

CHOCONUT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING –August 5, 2024
Supervisor William A. Dovin – Phone 570-553-2469, Supervisor Roger L. Doolittle, Phone 570-553-2146
Supervisor Michael Mordovancey. Phone 607-201-5968

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held at the township meeting room, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Sup. Dovin called the meeting to order and led in the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. The roll was called and all three supervisors were present.

Attendees at the Meeting –Gary T. Wilcox, Jeffrey Culver, Dave Randal, Ashley Nadall, John Brownlow, Bernie Griffin, Sal Gatto, Jodi and Lenny Macon, Sue Knowles, John and Judy Ramsay, Allen Hayes, April Oliveira.

Presentation of minutes and treasurer’s report – A motion was made by Sup. Doolittle, seconded by Sup. Mordovancey and unanimously carried by the board to approve the minutes and treasurer’s report as presented.

Citizens Input on the Agenda – No one had any input to share.

Reports of the board, commissions and committees

Susquehanna Co. Council of Governments, C.O.G. Sewage and Codes Committees –

Sup. Dovin said that a meeting was held last month and the organizations were doing well financially.

Report of Susquehanna Co. Planning Commission Meeting – John Ramsay reported that he was not able to attend the meeting in July,

Report of Supervisors on Current Roadwork – All of the roads have been worked with the exception of Blake and Westwoods Roads. Work remains to be done on Pamela and Carmalt Roads. 10 tons of calcium flakes were applied to roads on which homes were located. A project will be done on Foolish Pleasure Road to armor the bank where Rt. 267 meets Foolish Pleasure Road.

Communications – a letter was received from the Susquehanna Co. Elected Officials Organization, regarding attendance at the Fall Convention on September 19th at the Emergency Communications Center in New Milford, PA. The supervisors plan on attending and a ¼ page advertisement will be purchased in the annual report. Emails were received and opened by the secretary which stated that the writer did not believe that the minutes of the monthly business meeting of the board of supervisors were correctly recorded. The secretary contacted the head of the legal department at the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors who stated the requirements of the Sunshine Law on the recording of minutes and confirmed the fact that the meetings were reported in accordance with the law. Emails were received and opened by the secretary regarding the residents who were in violation of the Junkyard Ordinance. The secretary responded to the emails and sent copies of the letters that were signed by the supervisors and sent out to the violators. Because not all of the letters were sent out via certified mail, notably the ones that were sent out in 2023, the person who sent the email came to the conclusion that the letters had not been sent out as alleged by the secretary or else the letters had been sent out without the signatures of the township supervisors. The secretary stated unequivocally that she was telling the truth and the letters had been sent out in 2023 and they were, in fact, signed by the supervisors. Sup. Dovin expressed his displeasure that the secretary’s integrity had been called into question and stated that she did not lie in stating that signed letters had been sent out. John Brownlow said that such letters should be sent out via certified mail with a return receipt requested. Sup. Dovin reported that he had been contacted by township resident Steve Pratt about the regulations required for putting a conduit under a township road and Sup. Dovin gave him the information on the requirements.

OLD BUSINESS

Violators of the Junk Yard Ordinance - The supervisors will contact the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection about the violations of the junkyard ordinance and a record will be made as to the conversation that is held with the DEP representative. Sup. Dovin stated that the township is not in a financial position to order our solicitor to proceed with the prosecution of the violators of the law.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business was brought up at this time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Once again, the subject of the rocks that were put on property on Carmalt Rd. near a bus stop. It was alleged that the property had been purchased by the township. Sup. Dovin stated that the township had only purchased land on the north side of Carmalt Road, not the south side of the road, which is owned by Hamil Horne.

Don Randal asked if the truck traffic on Kellam Road could be slowed down, because there are children who live in that area. Sup. Dovin said that the roads had been posted by the county, but someone had torn down the signs. The county will return to the road and post the signs again. Alan Hayes complained about the level of the dust on Carmalt Road. He would like to have the road coated with oil and chipped stone. The supervisors reported that They planned on doing that as soon as possible. The supervisors said that since the state of PA had stated that salt brine could no longer be used to suppress the dust on the roads, it was necessary to apply liquid calcium, which is a much more expensive product. Sal Gatto inquired about applying oil and stone chips on Fitz Hill because the dust is so bad. He also complained about the ditch that had been dug in front of the driveway on his property. The supervisors said that they planned to address that problem with the ditch as soon as possible. Alan Hayes complained about the poor visibility when one pulls out of Carmalt Road on to Rt. 267 and a discussion was held about that problem.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST 2024-08, CURRENT BILLS AND PAYROLL

A motion was made by Sup. Dovin, seconded by Sup. Doolittle and unanimously carried by the board to approve the bill list, current bills and payroll.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sup. Doolittle, seconded by Sup. Mordovancey and unanimously carried by the board to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Gittoes, Choconut Township Secretary-Treasurer
Contact by phone: 570-553-2678