

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

April 4, 2017

The regular meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dennis Brown on April 4, 2017 at 7:00 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 many attending from the community.

MEETING MINUTES: The minutes from the Regular Meeting March 7, 2017 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 March 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017. Jim Surfield made a motion to approve the Treasurers report as submitted: Seconded by Mike Steinbacher; Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

March 2017

Receipts:		\$ 16,260.18
Expenditures:	General Fund	\$ 7,768.90
	Payroll	4,055.27
	Payroll Taxes	843.70
	Total Bills	\$ 12,667.87

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Dennis Brown stated that he received from the county that our initial application for exclusion in the MS4 program has been granted.

ROADMASTERS REPORT:

- Jim Surfield stated, that because the lowest bidder for the Riverview Drive and Pfirman Road project had not participated in the pre bid meeting, he had a meeting with that contractor to make sure the contractor was fully aware as to what the project entailed and needed to be done for satisfactory completion of the project.

- Jim Surfield stated that maintenance is being done patching the roads affected by the winter months.
- Jim stated that in investigating a complaint from people living on River Road about water crossing over East Village Drive, in the area in front of the former elementary school, then running down River Road affecting their properties. He stated the problem is caused by the asphalt walkway that starts on the West end of the school property and cuts diagonally up to the front doors of the school. The area of walkway that is on the berm of the road diverts the water back out onto the roadway instead of allowing the water to continue to flow along the edge of the roadway to Bender Run. He said that although this walkway is on the township right of way he did go to the school to see if they had any objections to cutting this walkway and redressing the berm. He said the person responsible for the walkway would get back to him and that he was still waiting for a response.
- Jim said he had a meeting with a representative from Norfolk and Southern from Georgia, a representative for PENNDOT from Harrisburg and the maintenance supervisor for this area with regards to getting the siding at Pfirman Road rebuilt, warning lights installed and the drainage issue that backs up water into the houses south of the tracks.
- Jim reported that a tree on Stewart Road blew down during a wind storm and it cost the township \$1,850 to have the tree removed. Jim said there are other trees on this road that are in a condition that could be a hazard as well.

PARK CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Mike Steinbacher said he had a date of April 29th to clean up the park and cut down the dead trees. Mike said he would get with Graffus to get the sewer line repaired and address the moss off the roof of the pavilion. Mike also stated he would get with Jim to address the electrical repairs needed in the park. Denny asked Mike if this could be accomplished by the end of the month and Mike said that these items would be done by month's end.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Graffus Johnston gave an update on the various code violations and their status. He said that Allen Feist was at this meeting and he would let Allen address his concerns to the Supervisors. An at length discussion was held between Allen and Solicitor Denise Dieter with regards to power of attorney and Allen's ability to negotiate a settlement. Denny said the three supervisors would meet with Mr. Feist to see if an agreement could be reached without taking it before the magistrate. Graffus presented seven different properties that have issues with regards to falling down buildings and safety violations. Jim Surfield stated that item #7 deteriorated steps and platforms along River Road was addressed to the campground owners at a previous meeting. It was agreed by the board that Graffus should proceed with the violation notices.
- Denise Dieter stated that all the 2016 non-compliant violations of the sewage pumping ordinance had been filed with the exception of STD Realty LLC because she needs a name to have the warrant served to. A discussion concerning the individual who sent an e-mail to Denny Brown as to how she received one letter with regards to having the septic pumped but her denial of having any knowledge of the previous letters that were all sent to the same address. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that Denny Brown would call the previous owner to see who he sold the property to. Denise also addressed the 67 Second Avenue property as to who really owns the property. There seems to be some confusion

as to whether Olga Levi (Clark) and Mark Levi or Frederick Clark own the property. Denise said she would have to do more research as to who the real owner is.

- Jim Surfield stated that Mid-State LLC was the lowest bidder for the Dirt and Gravel Roads Project. Jim said there was a discrepancy in the amount of asphalt that was required to do the project. He said that he had a three way conference call with Denise Dieter and with Don Free PENNDOT Municipal Services Supervisor with regards to the discrepancy of the asphalt quantity. Jim said that Don Free stated that he could submit a change order to the low bidder and the contractor could either modify the cost based on that line item with regards to quantity or because the quantity was more than a 25% change he had the right to change his price per ton and the quantity amount. Jim said the contractor took the option of changing both the price per ton and the quantity amount, resulting in approximately a ten thousand dollar reduction in the overall price of the contract. Jim said that this reduction put the project right on target as to what the cost calculated when the grant was applied for. Jim Surfield made a motion to accept the bid from Mid-State Paving LLC for the project for Riverview Drive and Pfirman Road: Seconded by Mike Steinbacher. Dennis Brown stated he was opposed to approving the contract because the other contractors did not have a chance to modify their bid and that the township could be sued. Jim stated that this issue was discussed with Don Free and Denise. Don Free explained that only the lowest bidder needed to be contacted because contacting the others would have no bearing on the outcome of the bid. He said the scope of the bid was not changed only the quantity of material for the two line items was being changed. Don said the township could actually remove them two items from the contract altogether and have the work done by themselves or others. Denny asked Denise if she was ok with the accepting this offer. She stated that she believed it could be done and she asked Don Free during the conference call if the change order was acceptable and she said Don's answer was that it was. Denny stated his lack of confidence in Don Free and said he wanted the project re-bid. Jim stressed the importance of the timing because contractors are filling their schedules for the summer and that this project needs to be completed by August 31, 2017 or we will lose the grant money of \$46,000. The motion was put to a vote Mike Steinbacher and Dennis Brown voted no and Jim Surfield voted yes; Motion denied.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ordinance 2017-02 Amendment to the Susquehanna Zoning Ordinance was presented and discussed. There was a slight typo on the document that Denise said she would correct and e-mail to Jim. This ordinance addressed Junk yards and Scrap Yards. Jim Surfield made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2017-02: Seconded by Mike Steinbacher; Motion Carried.
- Dennis Brown stated that the county was going to conduct a LOMA meeting with the residents along Bender Run to go over the paperwork involved to authorize the surveying of their property. This meeting will be held Wednesday April 12, 2017 at 4:00 PM.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT:

- Jim Pfleeger gave the Fire Company Report. He reported they responded to 14 alarms for the month of March. Training conducted (10) MAMA Fire Training Weekend, (13) Haz-Mat Refresher, (3) Fire Police-Highway Safety and (3) Penn College-Emergency Medical Responder Course. Received Letter

from ISO confirming a Rating Of 8B. Purchased a 2001 American LaFrance Engine Truck. Jim asked the Supervisors for their input in identifying special needs individuals in the township. Jim stated he was concerned that it took two days to remove the snow pile that was hindering the view of the motorist pulling unto Route 654 from East Village Drive. Jim Surfield said that due to the fact for those two days the township was by priority trying to keep Pfirman Road and River Road open. He said he felt that the keeping a road open to allow emergency vehicles access to the residents on the other side of the snow drifts was a higher priority than the snow pile causing visibility issues that could be overcome by using caution when entering the intersection. Jim Pflieger said he wanted to talk about the river lot addressing after the meeting. Jim Pflieger continued on with his report stating the Easter egg hunt was scheduled for Saturday April 8, 2017 at 10:00 AM. Jim explained about the app that can be put on your cell phone that would be tied to 911 alerts.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Mike Steinbacher said that with the snow drifting problem that occurred during the March 14th snow storm that in the future there are snow blowers in the township that could be utilized to clear out these snow drifts. Jim Surfield asked who had these snow blowers that could handle 6’ drifts. Mike said Plocinski has one and the Steppe’s have two of them. Jim said what would really help would be to put up snow fence to keep the drifts from happening but the owners of the land will not allow you on their land to erect a snow fence.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Previous Owner

David M. Fox, Single and Deborah L. Fox
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 Robert M. Seagraves Jr., et al

New Owner

Erin O. Plocinski and Tyler J. Plocinski wife and husband
 Tonica M. Plocinski, and Cory J. Chilson, single, and
 Vicki A. Plocinski, single
 Robert M. Seagraves Jr., et al

SOLICITOR:

- Denise addressed the need for an ordinance regarding the medical marijuana issue. She presented an ordinance for the board to look over and if the board was ok with the ordinance she would present it to the county for their input.
- Denise also presented a draft of an ordinance amending ordinance 2016-06 pertaining to using the 2009 International Building Code.
- Denise said she felt it was time to redo the zoning ordinance seeing how our current version is 13 years old and appears to be outdated. A discussion was held as to who might be available to take this project on.
- Denise stated that the automobile sales issue that has been brought up, that there is nothing in our zoning ordinance addressing the sales of automobiles. She said this needs to be addressed in the zoning ordinance in order to regulate it. Jim Surfield made a motion to have Denise Dieter draw up a regulation for car dealerships pertaining to the zoning ordinance: Seconded by Mike Steinbacher; Motion Carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Allen Feist addressed the issue of the unlicensed and uninspected campers being stored on properties to the point of the property could be considered as junkyard and would need to follow junkyard rules of fencing. It was also discussed about the movement of these campers on public roads, the lack of business permits by the owners of the storage lots. Denise said the township would have to look into these issues. She said these storage lots are not permitted and that it falls under the International Property Maintenance Code.
- A resident stated her concern as to why the township would want any additional junkyards because it decreases property values to others adjacent to these junkyards.
- John Askey stated he heard that Graffus Johnston plowed Giles Lane with the township truck. Graffus told John that was untrue and that he took the truck home to get something to eat after plowing for 16 hours. John said he was just saying what he was told. Graffus told John that he shouldn't be saying anything if he didn't have proof to back up his story.
- Matt Fuller stated his concerns about the ability of the snow removal crews over the past two years. When asked about particular incidences Matt made accusations that were denied as being true by both Jim Surfield and Graffus Johnston.
- Mark Rachael asked the question if the taxes was raised to buy the new fire truck. He was told that the taxes had nothing to do with the fire truck. Dennis Brown said the taxes were not raised in 18 years and that they were raised by a ½ mil because the township was depleting the cash on deposit.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jim Surfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM; seconded by Mike Steinbacher; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

James Surfield
Susquehanna Township Secretary