

Abbott Township
February 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Abbott Township Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, February 24, 2023 at 7:00pm at the township building.

1. Present at the meeting was Lee Gardner, Jared Lazorchak, Allison Lazorchak, Lowell Geiser, Viginiga Geiser, Brian Schultz, Brian Kriner, Dawn Kriner, Joe Shellhorn, Pat Shellhorn, Bradine Fisher, Ron Fisher, Mary May, Jeff Lazorchak, Cory Shifflett and Crystal Shifflett.
2. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jared Lazorchak at 7:15pm.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Jared asked the public to please wait until the end of the meeting for public comment. Each person is limited to two minutes of comment.
5. Jared made a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes and the special meeting minutes. Lee seconded the motion.
6. Jared made a motion to pay the bills. Lee seconded the motion.
7. Jared stated the website is back up and running. The drop down tabs now have info under them. PSATS will be working with Jared on getting it updated.
8. Jared stated the phone is now working and the township is now with Tri-Co Connections.
9. Jared made a motion to download online Quickbooks, should the township need it. Lee seconded the motion.

ROADMASTER REPORT:

Lee stated he is currently working on the bids. Almost done with bids for gravel and Rausch Road project. The west branch secretary is helping with these. Bids will go out in mail on March 8th, 2023. Lee stated the grader is also still being worked on. Ron Fisher asked what is wrong with the grader. Lee stated it needs center pin and bushing replaced and some other maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Secretary Update-** Jared made a motion to advertise and interview for a new secretary. Lee seconded the motion. Jared and Lee are getting things in order, taking control of things and getting things done that weren't being done previously.
- 2. Forensic audit-** Lee and Jared met with the forensic auditors before the meeting, and is why the meeting started late. Met with them to make sure everything is okay now and going forward.
- 3. Newly Appointed EMA-** Jared stated that Ken Loiacono, aka Sharky, is the new EMA and is working on revising the emergency plan and updating contacts. Previous plan was outdated and missing things. Contacts had not been updated in a while.
- 4. Duane Cizek Lawsuit-** Jared stated Duane has filed a lawsuit against Township and Workers Comp. insurance company due to payments being stopped. When asked why Jared stated when speaking with Workers Comp agents payments had been stopped due to Duane not cooperating with them or doing what they asked of him. Insurance agency will cover the township in this suit. Township does not need to find other legal council. Workers Comp urges the township to turn in any evidence or documentation of Duane Cizek doing work or physical things he shouldn't be doing while on leave for the injury. The question was asked about Duane being a supervisor. Jared spoke with PSATS. Duane's injury and claim is for him as a township employee not a supervisor. Therefore he should still be fulfilling his responsibilities as a township elected supervisor. He received a doctor's note from his primary doctor so he didn't have to. PSATS said that did not matter, he still needs to at a minimum be coming to meetings and they were not aware he wasn't coming to meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT 2 MINUTES ALLOWED PER PERSON:

- Dawn Kriner said "we all know money was taken" and wants to know what will be put in place to make sure that doesn't happen again. Jared stated we can't say money was taken because right now we don't know exactly what happened. Jared stated there are several rumors going around right now. Township has heard them all and the majority of them are not true. Things were not being handled properly such as responding to people, getting bills paid on time, etc. From now on there will be in depth interviews done and supervisors will pick the best candidate for the job. Jared and Lee are now only ones with access to the banking and new secretary will be limited on what they can do. Dawn asked how often supervisors will be checking financials. Jared said they will look at statements monthly and check balances weekly. Ron wants to know if previous secretary was bonded. Jared said yes, she was bonded as Treasurer.
- Jared and Lee stated they take full responsibility for this. Both supervisors were new with very little guidance and feel they were taken advantage of. Jared assured the public he has been coming to the building almost daily to get things done and accomplished.

The supervisors do not want the township to suffer and are working hard to make sure the township is functioning as it should.

- There was another discussion again on Duane Cizek's lawsuit and why he is suing the township and Workers Comp agency. Discussion between Jared, Lee and public ensued covering what was stated previously during meeting.
- Jared stated Duane Cizek's term as supervisor is done this year. Jared plans to run for that term, which is 6 years. There is also a 2-year term up. Jared and Lee urged anyone who would like to run for supervisor to obtain a packet, which needs turned back into the voter registration office by March 7th, 2023.
- Cory Shifflett had questions about the dump/recycling center. He would like for the supervisors to find out from West Branch how often the recycling bins get emptied. Public is having issues with them always being full by the end of the weekend. Jared and Lee stated they will talk with West Branch secretary regarding this.
- Jared stated to the public that garbage bills might not be sent out by spring this year. Several public members stated they never received one last year. Jared said they will take a little longer to be sent out this year so the supervisors can make sure it is done right and everyone receives one.
- Lowell Geiser asked if the supervisors still meet with West Branch about the dumpsters. Jared stated yes, there is a meeting twice a year.
- There was another discussion regarding the secretary. It was suggested by Lowell Geiser to give the new secretary a probation period of 6 months, and then do a review at that time. Jared stated previous administration did not do a background check at time of hire, and that will be done this time. Allison stated the ad for a new secretary will be posted on Solomon's Word, and applicants will have until March 31st, 2023 to submit an application and resume.
- Jared let the public know all mail is now going to a P.O. box and so far there have been no issues with getting mail. Payments can still be dropped off in the mailbox across from the township building.
- There was another discussion again about the forensic audit. Ron Fisher wants to know why a private auditor was hired. Jared stated both the solicitor and PSATS have suggested a forensic audit. Jared, Lee and the public ensued covering what was stated previously on this topic.
- Brian Kriner, owner of Trails End at the Waldheim, wanted to know the policy on joint use of township roads for snowmobiles and ATVs. Lee stated the township has joint use for cars, snowmobiles and ATVs. Problem is if you don't plow the road for snowmobiles and a firetruck needs to get there and can't, that is a major problem. Township is legally obligated to perform winter maintenance on township roads. Lee stated he tries to save the roads the snowmobiles travel for last when plowing, and tries not to cinder unless needed. Lee stated he also tries to leave a little berm if possible. Mary May stated that vehicles are the priority on the township roads. Dawn Kriner asked if there could be a

happy medium met for everyone. Lee stated the state took down all no winter maintenance signs and told the township all roads need to be maintained. Lee stated there is a copy of the joint agreement in the office that he can bring down to the Waldheim. It was also asked if a copy could be put on the township website. Supervisors stated they would work on that.

- Lee let the public know this year portable toilets will be available on some township roads for ATV use.
- Public wanted to know if there will be funds for dust control. Lee stated yes. Lee stated when grading the roads this year they will put down dust control first and that should help it last longer, as long as there is some precipitation this year.
- Jared stated the township was informed that after the pilot programs conclusion, as long as everything passes legislation, there can be changes made such as more grants, reimbursements for things like hiring the police and the portable toilets, and more liquid fuel money available.
- Jared stated there was a tank donated to the township that will be used to help with dust control, similar to current set up that West Branch township has.
- Ron Fisher asked about tar and chipping on Club Hill. Lee stated the company came last year to fix patches, but this fall the whole surface will be redone.
- There was a discussion among the public about ATVs on township roads.

Jared made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33pm. Lee seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Gardner
Secretary
Abbott Township Board of Supervisors