

MINUTES - APRIL 15, 2025

The Gilpin Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the township municipal building. Roll call was as follows: Kris Kulick - absent; Jeremy Smail - present; Tina Thompson - present; Kevin Miller - present; Charles Stull - present; Tim Miller - present; John Fontaine - present; Ted Long - absent; Sharon Long - present; SARPD – present.

The following individuals made declaration that they will be recording the meeting. Josh Wright of 267 Johnetta Road and Charles Stull.

VISITORS WRITTEN REQUESTS:

Dave Booth of 113 Upper Godfrey stated he wasn't trespassing when he received notice of trespass, he was on rails to trails property. Jeremy Smail stated what he did was at the request of Chris Ziegler of Rails to Trails with regards to putting up a gate.

Rick Norcera of 211 Upper Godfrey spoke about the gates that were placed were blocking his access to his lot and that Jeremy Smail has blocked him in. Jeremy Smail again stated that he installed the gate at the request of Chris Ziegler of Rails to Trails that he needs to speak with her on this issue.

Rob Rentler of 100 Godfrey Road wants the meetings to be live streamed stating that the residents need to see what is going on in the township. He is also against there being a gate erected down in the Godfrey area.

Vince Mildner of 119 Upper Godfrey voiced concerns with the gate and stated that in an emergency situation there would only be 1 exit for anyone down there. Jerem Smail stated that all emergency personnel have a key to the gate.

The visitors written request time had to be stopped so that bids for materails could be opened as advertised at 7:15 PM. Kevin Miller, Road Supervisor, opened the bids at this time.

Charles Stull made a motion to award Midland Asphalt the emulsions bids. Jeremy Smail seconded. Motion carried.

Jeremy Smail made a motion to award M&M Limestone the 1B stone bid for quality concerns. Charles Stull seconded. Motion carried.

Charles Stull made a motion to award all other stone bids to Buffalo Limestone. Tina Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

At this time the visitor comments resumed.

Vince Mildner of 119 Upper Godfrey Road showed a map to the board members stating what he believes is the true length of Johnetta Road which would have the gate on township property. Charles Stull stated that he and Ted Long, Road Foreman, visited the courthouse looking for answers.

and that Johnetta Road is not 1.77 miles long as the PennDot map states. Dave Booth spoke up and stated that the township has maintained that section of road for years down to that point. Maintaining a road for 21 years can't be blocked mentioning it is prescriptive easement. Charles Stull mentioned that he would take to Chris Ziegler, Rails to Trails, about the gate.

Charlotte Teeters of 125 Shady Lane wants to know Tina's personal feelings why live streaming meetings has stopped. Tina Thompson, Chairman, stated that she would not give her personal feelings that it is irrelevant.

Sharon Long, Secretary Treasurer presented the minutes from the previous meeting. Charles Stull made a motion to approve the minutes with 1 correction. Charles Stull seconded. Motion carried.

Sharon Long, Secretary Treasurer, read the financial report. Charles Stull made a motion to approve the report. Kevin Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Sharon Long, Secretary Treasurer, presented a bills to be paid list. Kevin Miller made a motion to pay the bills. Charles Stull seconded. Jeremy Smail abstained. Motion carried.

Tina Thompson, Chairman, stated at an executive session was held between meetings for potential litigation.

Tina Thompson, Chairman, stated that the topic of employee handbook was remaining on the table. She also stated that the search of Zoning Hearing Board solicitor be forwarded to the Zoning Hearing Board members to decide.

Tina Thompson, Chairman, stated that ATV permits will remain on the table as well as Bureau Vertias fees discussion.

John Fontaine, Code/Zoning Officer asked a question regarding an 8x10 shed being erected in the business district for a specific purpose of a business. Tim Miller, Solicitor, will have to review this topic.

Kevin Miller nominated Charles Stull as building and land use supervisor. Tina Thompson seconded. With no other nominations, Tina Thompson made a motion to appoint Charles Stull. Kevin Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Charles Stull made a motion to table the Consolidated Communications topic. Kevin Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Charles Stull made a motion to hire Josh Hausaur of Campbell & Durant Law Group since Kelly Lee of Dinsmore Schall left the firm with our ongoing litigation. Jeremy Smail seconded. Motion carried.

Jeremy Smail made a motion to table the office hours after Sharon Long, Secretary Treasurer, presented a survey that she conducted regarding office hours of other municipalities in Armstrong County. Kevin Miller seconded. Charles Stull opposed. Motion carried. Sharon Long, Secretary Treasurer, stated that the back foyer will be in full use and all public access will now be thru those doors.

Charles Stull made a motion to allow any elected or appointment personnel to attend the Armstrong County convention. Jeremy Smail seconded. Motion carried.

Charles Stull made a motion to table the fee schedule resolution. Jeremy Smail seconded. Motion carried.

Jeremy Smail made a motion to have a special meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, to advertise for bids for paving. Kevin Miller seconded. Motion carried.

The supervisors received a letter of resignation from Joe Kowal from the Gilpin Township Municipal Authority effective May 13, 2025.

Charles Stull brought up to amend the agenda for resolution 5 of 2025 regarding live streaming. Kevin Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Charles Stull made a motion to approve Resolution 5 of 2025 to resume live streaming meetings with stipulations. Kevin Miller seconded. Jeremy Smail and Tina Thompson opposed. Motion did not pass 2-2.

Jeremy Smail read notes regarding why the decision to appoint Tina Thompson was made at the reorganization meeting. He stated that he did not agree with the previous Chairman, Charles Stull, on numerous occasions. He proceeded to make several statements against Mr. Stull. When he was finished, Charles Stull made clarifications against Mr. Smail's statements.

John Fontaine, Code/Zoning Officer read his report. Jeremy Smail made a motion to approve the report. Kevin Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Kevin Miller, Road Supervisor, read the road report for the month. Jeremy Smail made a motion to approve the report. Charles Stull seconded. Motion carried.

Hunter Tackett, Lieutenant of SARPD read the SARPD report for the month. Tina Thompson made a motion to approve the report. Kevin Miller seconded. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Chaz Minnich of Shearer Road asked questions regarding the structures sitting on Johnetta camps asking for clarifications on their classifications. He asked if they were model homes and asked about the sewage associated with them. Jeremy Smail stated that there are 200 existing sewage sites that the township's SEO is aware of and Mr. Minnich is able to contact Mr. Shilling, SEO, if he chooses.

Mark Tardivo of 141 Upper Godfrey Drive stated that he doesn't know Jeremy Smail he might not be doing things on the up and up but he is greatly improving the the property in Johnetta, he stated that some of them were in deplorable conditions and if he has the means to improve the area, especially with rails to trails being down there, he thinks its a great thing. He also asked if the township had records of all the permits from Kiski Campgrounds up to Kelly Station over all the years? He feels that the Johnetta Road people are upset that they can't use the privat road of Upper Godfrey to to to their camp instead of traveling down Johnetta as they should.

Gary Hall directed his question to Jeremy Smail stating that his concern with what he is doing with these sheds is that people can buy them and choose to lease property off of him or they can buy them and haul them out so he is running a retail business from down there. Jeremy Smail stated that he understood his concerns and the intent is that they would not leave the area but it could happen. Gary stated that he would love to meet with Jeremy and the SEO down there to see what all is there and being proposed. Jeremy Smail stated that he would be happy to do that. Gary Hall told Jeremy Smail that he appreciated him answering things tonight because the lack of transparency from the board has been upsetting. He has waited 6 months to get any answers. Gary Hall also wanted to clarify why he asked for fellow republicans to be removed from the ballot for not filing proper paperwork. Jeremy Smail asked, since he is running for election, would he scrutinize anyone else in this township as much as he has him, Gary answered absolutely.

Charlotte Teeters of Shady Lane wanted to personally thank Kevin Miller for stepping up and doing what he has been doing in the township with the absence of the road foreman and he received a round of applause.

Rick Norcerra of 211 Upper Godfrey Road stated when you enter in addresses for Johnetta into a GPS it shows both ways to enter. With the gate that has been installed you are blocking a main entrance. He feels that the board should be handling this issue and not keep referring to Chris Ziegler of Rails to Trails. Jeremy Smail informed him that it is private property. Kevin Miller stated that Chris Ziegler should maybe come and talk to everyone because the board can not get involved with anything involving private property. Tina Thompson stated that with the information we have we can't govern private property the map shows that it is on private property. The board will do the research to try to figure out exactly the distance of the road and the board can ask her, Chris Ziegler, to come to our meeting to hopefully address all of this.

Dave Booth of 113 Upper Godfrey Drive stated that the map shows that the gate is on a township road. Kevin Miller stated that if they knew, without a doubt, the gate was on a township road it would be removed but we do not know for sure and to let the board do their research to get answers. He stated that the previous owner of the property was going to be charged for using the right of way as was Chris Ziegler for using the right away it went to court. He stated that a letter went to every camper stating that the road could not be blocked and Mrs. Zeigler could charge anyone for the use of the right of way. He asked again about the use of a road for over 21 years. Charles Stull stated that our solicitor was not present so they could not answer that. Kevin Miller stated that the best he can do is to ask Mrs. Ziegler to attend our next meeting to try to get answers for everyone. Charles Stull stated that if there is a written right of way this is a private property issue which would be civil issue that the township could not be involved in. Charles Stull stated he will call Chris Ziegler and ask her to come.

Josh Wright of 267 Johnetta Road spoke about the gate controversy. He stated that there is a private property discrepancy somewhere with where private property starts and public ends. Google maps may not always be accurate. He stated that there are address posted beyond this area that if it was a private road the addresses would be placed at the end of the public road. He said when he was a kid he knew of people that lived down there, he doesn't remember any private company going down there to maintain any stretch of that road. He said that this all became a mess once the owners changed hands.

With nothing further to discuss, Charles Stull motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeremy Smail seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Sharon Long
Secretary Treasurer