

CASTANEA TOWNSHIP
347 NITTANY ROAD
LOCK HAVEN PA 17745
570-748-9070

Supervisors:
Brandon Coleman-Chairman
Charles Clukey Jr.
John Gradel

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2024

Supervisors present: Brandon Coleman, Charles Clukey Jr. & John Gradel
Brandon Coleman. Called meeting to order at 7:00pm

Secretary Minutes:

Supervisor Gradel made a motion to accept minutes, seconded by Supervisor Clucky, MCU.

Financial Report:

Supervisor Clukey made a motion to accept financial reports, seconded by Supervisor Gradel, MCU.

Public Comment:

- Resident Joe Miller questioned why the road crew was picking up leaves Vine Street because he was told it was private property. Chairman Coleman clarified that the Township picks up leaves as a service to Township residents. This is not Township land so we do not maintain the ditch.
- Front parking lot lighting needs to be improved, it is very dark and someone could get hurt on snow & ice. Chairman Coleman stated that we are in the process of improving the lighting.

Correspondence and Communications:

- Lock Haven Emergency Management Services – a motion to approve a \$100 donation was made by Supervisor Clukey, motion seconded by Supervisor Gradel, MCU.
- Keystone Central Summer Parks Program – a donation will be discussed to next Board of Supervisor's meeting on January 6, 2025.
- Clinton County Commissioners/Clinton County Sewer Authority Representative – a discussion between the supervisors on Supervisor Clukey's meeting attendance and that if he was not able to attend the meetings in the future that Supervisor Gradel would attend in his place.

Report of Officials and Committees:

Supervisors Reports

Charlie Clukey – Sewer Report

- Collections improved on past due accounts, \$35,775 was collected in November.
- USDA Meats has been contacted regarding the goats, we are waiting on DEP to respond but it is understood that they are allowed to process 1 goat for personal use with no permit requirements for a blood pit. Chairman Coleman suggested that we post on our social media account that the USDA inspects weekly and to let the residents know that the goats are being dealt with by the Township and SPCA. The resident has resolved the previous issue regarding his dogs.
- The Pump Station has been recalibrated.

John Gradel-

- Supervisor Gradel thanked Rick Schulze from Recreation Committee for his hard work on cleaning the meeting room at the municipal building and recognized the other Supervisors for their work on renovating the room and installing the TV, new table and Township signage.
- Thanks you to the Recreation Committee for the Tree Lighting ceremony which was well received and continues to improve every year.
- The propane tank has been added to our Township insurance policy.

Brandon Coleman-

- The road crew continued to work on the removal of leaves, cleaning the ditches, road patching, maintaining the Township sign and putting up the Christmas tree which involved replacing numerous lights.
- The spreader & plow have been put on the truck & Kubota for snow removal.
- All park bathrooms have been winterized.
- TCC meeting was held, the school district approved the changes.
- With the two snow storms on 12/4 & 12/15 the crew put in a total of 12 hours, only 1 hour of OT was paid thanks to having three people on shift to handle the clearing.

Auditors Report - Bonnie Poorman, Kristy Sellers, Mary Margaret Winton – Not in attendance

Engineer - Tom Levine

- Corrective Action Plan (CAP) was provided. A financial analysis was completed and EDU projects a rate increase in 2026 and discussed the 2025 conventional repairs. Two sewage meters will be installed and working by March. Chairman Coleman recommended using new meters rather than trying to use the old ones which are not reporting properly and approved the cost of rental.
- Sanitary Sewer Improvements – Snyder invoice for \$65k is released for payment. Three laterals still need to be connected and work is scheduled at the beginning of January. Tom will monitor.

- Conventional Excavation and re-painting of manhole numbers needs to be completed. Tom will coordinate with the Township.
- Harvey's Run Park plans were presented for review. There was a discussion about the materials under the park which Co-star's proposal recommended keeping as is, however Tom has designed an alternate foundation which will require removing the extensive layers of mulch which has built up. The Recreation Committee has the plans for approval.
- The State Liquid Fuels audit was reviewed and everything looks good according to Tom.

Code Officer- Jim Phoenix

- The goat issue continues to be worked on and was addressed above.
- Report of a loose dog on Greenwood Avenue, however after talking with the resident there was no need to address further as they have an underground fence which keeps the dog in their yard.

Zoning Officer-Jeremy Kreiser report given by Brandon Coleman

- Tow permits issued for the month.
- Chairman Coleman spoke with Jeremy regarding First Quality's new storage building.
- Jeremy will be working through the month of December.
- Chairman Clukey commented on a storage shed that was installed at the bottom of Zane Circle which is interfering with the Township's right of way because it blocks the manhole covers. The information will be forwarded to Jeremy to look into.

Police Office Report: Brandon read police report.

Planning Committee - Joe Miller nothing new to report.

Recreation Committee - Rick Schulze

- Rick reported on an article in Business Insiders magazine regarding the trend of people moving back into small towns and more rural environments and what is attractive to these individuals when looking at new locations. The Recreation Committee & Township will continue to promote a sense of community by advertising activities that bring locals together such as the Halloween Parade, Christmas Tree Lighting and decorating contest and the upcoming Chestnut Festival. We need to make sure all events are advertised and posted on our web-site and Facebook.
- The Christmas tree lighting was a success even though the weather was not great. The donation of the sleigh, the Santa Clause's, ice rink and burn barrels were well received and having the fire company's new truck added to the festivities. The Committee plans on expanding the event further next year with a warming tent and refreshments.
- Thanks to our residents for donating the beautiful Christmas tree.
- Letters to Santa ended on December 13. Chris Nestlerode developed the stationary we will use to answer the letters.

- Christmas decoration contest ends on Wednesday and we only have two judges so far. Please make sure that we get people involved by nominating your neighbors and giving their address so that judges can be sure to stop by before the deadline.
- The Chestnut Festival to be held on January 25th received a \$2000 Tourism Grant which is being used to attract guests from a 50 mile radius. The Tourism Board stated that they are looking for more winter events to put on their schedule. We have invited the Governor to attend and are waiting to hear back. A Polka band will be at the event and we are encouraging Polka dancers to join in. There will be vendors selling chestnut related crafts, as well as food and beverage vendors who will be following the chestnut theme.
- The 2026 Chestnut Festival ideas include a children's chestnut pageant, lumber Jack & lumber Jill contests, ice sculpture carvings, etc. We need residents to get involved and assist with ideas as well as participation in the events.
- A motion was presented by Supervisor Gradel to process payment of \$75 to the Central Mountain Band who played at the tree lighting, motion seconded by Chairman Coleman, MCU.

Old Business:

- Sanitary Sewer Revenue and Debt Analysis – This was included in Tom's engineering report which stated that the rates may need to increase next year.
- Commercial Code Inspector & Zoning Officer Appointment – We have received one applications to date and will plan on making appointment at the January 6, 2025 Board of Supervisor's meeting.
- Approval of 2025 Budget – Chairman Coleman reported that there will not be an increase on taxes or sewer this year. A motion to approve the 2025 budget as presented was made by Supervisor Gradel, motion seconded by Supervisor Clukey. MCU.

New Business:

- A letter from the City of Lock Haven Water Department dated November 19, 2024 – Supervisor Gradel sent a response to the City regarding the outdated fire hydrants replacement/repairs which the City is to maintain per the City code. The city is refusing to make repairs at this time as they are waiting on \$45 million in improvement funding to be distributed over the next five year and will address once funds are received. The Township will continue to work on the issues as there are only two working hydrants in the county at this time. Chairman Coleman stated we will continue trying to work with the City even though they are very difficult and unresponsive and do what we can to maintain the water system even though it is owned by the City.

Review and pay bills:

- Supervisor Gradel made motion to pay said bills, motion seconded by Supervisor Clukey, MC. Chairman Coleman abstained.

Motion to adjourn presented by Supervisor Gradel at 8:00 pm, seconded by Supervisor Clukey, MCU.

**Attest: Shelly Davis
Secretary/Treasurer**