expense. DEP has been out and looked at the plant are generally pleased. The Sewage Plant has not been released from the consent order yet as this issue needs to be permanently fixed. Sup. Wilson explained the replanting of the reed beds. Bob Davis questioned whether that is something we can do as for labor? John Roush questioned about the pump and if we have one already why do we need to put another one in there? Dave Cunningham explained that the pump that is in there is temporary. The way it is is not approved by DEP. The capacity is not there in that temporary setup. The outfall will change, but there will be wet well that is below that. John Roush questioned whether you would drink the water that came out from there? Everyone swims in the creek below that. Should the Township have something there to protect themselves? Dave Cunningham explained that the Township has met its legal limits and meeting the states requirements. Chuck Brotherton questioned if the plant malfunctions and contaminants are put into the stream would the Township be legally liable? Kim Roberts stated that the quality of the water is as good as the quality of water that it is being discharged into, that is what is required from the state of Pennsylvania. Dave Cunningham explained that there will be new wet well (oversized manhole 15 feet deep) back by the plant. The wet well will go in beside that existing outfall that goes to the stream, it will be set in that open space. There will be 2 pumps inside of that wet well. Within the existing outfall line there will be a 2-inch pressure line that travels the length of the pipe. That will be the force main that it will push through; Water will come out of the plant, it will fill up the wet well, the pumps will come on, drain the wet well down, push that water out through the 2-inch line into the stream. Instead of gravity flow it will be a pressure flow that will be more intermittent. Chuck Brotherton questioned whether that would allow future growth? Dave Cunningham explained the Chapter 94 report that is submitted to DEP every year. This report is to compare the design capacity to the plant to the actual flows coming into it. We are not near capacity and there is room for growth.

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

SEWAGE PUBLIC FORUM:

Tanya Gallagher questioned about the discount if sewage is paid for the year if that is still applicable. The answer was yes.

SEWAGE MEETING ADJOURNED:

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