

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MAY 6, 2021

A special meeting of the Pine Grove Township Supervisors was held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Russell Volunteer Fire Department. Supervisors present were Carmen Ferranto, Douglas Smith and Linda Farnsworth. Others present were Charlies Morrison, Rob Eadie, Stephen Horsley, Bonnie Schwanke, David Schwanke, Michael Bogniak, Vicki Williams, Diane Anderson, Craig Anderson, Mat Gayley, Tonya Senyo, Harry Senyo, Deb Prowitt, Katie Walker, Karen Martin, Jim Fithian, Amanda Fithian, Travis Hanson, Jim Seder, Bev Seder, John Tarr, Sioux Cole, Dave Martin, Lisa Miller, Norris Daugharthy, Bryon Jespersen, Janet Jespersen, Chris Seymour, Casey Seymour, Ray Shield, Rich Barrett, Josh Campbell, Donna Swanson, Bill Lucas, Dave McJunkin and Julie Parmenter.

Carmen Ferranto opened the special meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Carmen Ferranto advised that this issue originated from complaints that had been received from residents relative to the Big Four Road. There are some issues with the all of the junk and garbage that is dumped and speed of traffic traveling that road. He advised everyone attending that this meeting is strictly for comments anyone would like to make and that no decisions would be made on this issue at this meeting. Carmen advised the public on some of the options that have been discussed, such as, improving the road, leaving it the way it is or converting it into recreational use only.

A question was presented as to the cost of the options. It was advised that to improve the roadway the estimated cost would be upwards of \$300,000. If it were turned into recreational use, the road would have to be gated and minor upkeep.

There were some inquiries about the liability of the land owners if it is converted into a recreational trail. The Supervisor's would have to get clarification on this but thought it would revert to the Township.

There were some questions on how much funding we could lose from Liquid Fuels if the road were to be closed. The township would lose approximately \$6,000 per year if this were to happen.

There was mention of the considerable increase in traffic along this road over the last year and a half. And with the increased use comes the problems with speed and dumping. There was much discussion on these issues from residents.

There were also concerns about access for emergency services along this road for the Fire Department.

Mr. Seder presented a petition to the Supervisors in favor of closing the road.

Craig Anderson mentioned the dirt and gravel roads program that is offered through the Conservation District and some discussion followed on this. He is in favor of keeping the road open but left the meeting early due to some controversy on this.

There was some mention of the bridge at the end of Big Four Road. If something were to happen to the bridge, how would the residents that live between the bridge and the proposed closed off portion get out?

More discussion followed on the pros and cons of this issue and the Supervisor's advised that a decision on this will not be made until a later date. They will consider all of the issue brought up tonight before making any kind of determination.

Carmen Ferranto made a motion for adjournment at 7:50 PM. Douglas Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Sincerely,

Julie Parmenter
Secretary