BOARD OF EDUCATION
CORRY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
July 8, 2019

A Special Board Meeting of the Corry Area Board of School Directors was held on Monday, July 8, 2019, in the Large Group Instruction Room of the Administration Office. President Doris Gernovich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Directors: Amy L. Allen, Michael E. Baker, Joel A. Cook, Amanda J. Cox, Lonny T. Eastman, Joseph A. Frisina , Doris P. Gernovich, Christine A. Johnson

Excused: Deborah A. Wood

Also Present: Sheri L. Yetzer – Superintendent; Brenda L. Clabbatz – Business Manager; William P. West – Director of Secondary Education

Media: Erin Passinger – The Corry Journal

Guests: Ed Sekerak

MOMENT OF SILENCE/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVED AGENDA

MOTION by Director Frisina and seconded by Director Baker to approve the agenda for July 8, 2019.

YEAS: Directors: Allen, Baker, Cook, Cox, Eastman, Frisina, Gernovich, Johnson

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION – ERIE COUNTY LAND BANK

President Gernovich provided a copy of a letter she received from the City of Corry regarding participation in the Erie County Land Bank. She also gave an overview of the make-up of the Land Bank Board which includes nine members; one member from each of the seven municipalities as well as two at-large members; one attorney, who does not represent any school district, and one real estate agent. The two at-large members are selected by County Executive, Kathy Dahlkemper, and the term limits for all members are staggered. Corry is represented by Mayor Dave Mitchell. The members are chosen by the County Council members who represent our municipality and that individual does not have to be a member of a council or the mayor – it can be anyone including a school board member. All meetings are advertised and are public and there is time at each meeting for public comment. Minutes are taken at each meeting and are available online. For Corry in particular, four lists of blighted properties have been submitted but have not yet been made public because not all of the homeowners have been notified. President Gernovich stated there are eleven properties currently on Corry's judicial tax sale list and that is available online. There are four criteria which would enable the Land Bank to take over a property; 1) no taxes collected for three years, 2) vacant for a long period of time, 3) obviously in decay and, 4) up for judicial tax sale.

DISCUSSION – ERIE COUNTY LAND BANK (cont'd)

The Land Bank can then take the properties over to fix them up, re-sell them or turn them into community projects. President Gernovich met with Jason Biondi (City Manager) and Mayor Mitchell to talk about a role in which the School Board could be involved. The letter the City provided states that they will include the School District in project summary meetings where they will review potential projects once they have been vetted and prepared for presentation to the Land Bank. They suggested that the School Board appoint an employee to represent the School District and act as an informational conduit to the Board. President Gernovich stated she would like the Board to reconsider the motion to approve the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between the Erie County Land Bank, the City of Corry and the Corry Area School District.

Director Eastman would like to know who the real estate agent is on the Land Bank board. He also asked for clarification on the statement regarding homeowners who had not been notified yet. President Gernovich said that the lists of properties are not yet being made public because they have not been fully investigated and the owners have not been notified. Director Eastman asked if some of the properties are being lived in and President Gernovich said no. Director Cox asked for clarification on the four different lists that have been submitted. It is believed that different entities sent these in – possibly the City, the Corry Neighborhood Initiative, the Corry Redevelopment Authority and the Corry Industrial Benefit Association. Director Allen mentioned that when the Land Bank representative presented to the School Board, she said there were multiple lists and that those lists need to be cross-referenced for duplication and then narrowed down to only properties that meet the criteria before that list would be made public. Director Frisina pointed out that the City is asking the School Board to appoint someone from the District to represent the School District.

REVIEW POLICY UPDATES

Review Policy Revisions

1. Review revisions to Policy 222 – Tobacco - as recommended by PSBA and the CASD Policy Committee, for approval at the September 9, 2019 meeting.
2. Review revisions to Policy 227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia – as recommended by PSBA and the CASD Policy Committee, for approval at September 9, 2019 meeting.

MOTION FAILED TO RECONSIDER ERIE LAND BANK AGREEMENT

MOTION by Director Frisina and seconded by Director Cook to reconsider the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between the Erie County Land Bank, the City of Corry and the Corry Area School District.

Director Cox asked about the point of order in which Director Frisina changed his vote at the previous meeting, allowing him to be on the prevailing side of the failed motion. She believes that was not done in the correct order. President Gernovich confirmed that she spoke with Solicitor Sennett and the Pennsylvania School Code allows for the President's prerogative to permit a board member to change their vote. School Code and the district's policies supersede Robert's Rules of Order.

Director Eastman expressed concern that homeowners would be removed from their homes and their properties would be condemned and torn down. President Gernovich restated that the list of properties will not be made public until the homeowners have been notified. Director Frisina pointed out that no property will be on the list unless it meets the four criteria, the first being that they are delinquent in their taxes for three or more years and obvious decay would be determined by City Code Enforcement. A property must be on the judicial tax sale list before it will be considered. President Gernovich stated that the Land Bank has a limited amount of money to be used between the seven municipalities in the County and each property under consideration would have to meet the four criteria to even be considered.

MOTION FAILED TO RECONSIDER ERIE LAND BANK AGREEMENT (cont'd)

Director Baker feels the agreement is too simplistic and that the document should be more aligned to the ones Philadelphia and Troy have with a very descriptive, distinct way of taking the houses and what they will do to them and how they go through the whole process.

Director Cox has noticed signs in Union City from ECGRA (Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority) and asked if Corry has any involvement with that. President Gernovich responded that ECGRA is backing the contract with the Land Bank. Director Cox asked if Union City had to sign an agreement and President Gernovich answered that both the municipality and school board of Union City have passed the agreement with the Erie County Land Bank. President Gernovich asked for the roll call vote.

YEAS: Directors: Allen, Cook, Frisina, Gernovich

NAYS: Baker, Cox, Eastman, Johnson

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

President Gernovich reported that prior to the last board meeting, an executive session was held for confidential safety and security updates. At that time, the board asked Mr. Daum to evaluate the different options for the provision of a school resource officer. President Gernovich asked what Mr. Daum's recommendation is and Mrs. Yetzer said that the recommendation is to contract with the Erie County Sheriff's Department.

MOTION by Director Cook and seconded by Director Frisina to approve Erie County Sheriff's Department to provide a School Resource Officer for the 2019-2020 school year.

Director Eastman asked about the City no longer funding their share of the SRO. Mrs. Yetzer stated that the City was unsure whether they would provide funding and that the District funded 50% of the SRO in the past. Director Eastman stated that he would like to make a motion to table this item until he can get answers to some questions he has.

MOTION by Director Eastman and seconded by Director Baker to TABLE Erie County Sheriff's Department to provide a School Resource Officer for the 2019-2020 school year.

Director Frisina stated that the City cannot guarantee that they can provide the SRO past December 31st and that presents the possibility that the District could get caught in the middle of the school year without an SRO. Mrs. Yetzer stated that technically our contract with the City was up June 30th and she would like to ensure we have an SRO in place for the opening of school. Director Eastman stated he understands that the Sheriff's Department has no investigative authority. Mrs. Yetzer said that they have "in-view" investigative authority and that currently with the City, when something happens at the Intermediate building the State Police have to be called. Further discussion confirmed that a Sheriff's Deputy on duty as SRO would be full-time whereas the SRO provided by the City oftentimes has to be out of the District for city-related obligations. Mrs. Yetzer reported that the cost of each Deputy is dependent upon their experience and that the district would have the opportunity to interview and have input on the Deputy assigned to Corry. At this time it has not been determined whether we would hire two or just one to start the year. Director Eastman expressed that he would like more time to study this decision and that is why he made the motion to table. Mrs. Yetzer explained that the Deputies are currently negotiating their contract so the department could not give us exact costs at this time and that seven other districts in the tri-county area are currently utilizing the Sheriff's Department for their SROs. More discussion was held regarding the option of hiring our own police officer but that would require us to start our own police force. Director Frisina expressed concern that as more county districts go with the Sheriff's Department for SROs, come January, if the City cannot provide services, we could have a problem getting coverage.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (cont'd)

Mrs. Yetzer will arrange for a representative to meet with us to answer any questions board members may have about investigative rights and powers.

Director Allen expressed that she feels Mr. Daum has done his research and that the Board has already been presented with the options and his recommendation and that she would like to vote on the original motion.

MOTION FAILED TO TABLE

At this time, a roll call vote was taken on the motion to table:

YEAS: Directors: Baker, Cox, Eastman

NAYS: None. Allen, Cook, Frisina, Gernovich, Johnson

APPROVED ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT 2019-2020 SY

MOTION by Director Cook and seconded by Director Frisina to approve Erie County Sheriff's Department to provide a School Resource Officer for the 2019-2020 school year.

YEAS: Directors: Allen, Cook, Cox, Frisina, Gernovich, Johnson

NAYS: Baker, Eastman

APPROVED RESIGNATION OF HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

MOTION by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Baker to approve the resignation of Bob Williams as Head Softball Coach, effective immediately.

YEAS: Directors: Allen, Cook, Cox, Frisina, Gernovich, Johnson

NAYS: Baker, Eastman

OTHER MATTERS BY BOARD MEMBERS

None.

OTHER MATTERS BY BUSINESS MANAGER

None.

OTHER MATTERS BY SUPERINTENDENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Director Eastman and seconded by Director Frisina to adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 8:01 p.m.

YEAS: Directors: Allen, Baker, Cook, Cox, Eastman, Frisina, Gernovich, Johnson, Wood

NAYS: None.

Victoria L. Anderson

Victoria L. Anderson, Board Secretary