

## April 2024 Township Meeting Notes

The Benezette Twp Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on 4/4/24 at 6pm at the Benezette township building. Present were supervisors Amanda Maholtz, Pam Mong and Tom Wilson and Acting/Interim Secretary Morgan Kurtz. Please see the attached sign in sheet for guests present. Supervisor Wilson called the meeting to order.

### Motion to accept March 2024 Township Meeting Minutes

First: Wilson Second: Mong Yes 3 Comments: None

### Motion to accept March 2024 Township Treasurer's Report

First: Wilson Second: Mong Yes 3 Comments: None

Public Restroom Grant Application Supervisor Wilson stated several reason why he believed it was not in the best interest of the township to proceed forward with the plan and that the grant application should be withdrawn. Many attendees stated reasons why we should continue with the grant application. Resident Tom Dugan stated that it is a good thing because tourists help keep Benezette strong with tourism dollars spent. Supervisor Wilson stated that while tourism may help businesses, businesses are only a small portion of the residents of Benezette Township and that a public restroom facility will not benefit the bulk of the township residents and only a small portion of residents. Resident Jim Borza as well as many other folks present also felt that a public restroom would be a good thing for the township. Attendees also stated that the upkeep costs would be similar to the current outdoor restroom. Supervisor Wilson felt that upkeep costs, even if the project itself is 100% grant funded, will be a burden on the taxpayers of Benezette property owners in the future. Resident Dee Chaney suggested to table it and get more public opinion. Wilson agreed and tabled the discussion until further public input is provided.

Spring Road Cleanup Monday Apr 22 Supervisor Mong reminded attendees of the Rt 555 road cleanup day and reminded people of the event and that volunteers were needed.

Assistance from Auditors with Insurance & Banking Supervisor Wilson stated that the current board of supervisors will be working with Township's Auditor Group for help and guidance with such business. Supervisor Wilson stated that he spoke with the township solicitor to make sure it was ok and that it was. Wilson also said that he spoke with Auditor Bob Davis about helping out with this and that he said he could. Wilson stated that Auditor Bob Davis is a great person to help with this as he has extensive experience and it would benefit the township to have him help with these decisions.

Election Hall Sign Donation Wilson stated that property owner Dan Mattivi has donated the township an old election hall sign from the old election hall that Mattivi owns. The attendees and the board of supervisors were very thankful for this and gave a "thank you" to Dan even though he was not in attendance.

Skid Steer Repairs & Refund Supervisor Wilson stated that the recently acquired skid steer needed a new hydraulic pump and the total bill was \$8077.37 and that Wilson contacted the dealer it was purchased from and the dealer sent a \$2500 check to the township to help cover the costs, so the township ended up with a final repair bill of \$5577.37

Harbor Freight Tool Purchase Supervisor Wilson explained that a check issued to him for \$607.26 was for a reimbursement for money he spent on tools for the road dept. Wilson stated that First Commonwealth Bank has been continuing to delay the township credit cards and that Harbor Freight would not accept a township check, so Wilson put the tools on his own credit card and then was reimbursed from the township.

Ambulance Service Supervisor Wilson explained that the Bennett's Valley Ambulance Service located in Penfield, PA is operating on a very limited schedule and when they are not in service, ambulances will come from either St. Mary's, Kersey or Dubois, PA and that this is very concerning as it will add time to the EMS response time. Wilson said he has been reaching out to many including the State Senator for help or guidance with this. Wilson stated that he has been in contact with the 2 of the Jay Township Supervisors including Kathy Blake and asked her if she could get a meeting arranged with Jay & Benezette Township supervisors and the Bennett's Valley Ambulance Service to try to identify the problem and possible solutions. Supervisor Amanda Maholtz, who is a teacher at St. Mary's Area High School, reported that the high school has an EMS training program and that she spoke with the coordinator about possibly getting student help to assist. There was much discussion and concern among the attendees. Benezette Township Assistant Road Master and also a Volunteer Firefighter, Aidan Hoffman and Resident Jim Borza both had a lot to offer with ideas of how we can make the situation a little safer for the time being. The board of supervisors were grateful for their input and will be working to find solutions.

Road Master's Report No questions or comments were received.

Resident Dee Chaney provided a School Fund Committee report and reminded everyone of the flea market to be held Sat April 20th from 8am-3pm at the School House grounds and that volunteers are still needed to help with the event.

Township Public Forum Resident Jim Borza asked if we can get some stone put down in the dumpster area to take care of the mud. Resident Denise Weber said that a phone call to the township office was not returned. Many residents asked what days the township office will be available to the public. Supervisor Mong responded that the plan was Mon-Wed-Fri. Supervisor Wilson stated that they were unsure at this time what the public hours would be. Jay Township Supervisor Joe Uberti asked if we have any fire hydrants in town. Assistant Road Master Aidan Hoffman answered that they did not, but that the fire company had an area to draw water out of the creek. Joe Uberti asked if we thought it may be a good idea for us to have at least one firetruck. Supervisor Wilson stated that it might be nice, but at what cost. Resident Jim Borza told the supervisors that they should look for grants for some medical equipment to keep in the township, the board of supervisors agreed that it is something to look into. Interim Secretary Morgan Kurtz asked the attendees what reasons they may have to have a township secretary at the office and available to the public. Resident Dee Chaney said that construction related forms may be necessary to be picked up at the office. Supervisor Wilson stated that most forms were available on the township website and if someone did not have access to the office, they could call the office and set up a time to meet with someone.

Township Portion of the Meeting Adjourned

First: Wilson Second: Mong Yes 3 Comments: None

April 2024 Sewage Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept March 2024 Sewage Meeting Minutes

First: Wilson Second: Mong Yes 3 Comments: None

Motion to accept March 2024 Sewage Treasurer's Report

First: Wilson Second: Mong Yes 3 Comments: None

Act 13 Grant Request for Reed Bed Project Update Supervisor Wilson stated that the township received a \$5,000 grant from the Act 13 funds to help fund the Reed Bed Project and that \$5000 will cover about a third of the costs and the township was very grateful for getting money to help with this.

PA Municipal Services Supervisor Wilson and Interim Secretary Morgan Kurtz explained that PA Municipal Services can take over the sewage billing and they can offer more payment options than the township currently can. Cost to the township would be approx the same and it would save a lot of time for the township. Attendees were in favor of moving forward with it.

Motion to proceed forward with having PA Municipal Services take over the sewage billing

First: Wilson Second: Maholtz Yes:3

Supervisor Wilson explained that a Sewage Operator's Report will no longer be included with the packet, but if anyone wanted to see it they can stop in or let the supervisors know. Wilson also provided an update on the flowmeter relocation project and said after speaking with the EADS Group this morning, that hopefully within a month work would begin on the relocation of the meter.

Sewage Public Forum No comments or questions received.

Sewage Meeting Adjourned

First: Wilson Second: Mong Yes 3 Comments: None