

Abbott Township
August 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Abbott Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday August 7, 2023 at 7:00pm at the township building.

1. Present at the meeting was Lee Gardner, Jared Lazorchak, Beth Kreiser, Brian Budjanec, Pat Shellhorn, Mary May, Joe Shellhorn, Alex Bailey, Jeff Lazorchak, Bradine Fisher, Duane McCullough, Alison Welfling, Brian Sholtz, and Theresa Yilek
2. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jared Lazorchak at 7:00pm.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Jared made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the last meeting that was held on July 11, 2023. Lee seconded; motion carried.
5. Jared made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented, second by Lee, motion carried.
6. Jared made a motion to pay the bills. Lee seconded; motion carried.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Lee gave an update from the Roadmaster. He noted the sprayer has been rigged up so that the dust control product that the township has on hand can be applied to the roads. They did use it to apply some products to the roads on Friday to try to help keep the dust down due to the ride the next day. The unit worked well, and they will continue to use it and apply product as needed.

Lee gave an update to the Rausch Road project. He stated it was going well and once the gravel is completed in the next day or so they will be able to grade some of the other roads that need attention and work on fixing potholes and other problem areas.

Lee stated that he received notice from Benn Batterson that he will be placing the pipe under the roadway tomorrow August 8th. Jared stated that Benn never contacted the township, as was required, to sign the agreement that was drawn up regarding the pipe install approval and agreeing to the terms and conditions, and as of this meeting no agreement has been signed to issue approval to move forward with the install.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jared stated in 2022 the Township purchased 287 tons of anti-skid. We will use this same figure for 2023 and will get the BID notice out this month.

Jared noted that there were two sewage permits, one for Ruby Welfling and one for Benn Batterson.

Jared stated that they are aware of the potholes and washouts on many of the roads, they will try to get to the worst areas first and keep working from there.

Public Comment (2 minutes Per Person)

Bradine questioned if the Township or DCNR could put up slow down or other signage at the top of Park Hill/Club Hill, over the weekend she stated there were a least two times she watched people take the turn too quickly and is worried there will be an accident. It was stated that the yellow ATV slow down signs were supplied and placed by Central Mountain ATV Association, but that the township will look and see what signs are on hand and try to get something put up to try to help.

Lee brought up an incident that happened on Rausch Road this morning while they were putting down new gravel. The road was closed and marked accordingly, but a driver chose to ignore the signs and blockade and drove through the work zone right past the road crew and left the vehicle unattended about 2 miles from the work zone in the middle of the road. Ken "Sharky" was contacted, and he worked with State Troopers to find the 2 teenagers that were in the vehicle. The teens were charged with doubled fines due to the active work zone as well as a \$300.00 towing bill. Lee also stated that tomorrow there will be three people flagging on the road to try to avoid any other issues.

Theresa made a comment about the ATV traffic on Yochum Hill and riders spinning tires and tearing up and down in this area. Jared noted that he noticed that in the morning riders seemed to be not causing problems, but as the day went on it seemed that the horseplay and racing worsened. Jared asked Lee if the condition of Rausch Road was negatively impacted by the ATV's over the weekend, Lee stated it was not and the road was okay. There was discussion that followed on many of the township roads, and it was noted that Zoerb Hollow had some ruts on the hill that were getting bad, but this was due more to the rain than ATV's. Short Run was noted to be in okay condition. Cross Fork Creek Road where it enters the Township up past Short Run and down Boone Road is bad with potholes and needs worked on. There was discussion on Blass Hollow from where the backhoe is currently parked to Bill and Penni's and the creek that it is getting rough and wash boarding. It was brought up that Beane Hill was really scraped, and the stones pushed back to the sides, Lee stated this was done to prepare for winter and having space to push snow as this is a narrow road to begin with. It was stated that people are complaining about this causing issues with getting into their driveways and it pushed back the wild berries. The last comment on the road conditions was that the stop sign on Tyoga Road is falling over and needs to be fixed. Lee made a note, and it will get fixed.

Alison asked if the ATV use of the roads makes the wash boarding worse. Lee stated yes it does. It was then asked what the Township receives by allowing ATV's to use the roads. Jared stated currently we just receive funds for dust control. Lee added that when the Pilot program ends that they claim there will be grants and funds available. It was asked if the public knows of the surveys regarding the pilot program. It was stated that yes, it is advertised they are out there. Once the pilot program is over it must pass legislation and then new laws can be rolled out and the state should be able to set funds

aside for this, but there is currently nothing in writing. The Township can keep track of the extra cost of maintenance that is caused by the ATV traffic and can turn the cost in to DCNR so they are aware of it.

There was discussion on the Township having a traffic study done the end of the month in order to see how much the ATV's have increased the usage of the roads. It was noted the traffic study has nothing to do with the pilot program, but the township is hoping the information may help with receiving additional funds due to the higher use of roads.

There was additional discussion on the ATV's and it was brought up that it seemed to help keep riders in line when we were contracted with Galeton PD, the problem is that Galeton only has one part-time officer now. DCNR is out, but the comment was made that they can only do something in areas that are next to the State forests, or possibly on the pilot roads. State police can be contacted, but the response time is not very fast.

Bradine asked if the tree mess on Club Hill could be cleaned up before Old Home Days so that it looks nice. Lee stated that all debris is off the roadway, but they will look into if they can make it look nicer.

Jared made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. Lee seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Kreiser
Assistant Secretary
Abbott Township Board of Supervisors