

Abbott Township

October 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Abbott Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday October 2, 2023 at 7:00pm at the township building.

1. Present at the meeting was Lee Gardner, Jared Lazorchak, Beth Kreiser, Jeff Lazorchak, Lisa Lazorchak, Pat Schellhorn and Cory Shifflett
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 September 11, 2023. Lee seconded; AIF motion carried.
5. Jared made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented, second by Lee, AIF motion carried.
6. Jared made a motion to pay the bills. Lee seconded; AIF motion carried.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Lee gave an update from the Roadmaster, he stated the guys will be out filling potholes in the next couple of weeks. He also mentioned if it starts to get too dusty he will have the guys try to use up the remainder of the dust control product we have on hand and put it down on the heavy use areas in front of homes and camps. Lee also talked about a meeting he took part in last week which was conducted by the forestry on the ATV use of the roads. The meeting was attended by politicians from Harrisburg wanting feedback on how the program has gone over the past few years. Lee had the opportunity to voice his concerns and provide feedback that we have been getting at the township meetings from the public. Some of the items he brought up were residents concern about growing numbers of vehicles and large groups creating noise and dust issues around their homes, extra maintenance, and wear on the roads from increased vehicle volume and no funding or compensation to help cover the extras costs and having no one to police and enforce the laws. Some open discussion followed.

Lee is asking Beth to reach out to DCNR to see about borrowing their pull behind leaf blower that they lend out to Townships free of cost. If we can borrow it, we can then get the ditches cleared out before winter.

Lee gave an update to the Rausch Road project, which he stated is looking nice. He stated the work is almost done, after meeting with Morgan they had to add some extra headwalls and make a few small changes. There was enough extra material on hand to complete the extra headwalls and we may just need a little more seed to finish up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jared made a motion to appoint Beth Kreiser as the Township Secretary, Lee seconded the motion AIF. Jared made a motion to make Lee Gardner the Assistant Secretary for the Township, Lee seconded the motion AIF, both motions carried.

Lee discussed his meeting regarding the ATV program during the roadmaster report, see above.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jared mentioned we are still looking into the Agreement with E&M Engineers for the Kortz Run crossing that will be in phase II of the Rausch Road project next year. Lee spoke to Morgan with the conservation office, and she stated she thinks around 75% of the cost of the agreement will be covered under the dirt and gravel project. It will be researched further before any agreements are signed.

Jared mentioned we are still deciding what to do in regards to the Gale Hose Ambulance contract. He took part in a round table phone call through PSATS that was to discuss the topic. He said many Townships are in the same situation we are, and many are already paying one or more EMS services depending on the size of their Townships. Many of the Townships on the call had a fire and EMS tax they charged to residence to cover the annual cost of services. There was much discussion during the call regarding other Townships' experiences which raised questions that Jared would like to get answered before entering into a contract. Jared also discussed the fact that Gale Hose was asking for more than the State recommended .5 mills. Gale Hose is requesting .75 mills stating they will have start up costs to cover for the first year. Jared mentioned he spoke with a few of the other Townships, and they are just planning to pay the .75 mills rate and see how things go after the first year. Pat stated there was discussion at the Fire House regarding the Gale Hose EMS services. They were questioning if Gale Hose would still be able to charge people for services if all the Townships were providing funding. This brought up the question of if the Ambulance would still be able to send out their annual mailing to households and businesses giving the option to buy a membership. Lee asked if Germania Fire had any EMT's that could respond to calls if needed. There was discussion that while they do have about 3 trained EMT's and 1 paramedic the Fire Company is only considered Fire Rescue and is only allowed to offer basic care for the period prior to the EMS arriving. If the response time for EMS is too long and it is a serious situation, then they have the ability to call for helovac. Jared is concerned there are a lot of grey areas and is not sure he wants to just pay the requested .75 mills fee without first getting answers to the many questions we have. Pat mentioned she could ask Scott if he could ask some questions and try to find out more information. Cory asked if there is a state mandate that requires all Townships be covered with Emergency Services. Jarod was not sure but said it really all boils down to availability and if the Emergency responders are not available then they can't come. Lee made a comment about how the fire company and ambulance used to recruit Juniors and Seniors from the schools to volunteer. Pat responded the problem is all the training that is required now that was not required years ago when they used to do this, liability has become a big problem with people wanting to sue much quicker now a days. Jarod mentioned that someone from Gale Hose was supposed to attend the meeting tonight, but something came up and they cancelled. It was discussed that we should advertise before the next meeting regarding the topic to try to get more attendance to be able to get public input before making a final decision. Jared feels we should probably try to negotiate to pay the State recommended .5 mills for the first year and then see how the coverage is and see the financials of Gale Hose after the first year to see how funds are getting spent and then renegotiate if needed for the second year. After much discussion the topic was tabled until next meeting and reaching out to Gale Hose to get answers to some questions.

Correspondence:

Jared made mention of the letter from the September meeting from PSATS, the Township did not return the ballot yet to vote for a Trustee for the Unemployment Compensation Group Trust, tabled for further review.

Jarod mentioned the Township received a letter of invitation to the 93rd annual Potter County Official's Convention in Coudersport on Saturday November 4 2023. He and Lee will check their schedules to see if they are able to attend.

Public Comment (2 minutes Per Person)

There was no public comment made.

Jared made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm. Lee seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Kreiser
Assistant Secretary
Abbott Township Board of Supervisors