

The Benezette Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday March 5, 2024 that started at 6pm located at 105 School House Rd, Benezette, PA. Present were supervisors Amanda Maholtz, Pam Mong, Tom Wilson. Please see the attached sign in sheet for guests present at the meeting. Supervisor Wilson called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance and a reminder that meetings are recorded.

Motion to accept February 2024 Township Meeting Minutes

First: Supervisor Wilson Comments: None Second: Supervisor Mong Yes:3 No:0

Motion to accept February 2024 Township Treasurer's Report

First: Supervisor Wilson Comments: None Second: Supervisor Mong Yes:3 No:0

Open Records Officer: Pam Mong Supervisor/Assistant Secretary was appointed as Open Record Officer.

First: Supervisor Wilson Comments: None Second: Supervisor Maholtz Yes:3

Emergency Management Coordinator Supervisor Wilson explained that they incorrectly appointed Russ Braun as Emergency Management Coordinator at the January Organizational Meeting. Wilson stated that he spoke with the County Emergency Management coordinator and asked if township employee Aidan Hoffman would qualify for the position as he also has firefighter training. Wilson reported that it was fine. Resident John Roush asked if we could possibly get some type of notifications of when a disaster is occurring. Resident Bob Davis stated the importance of having a secondary Township Emergency Management coordinator and possibly even more than that for a team. Resident Bob Davis encouraged Supervisor Wilson to become a Secondary Emergency Management Coordinator.

Motion to appoint Aidan Hoffman as the Primary Township's Emergency Management Coordinator

First: Supervisor Wilson Second: Supervisor Mong Yes:3 No:0

Motion to appoint Tom Wilson as the Township's Secondary Emergency Management Coordinator

First: Supervisor Maholtz Second: Supervisor Mong Yes:3 No:0

First Commonwealth Authorized Signers Supervisor Wilson stated that the Supervisors should have removed previous secretary/treasurer at the last monthly meeting, but did not and needed to do so. Wilson also stated that the township needed to add Interim secretary/treasurer Morgan Kurtz as an authorized signer. A motion was made to remove Krista Meyer and add Morgan Kurtz as an authorized First Commonwealth Bank signer.

First: Supervisor Wilson Comments: None Second: Supervisor Mong Yes:3 No:0

Township Credit Cards Supervisor Wilson explained that First Commonwealth Bank wanted the township to state at a public meeting, the names and amounts of each person to be issued a credit card. Supervisor Wilson stated that he believed a \$1,000 credit limit should be issued to each supervisor and a \$2000 credit limit should be issued to the road master.

A motion was made to issue First Commonwealth Bank credit cards in the amounts of \$1000 to Supervisor Amanda Maholtz, \$1000 to Supervisor Pam Mong, \$1000 to Supervisor Tom Wilson and \$2000 to Road Master Justin Arnold.

First: Supervisor Wilson Comments: None Second: Supervisor Maholtz Yes:3 No:0

Road Master's Report There were no comments or questions.

Benezette School Fund Update Supervisor Wilson gave an update on the fund and explained that "the fund" is also known as "the committee". Wilson explained that the current board of supervisors will be working closely with the School House Fund. Wilson stated that in order to bring more transparency as to what the Benezette School Fund does, that the School House Fund has offered to start providing either monthly or quarterly reports to let the township know what kind of activities they've been engaged in. The School House Fund has also agreed to provide the Benezette Township Supervisors with a yearly audit. Supervisor Wilson encouraged those that would like to know more about The School House Fund to attend their meetings. Wilson also emphasized that The School House Fund is in need of more volunteers. Resident Bob Davis commented that The Benezette School Fund meetings are typically the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6 pm at the School House/ Township Building located in Benezette.

Township Public Forum: There were no questions or comments during the public forum

Township Portion of the meeting adjourned

First: Supervisor Wilson Comments: None Second: Supervisor Mong Yes:3 No:0

March 2024 Sewage Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept February 2024 Sewage Meeting Minutes

First: Supervisor Wilson Comments: None Second: Supervisor Mong Yes:3 No:0

Motion to accept February 2024 Sewage Treasurer's Report

First: Supervisor Wilson Comments: None Second: Supervisor Maholtz Yes:3 No:0

Grant Application Supervisor Wilson stated that the township applied for grant money from the Act 13 Fund to help with the project of redoing 2 out of the 3 reed beds at the sewage facility. Wilson stated that he felt it was a long shot as the fund is limited and they typically get numerous applicants, but that it was definitely worth trying for.

Wage increase for Sewage Plant Employee Ray Mong

Supervisor Wilson stated: "I really think we need to do more for Ray Mong, he is the "day-to-day guy" that keeps the sewage plant going. The guys from the EADS group told me that Ray is the best that they've ever dealt with and they are extremely impressed with how meticulous Ray is with his record keeping. While the EADS group estimates their cost to be Plant Operator at \$650/month, as said at the last meeting, they would also charge \$350/month to do the EDMR reports. We have worked out a deal with the EADS Group that Ray will do the EDMR reports and only EADS will have to submit them. This would lower the cost for the township from \$350/month to \$100/month for a \$250 per month savings. I think the township should split these saving with Ray and increase his pay to a more reasonable level for the current times that we live in. Ray works an average of 10 hours per week at the Sewage Plant, so giving him a \$3 an hour increase in pay would equate to approximately an extra \$120 per month and being that he is saving the township \$250/month for doing the EDMR reports, this could be a wage increase without cost to the township, the township would still be saving money due to Ray doing the EDMR reports."

Resident John Roush asked if the Plant Operator prior to the EADS group performed the EDMR reports. Wilson stated that they did and that it was incorporated into their cost. Wilson also stated that Ray Mong had experience doing them, so there should not be an issue.

A motion was made to increase Ray Mong's pay rate from \$17/hr to \$20/hr.

First: Supervisor Wilson Second: Supervisor Maholtz Yes: 2 Abstain: 1

Sewage Operator's Report There were no questions or comments

Sewage Public Forum: Resident Bob Davis asked how things were coming along regarding the issue with the effluent discharge pipe. Supervisor Wilson explained that the EADS Group was currently working on it. Wilson said the project was currently in "concept phase" and after that the EADS Group would meet with the Township Supervisors and DEP to get approval to proceed. Wilson said that measurements were taken a week or so ago and that while there are no guarantees, the engineers at the EADS Group feel that it should work.

Resident Donna Mckain stated that there is a large hole in the ground near the footbridge. Supervisor Wilson said that they would take a look at it and see what is going on.

Sewage Meeting Adjourned

First: Supervisor Wilson Comments: None Second: Supervisor Mong Yes:3 No:0