

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

March 1, 2016

The regular meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dennis Brown on March 1, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Township Office Building on East Village Drive. In attendance was Supervisor James Surfield, Supervisor Michael Steinbacher and Solicitor Denise Dieter. There were also many attending from the community.

MEETING MINUTES: The minutes from the regular meeting February 2, 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 February 1, 2016 to February 29, 2016. Jim Surfield made a Motion: To accept the Treasurer's report as read; Mike Steinbacher Seconded the motion; Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

February 2016

Receipts:		\$ 10,431.69
Expenditures:	General Fund	\$ 3,248.94
	Payroll	1,518.54
	Payroll Taxes	440.86
	Total Bills	\$ 5,208.34

Jim Surfield made a motion: To pay the bills as presented; Mike Steinbacher Seconded the motion; Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Dennis Brown reported he received a letter from the United States Department of Commerce with regard to the 2016 Government Units Survey (form GUS-1). He stated the survey would be done online and should take about 15 minutes. He asked Jim to complete the survey when it comes in.
- Dennis Brown stated the Lycoming County Planning Commission is holding a meeting on March 23, 2016 from 2-4 for municipal officials and from 6-8 for the public with regards to flood plain management at the Pennsdale Community Center.

ROADMASTERS REPORT:

- Jim Surfield stated that the street sign for the corner of Valley Road and Village Drive was ordered through a different vendor and it has been delivered and it is correct. It will be installed as soon as the weather permits.
- Jim stated that during the last storm there was significant damage to the berm along Riverview Drive. The night of the storm he stated that Graffus and he made temporary fixes to keep the water from crossing the road and onto the properties on the other side of the road. He stated that the next day the two of them went back to Riverview Drive with the backhoe and reshaped the berm to allow the water to stay off the roadway. He said there is still more permanent repairs that have to be made with regards to the drainage of water that is drained off of Rte. 654.
- Jim stated there is a pipe that crosses Pfirman Road just before you get to the railroad tracks that the bottom is rusted out and the pipe doesn't have enough cover over top of it. Because of the fact that the pipe has so little cover over top of it, it raises up during the extreme cold temperatures. This pipe needs replaced. He stated he met with DEP and forms need to be submitted to the DEP and the PA Fish and Boat Commission for approval before replacement can take place.
- Jim stated that there is a section of the sealcoat on Bertin Heights that is starting to break up. This spot is located near the Ferguson's driveway. Jim stated he called the asphalt contractor that applied the sealcoat and that they said they would come and take care of the spot under warranty. Jim stated that the break-up is probably the result of the underlying issue of water getting under the roadway that is running off of properties. This issue needs to be resolved
- Jim said he would have liked to do crack sealing this Spring while it is still cool and the cracks are open. The initial thought process was to do the work ourselves with the tar buggy that the township owns. He stated that when he showed this piece of equipment to our State Municipal Services Representative, he said that the tar buggy that we currently own is not suitable for today's rubberized tars. Our tar buggy has no temperature controls on it and without controls, the tar could get too hot and burn and be useless. Jim stated it would be more cost effective to measure the cracks that need filled and get quotes to have them filled by a contractor.
- Jim stated that he plans to attend a training session on Full Depth Reclamation on March 17, 2016 at the Woodward Township Fire Hall. He stated this is the process that will be used to rebuild East Village Drive.
- Jim stated that the past years the township bought its salt for the roads through Cargill. He said that if you go through COSTARS you can get it cheaper. The only stipulation is that you must take 60% of what you order. The plus side of it is, that you can get up to 140% of what you order.
- Jim said that there is a training program on purchasing through COSTARS on March 29, 2016 at the Troy Township building in Bradford County. He stated that this training coincides with the training he has already signed up for the Gravel and Dirt road grant certification. He said it is impossible for him to attend the COSTARS training and he felt that Sherry Hatch should attend the COSTARS training. Jim stated that there was similar training on May 18, 2016 at the 17th Annual West Branch COG Equipment Show & Training Day at the Lycoming County Fair Grounds. Mike and Jim will attend this event.

PARK CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Surfield said he had a contractor that was going to come up and look at the tennis/basketball court to do the finish coat. He said he was also looking for other contractors that do that type of work also. He said he would like input as to what colors should be used on the finish. He stated he was leaning towards South Williamsport High School colors of Blue and White. Blue for the main surface and white for the striping.
- Denise Dieter said at this time she has no further updates on the Reed property.
- Denise Dieter gave the status of the Flood Plain Ordinance. She said she received communication from FEMA and DCED with a sample ordinance that they are suggesting that everybody should use. She stated that the sample ordinance is different from the prior ordinance that we have. The county is holding a meeting on March 3, 2016 from 3-5 with the zoning officers and the township people that want to attend. She said she would be attending this meeting. She also stated that any ordinance would have to be approved by DCED and that it was her feeling that it might be best to use their ordinance.
- Denise said she had drawn up two contracts for river lot signage. The one was geared toward zoning and the other toward health safety. She said she would E-mail copies to the supervisors to look over and give their input as to what they want in the two documents to meet the needs of the township. Denny explained to those present from the community the need of these documents to ensure that the river lots remain in compliance with FEMA regulations as to what is allowed and what is not allowed in a flood prone area.
- Mike Steinbacher stated that an update on the sewer jet was that nobody wanted it from any municipalities and he had several bids on it but only for \$200. Graffus asked if he had listed it through the organization that Denise had suggested several months ago. Denise stated that she had suggested listing it with COSTARS. Mike said he thought because it was an old piece of equipment that COSTARS would not list it. Mike said he would list it with COSTARS.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dennis Brown addressed the issue of hiring a Property Maintenance Enforcement Officer. He stated we were using Central Keystone COG to be our Enforcement Officer at a cost of \$61 an hour to come up and tell someone they had to mow their grass. He stated it was more cost effective to have our own Enforcement Officer. The position was advertised and two applicants applied for the position. However, when one of the applicants was called for an interview and found out it was only a part-time job, the applicant withdrew their application. Graffus Johnston was the only applicant interviewed for this position. Jim Surfield made a motion: To hire Graffus Johnston as the Property Maintenance Enforcement Officer for Susquehanna Township at a rate of \$20.00 per hour; Seconded by Mike Steinbacher; Motion carried.
- Dennis Brown gave a brief description of the Lycoming County Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution 2016-02. Jim Surfield made a motion: to approve the Lycoming County Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution 2016-02; Seconded by Mike Steinbacher; motion carried.

- Sherry Hatch said she had met with Scott Kramer of SEDA COG with regards to creating a WEB page for the township. She said there was a grant that would cover the cost of setting up the WEB page. The only cost would be the yearly cost of \$140. A discussion was held as to whether a WEB page would be utilized. It was felt that the township should go forward with the establishment of the site for a trial period of one year. Mike Steinbacher made a motion: To try the WEB Site for a year; Seconded by Jim Surfield; motion carried.
- Jim Surfield Made a motion: to advertise for a Maintenance Position “B”; Seconded by Mike Steinbacher; Motion carried.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT:

- Mike Steinbacher presented the Fire Company Report. He stated there was a Ham Dinner scheduled for March 12 and an Easter Egg Hunt for March 19. He reported they responded to 2 vehicle accidents, 2 water problems, 1 medical call, 1 Mutual aid (house fire)

MISCELLANEOUS:

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Previous Owner

New Owner

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Douglas Boyles stated he knew the township was down an employee but he felt the roads were not getting the attention that they had in previous years. He stated he had concerns that firemen could not respond in a timely manner if they were called out. He stated there was an alarm one night and the roads were pretty dicey. He said all the firemen coming from all directions said the roads were pretty dicey. Jim asked Mr. Boyles if he could give the date and time when the occurrence was that there was a problem responding and what roads were dicey. Mr. Boyles said he did not know when the problem occurred. Jim said that if you have a complaint about the road conditions you should have the facts to back-up the complaint. Jim stated there hasn't been a time that the township trucks haven't been out within a half hour of the start of the storm. Jim stated that the township only had one storm that they actually had to put the plows down and that storm was right after a severe cold spell. The storm started out as snow and then it rained and the mixture froze to the pavement. Jim stated that the state trucks on Rte. 654 were unable to get the mixture off the pavement until the next day as well. Mr. Boyles proceeded to say there were storms during the night and the roads weren't touched at 9:30 AM the next day. Graffus Johnston stated to Mr. Boyles that there hasn't been a time that we had a storm at night that we were not out that night to take care of the roads. Graffus said if there were icy roads the next day he did not know how to explain that. He referenced the storm that had started out as snow and then rained on top of the snow. He said that we took everything off that we could get off. The fact that the rain mixed with the snow it froze and the plow would float up on top of it in some areas and in some areas it would clear it off. He stated anti-skid material was put down on all roads that night and the next day the trucks were out as well peeling off the rest that did not come off during the night. Graffus also informed

Mr. Boyles that we are not down a person but, up a person because what we have been doing during these storms is that he takes one truck and does certain roads and Jim takes the other truck and does certain roads and that we can be more efficient than when Robbie tried to do it by himself with one truck. Graffus told Mr. Boyles that if he knows of a problem during any storm he would be glad to take a call to address the issue.

- Bill Giles stated his concern about the length of time it was taking to get the issue resolved with regard to the Reed Property.
- Larry Brungart asked if there were any restrictions such as; skateboarding going to be allowed on the tennis/basketball court. Jim said when the court is completed it will be signed that the court will be restricted to basketball and tennis playing only.
- Douglas Boyles asked if the use of the court was going to be restricted to township residents only. Jim said as long as it is used properly it is a public court. Jim stated that currently soccer teams from South Williamsport use the field for practice and we have no problems. Jim said that if a problem develops it will be addressed.
- Bill Giles asked if there is an ordinance with regards to how close somebody can dump near the property line. The answer was there is no ordinance.
- Terry Knarr asked questions as to the charges of his zoning board hearing that was held in July of 2015. It was Mr. Knarr's contention that he should have been only charged \$50.00 for the hearing. He stated that he had applied for the hearing prior to the Township raising the price to \$300 and half of the cost of the court stenographer. Jim Surfield stated that the Township had already raised the price of the Zoning Hearing Board hearing cost prior to Mr. Knarr's application for the hearing. Jim said he would check with Rodney Heindel to see when the application for the hearing was officially requested. Dennis Brown told Terry Knarr that the township would check the dates that the ordinance was passed and when the official request for a Zoning Hearing Board hearing was requested and that if the date of the request was made prior to the passage of the rate increase he would be reimbursed for the \$250.
- Graffus Johnston reported to Mike Steinbacher that the roof of the large pavilion had a large accumulation of moss and algae growing on it. Mike said he would look at it the next day.
- Bill Giles brought up the issue of water and ice on Rte. 654. He was told that Rte. 654 is the responsibility of the state and they have been informed of the situation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mike Steinbacher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM; seconded by Jim Surfield; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

James Surfield
Susquehanna Township Secretary