

BENEZETTE TOWNSHIP MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 3rd, 2024

The Benezette Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday September 3rd, 2024, at the Benezette School House located at 105 Schoolhouse Road, Benezette, PA. The Township Meeting started at 6:00PM. Present were Supervisor Tom Wilson, Supervisor Amanda Maholtz, Supervisor Pamela Mong and Secretary/Treasurer Dana Gallagher. Please see the attached sign in sheet for residents and guests present at the meeting. Supervisor Tom Wilson called the township meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AUGUST 2024 TOWNSHIP MINUTES:

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT AUGUST 2024 TOWNSHIP TREASURER’S REPORT:

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

FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS:

Wilson and Maholtz discussed the issues of taking flood damage photos. Wilson stated that there are 3 supervisors, and their responsibilities should be split up equally. Wilson also stated we need to come up with a plan for future issues so we are prepared as a community. Wilson stated the issues regarding people being in office so we can answer community resident’s concerns and keep them informed. After this, Mong stood up and stated she resigned. Mong then left the premises. Wilson stated he would like to make a motion to accept the resignation of Pam Mong and Maholtz stated she did not second the motion at the time. Wilson then stated we have up to 45 days to accept Mongs resignation. Wilson stated a big problem is people not knowing what is going on and leading to conclusions regarding township Supervisors. Wilson stated he wants to put together a resident-based emergency response team as we would not of made it through Augusts flood without the help of the community. Wilson also mentioned needing proper equipment here in the township. Wilson did state that he should’ve been out taking pictures and assessing damages sooner. Wilson asks residents for their patience and understanding.

APPOINT VACANCY BOARD MEMBER:

Wilson stated we need to appoint a new vacancy board member due to Jerry W. passing away. Wilson motioned to appoint LeAnn Copello. Maholtz asked for comments on this. Maholtz seconded this motion, and all was in favor.

2ND STREET GARAGE TREE:

Wilson stated residents are concerned about this tree and the potential damage it could bring. Wilson wants an arborist to come inspect this tree to assess. Wilson states most of the tree is on township property. Rusty Maholtz mentioned that the township has forced the creek onto his land and the township needs to assess their side of this issue first. Wilson states a professional needs to come out because it was reported by a resident and it would be negligent for us not to do so.

SECRETARY UPDATE:

Wilson stated that Dana Gallagher has been hired as the primary secretary/treasurer of the township and is now bonded.

FIRST COMMONWEALTH AUTHORIZED BANK SIGNERS:

Wilson made a motion to add Dana Gallagher Secretary/Treasurer as a First Commonwealth Authorized bank signer, Maholtz seconded this motion. Wilson stated that Morgan Kurtz will still be in office as an as-needed secretary. Wilson made a motion to only have two secretaries. Maholtz seconded this motion.

Comments: None

ROADMASTERS REPORT:

Comments: None

TOWNSHIP PUBLIC FORUM:

Wilson brought up a work incident regarding an employee. Maholtz mentions she is following up with this and recommended a meeting so we are all on the same page and be advised by our lawyer. Maholtz stated her job is to protect the township, this matter is not okay and that she is doing her best to handle matters appropriately. Wilson asks if there are any questions about the road report and there were none.

Bert Reis – Stated he feels this meeting was inappropriate and suggests we have a meeting prior to our monthly meetings to deescalate personal feelings and avoid this in the future.

Tanya Gallagher – Stated she feels the township community needs to support each other. She questions is a supervisor expected not to have a full-time job. She also states she felt Maholtz & Mong were verbally attacked in this meeting and we need more understanding

and communication to work together instead of falling apart. She would also like to be notified about her shrubs as she does her best to keep them trimmed and does not always realize they pose an issue. She brought up to be cautious because there are other intersections way more dangerous than her own.

Kim Roberts – Stated needs gravel on Harrison Lane and Dents Run

Dee Chaney – Stated school committee is doing great and was happy with proceeds made from the Labor Day booth and movie night and wanted to thank all who participated. She asked previously about the issues regarding supervisors and their full-time jobs, and said she was told not to worry. She does not feel people are in the office to take care of things and the community needs easier access to communicate with Supervisors and Secretary for updates. Suggested we let too many people go & that we post office hours.

Leigh Ann Copello – Asked if Wilson fired anyone in the office.

Wilson stated he did not let any office employee go.

Wilson stated a huge problem is not having a cell tower in our township, especially in an emergency.

John Roush – Stated we have permission to put an antenna on the tower we have but it will be an expense. He said for 5 years even when he was on the board, he was pushing for an HR policy here and recommends we look into this.

Bob Trayer – Stated township employee trespassed on his property. Claims he asked him to leave, and he did not. Bob does not want charges filed.

Justin Arnold – Stated Bob left his “bar” at the dump, which he grabbed to keep safe for him until he returned. He claims he went to his property to apologize.

Morgan Kurtz– Stated she felt slandered during this meeting and that the discussion of personal issues at this public forum is a huge liability.

Wilson requested the secretary to reach out to the insurance agency on coverage for volunteers.

Mike Kosh – Stated he’s concerned about the divide in office.

Tammy – Requested some gravel on Summerson road.

TOWNSHIP PORTION OF THE MEETING ADJOURNED:

FIRST: Wilson

COMMENTS: None SECOND: Maholtz

YES: 2

NO: 0

BENEZETTE TOWNSHIP SEWAGE MINUTES

September 3, 2024

MOTION TO ACCEPT AUGUST 2024 SEWAGE MEETING MINUTES:

FIRST: Wilson COMMENTS: None SECOND: Maholtz YES: 2 NO: 0

MOTION TO ACCEPT AUGUST 2024 SEWAGE TREASURER'S REPORT:

FIRST: Wilson COMMENTS: None SECOND: Maholtz YES: 2 NO: 0

DEALING WITH DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS:

Wilson stated we need to start moving forward and acting against delinquent accounts.

SEWAGE PUBLIC FORUM:

Wilson said that DEP was visiting the sewage plant on 9/4/24 to hopefully officially put an end to the pump station project proposal.

SEWAGE MEETING ADJOURNED:

FIRST: Wilson COMMENTS: None SECOND: Maholtz YES: 2 NO: 0