

Damascus Township Board of Supervisors Special Meeting of January 11, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm and Chairman Bill Gager led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gager, Supervisor Fred Haase, Supervisor Art Freiermuth, Treasurer Cheryl Lewis and Secretary Sue Mycka were present.

Chairman Gager opened the proceedings by explaining that the meeting had been called to elevate him from employee to foreman and that there was presently no position or category of foreman in the Township employee handbook.

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Mr. Bob Gross expressed his opinion that the creation of this position made no difference to the well-being of the Township and that the supervisors needed to pull together to get things going for the community. Mr. Tom Kane wanted to know whether road master and foreman weren't already the same, if it was permissible to create this new position, and if the auditors would be involved. Chairman Gager said the auditors were not involved other than to set employee salaries and that creating a new job category was allowed. Questions were raised as to why this position was being created. Chairman Gager said it was Supervisor Haase' idea to create it. Supervisor Haase explained that it was his intention that the foreman's position would have the same duties as, but would answer to the road masters.

Mr. Larry Braverman said the supervisors should consider bringing in younger workers and just be supervisors. Chairman Gager said that it had been difficult to get willing and capable workers with the proper CDL credentials. Mr. Gross commented that other townships are doing away with the position of road master altogether.

Mr. Rolf Beck stated opinions why he thought Chairman Gager should not be made road master or foreman. He said that Chairman Gager had previously done insufficient work; did not use machinery properly; and did not understand proper road reclamation techniques, etc.

Questions were raised as to why the foreman position was being created and how the job could be filled when it had not been defined. It was noted that the state, per PSATS, does not have a description for this position. Comments were made on the "discord between the supervisors", the need to overcome it and why it was holding back progress in the township.

Supervisor Freiermuth requested patience as he is new to the office.

When it was asked who had decided to set up this meeting, Chairman Gager said that it was his right to do so in order to discuss this subject publicly.

Supervisor Haase made a motion to make Chairman Gager foreman. Supervisor Freiermuth seconded the motion. All in favor.

It was then generally questioned whether this motion was properly executed. Supervisor Haase said that the supervisors would create specifications for the position and that Chairman Gager would be free to reject the position if he so chose. He said that Chairman Gager's experience was needed so that he could be acquainted with the road master's job, which he had not had the prior opportunity to learn. He was also willing to go to the auditors to petition them to set the pay level for Chairman Gager up to \$14.00/hour. (Chairman Gager's salary had defaulted to \$12.00/hour when his position changed from road master to employee).

Mrs. Betsy Turner asked how Chairman Gager could be voted into a position that doesn't technically exist and was this position actually needed. She asked Supervisor Freiermuth for his comments.

Mr. Marty Kuntsmann asked whether road masters report to the supervisors. Chairman Gager said that they do, but Supervisor Haase differed and said that this had not been done in his case.

The comment was made that, with the new year and the new supervisor, the community give the board a chance to start fresh and there was general agreement with this sentiment. Mr. Gross said that the road master's job description should also be delineated more clearly in the Township handbook. Discussion continued and different ideas were suggested. Supervisor Haase said that the motion could be rescinded or changed at a later date. It was established that the auditor's would need to call a meeting to determine the foreman's salary level.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Supervisor Haase and Supervisor Freiermuth seconded. The motion passed with agreement by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.