

The Keating Township Supervisors met on May 18, 2022, at 6:00 pm at the Smethport Firehall with Chairman McClain bringing the meeting to order and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisors Anderson and Spittler, Solicitor Miglicio, Secretary Bowser and thirty-five (35) township residents attended the meeting.

Supervisor McClain stated that we were holding the meeting to put together an idea of what the public would like us to do with the rubbish and blite ordinance. Currently the Township has two ordinances one with Dangerous Structures and the other dealing with garbage. Supervisor McClain explained that anything to do with vehicles, we really don't have anything. He did go on to state that there are State requirements and DEP requirements that cover it. He also stated that we are here tonight not to complain about the neighbor's garbage we are here to find out how far and how much we want to either put a new ordinance in, to help cover vehicles and whatever else our current ordinance does not cover and see what the general public would like us to do about it.

PUBLIC HEARD:

Jerry Gorrell requested to put a bid in for ordinance on Pithole Road. Mr. Gorrell states that it looks like a junk yard. Mr. Gorrell states that some of those junk trucks and cars have set there for 30 years or more. He is concerned with fluids running out of them and onto the ground. It looks terrible. Supervisor McClain stated that with the fluids running out, Mr. Gorrell can contact the DEP about that, and he doesn't have to wait for us to make an ordinance. Mr. Gorrell was also concerned that down around the Pithole Water well there are junk vehicles sitting all around that. States that it's just a terrible site. Would like to see things cleaned up a little bit.

Kevin Hartman's concern was the property on 646 that has been a blighted property for approximately 15 years. Mr. Hartman states that now the old foundation is caved in. He is concerned because of the families "moving" in with children, this is a hazard for them. He questioned if there was anything on the books with people putting campers and stuff like that in without having septic or some type of sewage system. Supervisor McClain stated that campers are difficult, but if they move something that is considered permanent, they are supposed to have utilities and septic, that is a standard state building code. Supervisor McClain stated that if they are allowed to be there by the owner, the camper is a difficult thing, but on the other side of it, there are certain things that they should be following also. Mr. Hartman was also concerned with where they were putting their sewage. Supervisor McClain stated that, that is a DEP issue also. Supervisor Anderson inquired what were they doing with the sewage now.? Mr. Hartman stated that it is going into a holding tank and is unsure where they are taking it. Supervisor McClain stated that if that's what many of the public wants is to not have campsite set up like on 646, that is why we are here is to get input and if we must set up an ordinance.

Don Shonts stated that with the foundation on Rt 646 being open it is a health issue. Mr. Shonts feels that they should take care of the property before any inhabitation. Mr. Shonts would like something in the books making sure people have to take care of their property before adding on any additional campers or things like that. Mr. Shonts feels that there should be something for cars/vehicles. He stated that in Ormsby there is an old junkyard, and it just keeps getting bigger and bigger. Supervisor McClain stated that Keating Township does not have a zoning ordinance. If the consensus wants a zoning ordinance, the Township will have to come up with a zoning ordinance and Supervisor McClain is not sure everyone will be acceptable on this.

Penny Eddy inquired how far back we went looking into ordinances. Supervisor McClain stated that we went all the way back through the codified ones because there were some that were repealed. Ms. Eddy stated that there was one in the past because the business they ran had to have permission to pick up junk

cars in Keating Township. She stated that she was there regarding the mess in Ormsby. She feels it is affecting the properties around it. She states that the whole intersection is a mess. She stated that this affects the entire county with thousands of cars that go to the Kinzua Bridge with Ormsby and Mt. Jewett being the entrances and exits to it. With people coming out of the old grade road and seeing that mess doesn't say a whole lot for Keating Township. Everywhere there is an issue with blight. There is money out there that the Township can take advantage of. She feels that people's property should not be reduced in value because of other people's lack of taking care of their own. She stated that there are ways to create ordinances that takes care of these sort of things.

Jim Eddy wanted to reiterate about the tax issue. When he worked in the bank, he would lend money based on the value of their homes. He stated that there should be a reprieve on the taxes because the people's home and property value is going in the toilet.

Joe Sheffer states that across from his house there are at least 8-10 cars with no plates. He would like us to do something about junk cars/vehicles on other people's property.

John Stratton wanted to give credit for taking on this problem. Mr. Stratton stated that what's needed is a broad educational effort between both the County and the Townships that might encourage to require people to maybe take a little pride in their property and its upkeep and maintenance.

Lou Vandermark questions regarding to the ordinance that had gotten rescinded, she felt contradicted itself. She wanted to make sure that whatever gets put in takes care of the problem and doesn't create more.

Danielle Gallagher stated that she would want something to be done with Droney Road the condition of the berms. As far as the junk cars, if there were to be an ordinance on it, is there any way that there can be a "scrappers" agreement that they be gone in an XX amount of time.

Andrew Tarbox also asked that if an ordinance does come into play that there be some consideration for someone that is a "Junker" maybe some kind of a permit program and setting limitations to how many vehicles would be agreeable. Andrew also stated that after the house in Ormsby had burned, they cleaned up the burnt house mess, but left everything else. There is a garage that is ready to cave in and who knows what kind of debris is in the 3' tall grass.

Tim Linan going back to the Hartman's issues with the campers. Mr. Linan questioned that all the camps close to a sewer had to tie in, even if they were seasonal home. He stated that one they become immobile wouldn't that be considered a settlement? Does it have to be tied in being a permanent structure. Mr. Linan thinks that maybe have some issues be ballot issues. Supervisor McClain stated that if the public wanted to do a referendum, that is what we could do.

Anthony Tanner wanted the township to take into consideration that when he has vehicles for any length of time, there is value in parts on it.

Larry Dennis inquired when Kleisath and Gifford Hollow were going to get sewer.

David Ledwith the lot that the campers are on is supposed to be a residential lot, it's not a camping lot. He also stated that there are campgrounds all over. Supervisor McClain stated that part of the issue is the township is not zoned, so we don't tell anybody whether they have a campsite or not. Supervisor McClain stated that if the consensus is they want to see some zoning, that's what we are here to find out. Mr.

Ledwith states that the campers have been there for 4 weeks, where are they putting their sewage.

Supervisor Spittler stated that the landowner had contacted him and the people that are on the property is his family, and that the landowner gave them permission to stay there for a brief short time until they got on their feet. Mr. Ledwith stated that all the residents around there do not want them there that long.

Tom Gorrell wanted to give kudos to the road workers on Stickles Hollow. They are trying to fill in the potholes and doing berms. He said they are trying, and they are doing a fine job. Mr. Gorrell also wanted to mention the field across the road from him that the ditch is full, and the water is coming across the road and runs under his house and was wondering if they had any idea when the road crew would be able to clean that ditch.

Before Supervisor McClain adjourned the meeting, he stated based on the consensus, most of the people would like to see a junk ordinance that involved vehicles. Supervisor Anderson had asked the question

that by a show of hands, how many vehicles, was too many vehicles. Andrew Tarbox stated that he would like to see something in the ordinance about a demolition car because the run in the demolition derby and the cars will be gone within 2 weeks after the derby. Lou Vandermark mentioned the size of the property, that in some situations, people have stuff parked around their property. Supervisor McClain stated that is where the problem is, if we address property A that way, then we must address property B and all the other properties that way if that's how we must address it. John Stratton stated having setbacks with the property. Supervisor McClain stated that we don't want to be overreaching. One of the residents stated that there must be some consideration for the farmers, another resident agreed and stated also along with the zoning as having the property as agricultural. Supervisor McClain stated that this will be a tough one. One of the residents stated when his parents owned a trailer park that if a vehicle was unlicensed for one year, it had to be removed. Penny Eddy wanted to ask isn't there a fine if someone is not hooked up to the sewage. Supervisor McClain stated that there is. Solicitor Miglicio made some suggestions on some comments on esthetics and don't like what it looks like. She stated that what we really must be careful and clear about is the ordinances must bear a substantial relationship to public health safety and general welfare. She stated that we need to make sure when we are thinking about this how would we articulate how it fits into the result we want. She also stated that when an ordinance is being reviewed, there is a presumption that it is constitutional. She stated that while we are mulling this we are taking into account how do we fit this into public health, safety and general welfare.

Adjournment was heard at 7:09 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Trudi Bowser
Secretary/Treasurer