

Montgomery Township  
1220 Cush Creek Road, Cherry Tree, PA 15724-7728

**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday December 11, 2024

**Members Present:** William Burba, Ed Freno and Kevin Penrose

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Dave Clawson -- Cherry Tree Borough Police Department, Patty Goodlin – Tax Collector Neil Baker, Justin Baker, Cody Mumau – Emergency Management Coordinator, John & Kristy Scherf – Owners of the Home for Foster Girls in Hillsdale, PA

**Meeting Called to Order:** William Burba called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment (Limited to Agenda Items):** None

**Request to be on Agenda:** None.

**Correspondence:** Received a letter from Robin Gorman, Vice-President of the Homer City Redevelopment LLC informing the township about the Power Plant Road Closure and plans to redevelop the current site with new and cleaner energy technologies. A letter from Comcast had been received reflecting an increase in their rates.

**Minutes:** Ed motioned to accept the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes for November, second Kevin, carried.

**Treasury Report:** Kevin motioned to approve the November Treasury Report, second Ed, carried.

**Payment of Bills:** Ed motioned to pay the bills, second Kevin, carried.

## **Old Business:**

**New Building:** Bill had spoken with Joel Romagna, who relayed that the Grant Application has been submitted. Bill contacted Representative Brian Smith and Senator Joe Pittman and asked if they would send letters supporting the township's request for a grant, both agreed to provide a letter of support.

**Replacing District 2 Representative:** Our Representative, Bill Spenser has been unable to attend any meetings. Terry Pierce, a Supervisor from Banks Township has agreed to be our Representative. Bill made the motion to remove Bill Spenser and to appoint Terry Pierce, second Kevin, carried.

**Emergency Medical Services:** County is going to be advertising a County Wide Ordinance stating whoever wants involved in the Authority will have to provide a

**2025 Budget and Tax Structure:** The budget was reviewed and no changes were made by the board. Motion to adopt the 2025 Budget with no tax increases made by Ed, second Kevin, carried.

**Burn Ordinance:** The County has adopted a burn Ordinance. Jody Mumau stated that it would be a good idea if each Municipality adopted their own Ordinance so it could be enforced by our local police. The Board will check into it further.

## **New Business:**

**Setting up Emergency Reporting Email:** The details are still being worked out how to do this so people can report damages caused by storms. It was discussed that a form would automatically be displayed to collect the necessary information in order to make the process of reporting easier. Further updates as they come will be provided.

**Adding Clymer Borough to NEICECA:** At the November 20, 2024 NEICECA Meeting there was a discussion about Clymer Borough joining our group because they are not satisfied with the group they currently belong to. The Ordinance had been provided by the secretary and adding another member to our group is permitted. If the borough is interested, they will attend the next NEICECA Meeting in March 2025.

**Police Agreement:** A new agreement was provided for the year 2025 and after reviewing the agreement with no changes made, Ed motioned to sign the agreement, second Kevin, carried.

**Police Report:** Chief Dave Clawson read the November report. Officers conducted traffic details, conducted security checks on open and closed businesses conducted Speed Enforcement on 286, conducted safety detail with school bus pick-ups. Officers patrolled the township building during the election, there were no issues. Officers dispatched to assist EMS at Dollar General. There were 3 traffic stops made. Hours worked 50 at \$40.00 per hour for a total of \$2,000.00.

## **Announcements**

**Food Pick Up:** January 14, 2024

**Reorganization and Regular Monthly Meeting – Monday, January 06, 2025**  
Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Building, 1220 Cush Creek Road, Cherry Tree, PA 15724.

**Auditors Reorganization Meeting – Tuesday, January 07, 2025 at 7:30 PM** at the Township Building, 1220 Cush Creek Road, Cherry Tree, PA 15724

**Public Comment:** A discussion about the Foster Care Home for Girls was held. Neil and Justin Baker expressed concerns to the community since two girls escaped and were arrested by State Police. John Scherf addressed the concerns stating that the facility is not a jail, or a Psychiatric Hospital, or a Juvenal Detention Center. There are no bars on the windows. They have cameras and alarms on the doors. He also stated that these girls have not been arrested and sent there, that these girls are victims of abuse and sex trafficking, they are orphans who have no one to help them. There are 21 employees who have been trained how to handle the girls. The incident started because of the rules of using the phone. The State Police were called because the one girl threatened to kill herself. The police were on site and when the girls saw them bolted out the door. John and Kristi assured the group that

they are going to be more selective when accepting any new girls. John does not anticipate any more problems. He said that every community has teenagers and teens have a way of overreacting and running away. He also said that the girls that had gotten out were excepted on a temporary basis until they could be placed because they were being watched in a hotel room, but he and Kristie will be more selective on who they admit to their facility. The girls that are there now range in age from 13 to 15. He also stated that the outreach from the community bringing used clothes for the girls has been wonderful.

**Adjournment:** Kevin motioned to adjourn the meeting, second Bill, carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Paula Burba*

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Secretary/Treasurer