

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

January 3, 2017

The regular meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dennis Brown on January 3, 2017 at 7:17 PM at the Township Office Building on East Village Drive. In attendance was Supervisor James Surfield, Supervisor Michael Steinbacher, Treasurer Sherry Hatch and Solicitor Denise Dieter. There were several attending from the community.

MEETING MINUTES: The minutes from the regular meeting December 6, 2016 and Special Budget meeting December 20, 2016 were reviewed and were approved as submitted. Motion: Jim Surfield; Seconded by Mike Steinbacher; Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Sherry Hatch read the Treasurers report for the period of December 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. Mike Steinbacher made a motion to approve the Treasurers report as submitted: Seconded by Jim Surfield; Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

December 2016

Receipts:		\$ 6,655.29
Expenditures:	General Fund	\$ 18,110.80
	Payroll	2,500.02
	Payroll Taxes	626.90
	Total Bills	\$ 21,237.72

Motion was passed at the December 20, 2016 meeting giving Sherry Hatch permission to pay the bills until the end of the calendar year of 2016.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Dennis Brown stated at the December 6, 2016 meeting that there was an issue brought up by the river lot owners with regards to signage of the lots. Denise stated that Jim Surfield had provided her with a drawing of what was needed and that she was incorporating that in the amendment to the ordinance.

ROADMASTERS REPORT:

- Jim Surfield stated someone went to Congressman Marino's office to register their complaint about the need for warning lights for Pfirman Road railroad crossing. He said he went to Congressman Marino's office and explained about the issue with regards to the lights and also addressed the lack of cooperation he was getting from the railroad to rebuild that crossing and the cleaning of the pipe that runs under the tracks to allow the water to flow onward to the river. Jim was told that the light issue was a state issue. He was also told that the rebuild of the crossing and the drainage issue was a federal issue. He was instructed to address these issues in a letter to the congressman which he did. Jim stated he received a reply back from Congressman Marino that the railroad promised to complete these tasks in the spring of 2017. Jim stated he will go to Representative Wheeland's office with regards to the light issue.
- Jim Surfield stated that he ordered a load of salt and it has been received.
- Jim Surfield stated the remote door openers have been received and installed and both doors are now able to be remotely operated.

PARK CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Mike said that there was nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Graffus Johnston gave an update on the various code violations and their status. He said he would start with the Bettie Mutchler property. He said that he and Mike Steinbacher went to the property and met with Steve Laielli. Graffus stated that there seemed to be some improvement from the last visit. He said he discussed his findings with the solicitor and it was decided to take more pictures of the property and mark on the photos what needed to be cleaned up yet. He said he then went up and met with Mr. Laielli and showed him the photos and what still needed to be cleaned up. Steve agreed to clean up the items addressed. Graffus stated he received a call a few days later from Mr. Laielli stating he had cleaned up the issues addressed. Graffus said he went up and verified that the issues were cleaned up. Graffus said he was satisfied that the issues were addressed and instructed the solicitor to withdraw the charges that were filed. Graffus stated that on the Feist property there appears to be no action taken to clean-up this property. He stated he was not sure about the 67 Second Avenue property as to where that stands in the legal process. Denise stated that the judge has issued warrants for the 67 Second Ave property and that a constable needs to serve the warrant. She said she has not heard back from them yet. Denise said the Feist complaint was filed on December 8, 2016. Graffus brought it to the chairman's attention about another property on Pfirman Road that also is in violation of the Property Maintenance Code. Graffus asked Denny Brown his opinion as to whether to pursue writing up a violation notice or not. Denny said that we need to establish an owner and start the procedure.
- Denny Brown addressed the issue of the drain culverts on River Road. He stated that this was an embarrassment, that we dropped the ball and didn't do our homework. He stated that now three supervisors have signed affidavits stating that they gave the Tebbs permission to use the drain pipes as access ways to their irrigation pipes. Denny said it was his opinion to let it go. Jim Surfield said that as far as he was concerned the culverts should have never been tampered with, they belong to the township and when you start taking blocks apart, destroying the culvert and cutting holes in the grate, it is not

their authority to do so. He said that the culvert at the end of River road posed a safety hazard. He said if a child were to step on the one corner of the grate the grate would give way and his leg would get ripped up as it went down through it. Jim said he puts safety first. Denise stated under the Pennsylvania statutes is the statute fraud. She said that when you're obligating a piece of real estate or binding a piece of real estate it needs to be done in writing. She said the Tebbs have a statute of fraud issue. She said there is nothing that says that I have been provided that shows that the Township granted an easement and if it did it should have been voted on in a meeting and it should have been recorded at the courthouse to protect both parties. She stated that she believes if permission was given verbally it would be more of a license than an easement and that a license is revocable. She stated she felt the issue is complicated and it should be resolved. Mike Steinbacher said he would contact John Tebbs to set up a meeting with him and all three supervisors.

- Denny Brown stated the zoning issue is still being looked into as far as what our options are. We are not happy with the cost factor that we are currently paying so we will have to find another solution still to be decided.
- Jim Surfield made a motion: to appoint Dennis Brown as a member to the Central Keystone Council of Governments; Seconded by Mike Steinbacher; Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE COMPANY REPORT:

- Mike Steinbacher gave the Fire Company Report. He reported they responded to 9 alarms for the month of December (2) Medical calls, (5) Mutual Aid, (2) Vehicle Accidents. 2016 review 119 total calls, Received State Fire Grant and FEMA Grant, Tractor pulls and classic car show, Fire prevention Programs(Nisbet B.S.I. and Paddington Station Preschool Duboistown, Little League World Series, Assisted with candy cane lane, Completed (certified) Hose, Ladder and Pump Testing.

MISCELLANEOUS:

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Previous Owner

Lisa C. Marcusky, Executrix of the Estate of Elizabeth L. Perry, John A. Smay, Administrator Of the Estate of the Elizabeth F. Perry

Tammy Lee, n/k/a
 Tammy L. Sweigart, Executrix of the Estate of Otis N. Perry, a/k/a Otis Neil Perry a/k/a Otis Perry

Lee R. Saar

New Owner

Scott E. Harris and Jacqueline M. Harris, Husband and Wife

Scott E. Harris and Jacqueline M. Harris. Husband & Wife

Lee R. Saar and Joyce E. Saar

Previous Owner

David J. Saiers & Elaine M. Saiers

Alfred Anthony Stevens

New Owner

Timothy J. Shellman & Vanessa L. Shellman

Andrew A. Stevens

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Larry Brungard asked why the changes to the meeting time for the meeting it was explained to him that by law the meeting has to take place on the first Monday of the year unless the first Monday is a Holiday then it has to be on the following day which would be Tuesday.
- Graffus Johnson addressed the issue of the tree root in the septic line in the park. He asked for permission to bring in a company that would rotor root the pipe rather than dig the pipe up and replacing it. Jim said that if the pipe is still in alignment it would probably be better to cut the root out rather than dig the pipe up. Denny said if Graffus was looking for authorization that he felt that the supervisors were all in agreement to cut the root out. Jim Said he would call someone in to get it done.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mike Steinbacher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00PM; seconded by Jim Surfield; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

James Surfield
Susquehanna Township Secretary