

MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 15, 2021 MEETING OF THE CATHARINE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Catharine Township's regular monthly meeting began at 7:00 PM at the Catharine Township Municipal Building with supervisors Ralph F Rispoli, and Kenneth Brenneman/Treasurer present. Heather Flaig-Secretary/Supervisor was not present. Road master Michael Fay was present.

Visitors: Natalie Gorsuch, Scott Baker, Daryl Cole, Elva Fay, Sgt. Bradford Codd, Luke Helsel (by phone)

A motion was made by Ken Brenneman to accept the minutes as written for March 18, 2021, seconded by Ralph Rispoli.

No Financial Report was available. It will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Sgt. Bradford Codd from the Pennsylvania State Police was present. He discussed statistics in Catharine Township for incidents. The supervisors asked a few questions regarding our ordinances and how we can best enforce them. Weight limits on roads and speed limits were discussed. Sgt. Codd will have officers in the area when he is able to patrol areas of concern.

Scott Baker provided some pictures of the seeping sewage on his property from the Barker's trailer. He said the smell is unbearable. There will be a hearing on April 28, 2021 to make judgement on the disbursements from the tax sale of the property. Mr. and Mrs. Barker are also challenging the sale of their property and want it turned back over to them.

Luke Helsel called in and discussed the Barker sewage issues. The Blair Sanitation Department cannot do anymore. Luke does not have the authority to remove someone from their property. There are significant liens on the property from the Sanitation Department. Luke said the Township needs to enforce the sewage violation. He suggested waiting until after the April 28 court hearing to see how the court rules on ownership of the property.

The supervisors discussed the 3M report for Yellow Springs Drive. This report needs done before any further action can take place. Funding this project is a concern. Kellers Engineer will be contacted for further information. No action was taken at this time.

The Ganister sewage project is waiting for residents to complete and return the financial surveys that went out. No updates at this time.

The Employee Manual and Policy Handbook needed signed by the supervisors, but was unavailable due to an absence of one of the supervisors. This will be handled at the next meeting.

One of the Township Auditors questioned whether or not the Employee Manual and Policy Handbook applied to the auditor. PSATS will be contacted to get clarification.

Setbacks were discussed, but more information is needed to have setbacks to be documented.

Daryl Cole said the Annual Financial Report was accepted by the state. He provided a report for

each supervisor to read. Ken made a motion to accept the Annual Financial Report as written. Seconded by Ralph Rispoli.

Ken Brenneman made a motion to waive all taxpayers from any interest/penalties that would be assessed for the failure to file a 2020 earned income tax return after April 15th, 2021 through May 17th, 2021. All interest/penalties shall be assessed as usual for the period after May 17, 2021. Seconded by Ralph Rispoli.

Ordinance #60 and #74 – same ordinance was tabled.

Ordinance #25 – Weight limits on roads was tabled.

Daryl Cole discussed the financial position of the township. According to the Blair County Tax Office, Catharine Township has not had a millage increase since the year 1986. Daryl stressed the importance of being able to replenish funds that are spent by the township and the importance of building up capital funds to be able to purchase equipment without having the need for loans.

It was reported that Theresa Mattern has purchased a house and will be turning it into offices. It was asked if the appropriate permits were obtained. The township will look into this further.

The Women's Civic Group asked about permission to hang "Hometown Hero" banners on the Penelec poles in the township. They would be professional grade banners. Ralph Rispoli made a motion to approve the hanging of the banners in the township. Seconded by Ken Brenneman.

Not enough information was provided to assess the dumping complaint on Fox Run and Etna Furnace. Further investigation is necessary.

Roadmaster Report

1. The steel building across from Cenveo was sold.
2. A backhoe is needed to get some projects completed. It was suggested we advertise for bids to get these projects done. The solicitor will be contacted for more information on this.
3. Chestnut Street is tore up and needs fixed. Drain pipes are needed on both sides.
4. Maple Street has pipes that are clogged and need opened up.
5. Etna Furnace Road is in need of paving.
6. Home Street will have area of paving fixed soon.
7. A temporary speed monitoring sign has been placed along Yellow Springs Drive to try and help with the speeding.

Supervisors Report

There was a complaint regarding John Saylor's property. It is in need of cleaning up garbage. A letter will be sent regarding this issue to the owner of the property.

There have been several complaints that property owners are not getting the necessary permits they need. These residents will be contacted to find out what permits they need to acquire for any projects they may have started.

Ralph Rispoli made a motion to pay the available bills and auditor's paychecks. Seconded by Ken Brenneman.

Ralph Rispoli made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Seconded by Ken Brenneman.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Flaig, Secretary/Supervisor