

## SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

May 2, 2017

The regular meeting of the Susquehanna Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dennis Brown on May 2, 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 a few residents attending from the community.

**MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes from the Regular Meeting April 4, 2017 and the minutes from the Special Meeting of April 27, 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 April 1, 2017 to April 30, 2017. Mike Steinbacher made a motion to approve the Treasurers report as submitted: Seconded by Jim Surfield; Motion Carried.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW:**

#### **April 2017**

<b>Receipts:</b>		<b>\$ 55,964.32</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	General Fund	\$ 9,753.69
	Payroll	4,190.90
	Payroll Taxes	2,157.41
	<b>Total Bills</b>	<b>\$ 16,102.00</b>

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

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

- Dennis Brown expressed his gratitude and thanked all those involved in the clean-up effort to open up the roads after the severe storm the previous night.
- Dennis asked Jim Surfield to give an update on the conditions of roads that were affected by the storm damage. Jim stated that Route 654 was reopened after the downed tree that was across the roadway was removed. He said River Road had trees down but have been removed enough to allow passage of traffic.

He said that Stewart Road was currently being worked on by a Pennline crew to remove the trees resting on the power lines so that PPL could restore power to that area. Jim said that all the rest of roads were open but some had small limbs that still needed to be cleaned off the roads. He stated that the broom that would normally do the job of getting the small limbs off the roadway has a broken shaft and needs repaired. He said that in areas that had a large accumulation of debris he plowed it off with the snow plow. He said that Valley Road still remained closed and that PPL said they believed they would have power restored by 9:00 PM tonight. Jim stated that during this event it proved that some of the radios do not work and that the caution lights on the barricades to close roads do not work.

### **ROADMASTERS REPORT:**

- Jim Surfield stated that the boards that were removed from between the salt and cinder bins had been replaced
- Jim Surfield stated that while replacing the boards he noticed that there are roof leaks over top the salt bin that need to be repaired
- Jim stated that at some point in time that the apron in front of the salt and cinder bins should be replaced. The current apron is deteriorating and not wide enough to keep leakage on the ground from happening when new loads are being delivered.
- Jim said the contract for Riverview Drive and Pfirmen Road has been finalized and Dave Gutelius Excavating was awarded the contract.
- Jim reported that at the PSATS convention that it was brought out that the State is requiring the townships to start maintaining items such as; sidewalks, driveway drainpipes that are on State roads. Jim asked Mike Steinbacher if the Fire Company would be available to help flush out drains along township roads.

### **PARK CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

- Mike Steinbacher said they cut down one of three of the dead trees in the park. Mike also stated he would get with Jim to address the electrical repairs needed in the park. Jim asked about the sewer repair Mike stated that it was setback by the storm that occurred. John Askey asked why it wasn't done prior to the storm that occurred the night before.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Graffus Johnston gave an update on the various code violations and their status. He said that Allen Feist and he had met and worked out a plan to clean-up 86 Sherwood Lane which is the Feist Property. He listed the six stipulations of the agreement. 1. The property must be cleaned up within six months from the date agreement is accepted. 2. A monthly update will be provided by the Feist family listing all supporting documents showing the progress that is being made. 3. Demonstrate a consistent and ongoing steady progress. 4. The Feist family will grant the township access to the property during the six month period. 5. During the first two months all efforts of the clean-up to be directed at all areas visible from the township roads. 6. Failure to comply with the agreement will result in the township taking additional actions. Allen Feist when asked if he was in agreement with this plan stated there would continue to be automotive activity at that location. He also stated that he along with his mother want the property cleaned up. Solicitor Denise Dieter asked Allen Feist if he had documentation that showed he had a

permit for a particular use on the property. Allen stated he did have that document with him. He presented a letter from his mother to the township dated October 4, 1988 and received by Kenneth Hafer Sr. He also presented some sort of letter from previous owners of the properties that border the Feist Property. He also provided a copy of Ordinance #36. An at length discussion was held as to the history of what the property was used for from the start until the present day use and what it will be used for going forward. It was stated that the mother in her letter said it was to be for auto repair and selling of autos. It was not to be a junkyard. It was finally agreed that Allen Feist and Graffus Johnston need to get together and go through the property to determine what needs to go and what can stay and then make a report back to the supervisors. A special meeting could be held to review their findings.

- Graffus stated he attended a course in Hershey during the PSATS convention regarding the International Property Maintenance Code. He stated they stressed that the townships need a policy with regards to enforcement of the code. He said cases are being thrown out of court based on discrimination. He presented a draft of a policy for the supervisors to review. “Attorney Dieter cautioned the adoption of such a broad based policy. Her caution is based upon the fact that the language would imply that the township policy would require the investigation and/or prosecution of all IMPC violations, some of which the township may, at its discretion, elect not to enforce, such as chipped paint”. It was decided, Denise and Graffus would get together to better word the policy statement.
- Jim Surfield said at the PSATS convention that there were multiple vendors there that were advertising codification. He said he attended a class on the subject presented by one of the vendors. He presented a business card and literature from this vendor. Denise stated this same vendor was working with Eldred Township to do their codification and expected more than they got. Denise said to ask for a quote and to confirm that they do the zoning ordinance part as well.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Jim Surfield said while at the PSATS convention he talked to the Sealmaster vendor about the rental of a unit that has a compressor mounted on the front of the unit for blowing out the cracks in the road and a sealer applicator on the back unit to fill the cracks in. He said the unit rents for \$1800 a week plus whatever amount of tar you would use. He said if three or more townships locally would go together for a three or four week period the cost would be \$1300.
- Jim Surfield said the township received a copy of the audit report for the Nisbet Volunteer Fire Company’s Relief Association for the period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2016. He stated in that report there were two findings noted. Finding #1 was the Untimely Deposit of State Aid. Finding #2 was noncompliance with prior audit recommendation – Inadequate Minutes of Meetings. Finding #2 was a repeat finding. It was cited in the report that this report should be available for examination by all interested citizens. Denny asked Mike what changes are being made to correct these issues so that there is not a third repeat finding. Mike stated that Mr. Stroble was not doing it properly and there would be minutes of meetings in the future. Mike said he talked to Sherry to make sure that when the check goes out to the fire company that it states on the bottom of the check that it is for the relief association. He said when Barb got the check she put it in the general fund because she didn’t see it marked on the check. He said he wasn’t sure if it was on the check or not. Jim Surfield reiterated the fact that the township has to present each month a financial statement to the public as to the financial condition of the township showing money coming into the township and all money going out of the township and how it

is spent. He stated in the interest of transparency that the fire company should be held to the same standard as the township and provide to the township a monthly financial statement listing all transactions during the previous month.

- Ordinance No. 2017-03 An ordinance Amending Ordinance 2016-06 pertaining to the Uniform Construction Code was not adopted because it was not advertised. It will be addressed at the June meeting.

#### **FIRE COMPANY REPORT:**

- Mike Steinbacher gave the Fire Company Report. He stated the tractor pull scheduled for the weekend of May 5 and 6 needed to be postponed to the weekend of May 20, due to the storm damage.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

#### **REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS**

**Previous Owner**

**New Owner**

#### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

- Max Fuller asked if Pfirman Road was going to be closed for two days for the pipe replacement. Jim Surfield told him the road would be closed a couple of hours during the actual replacement of the pipe. He said after the pipe is replaced all other work can be done without closing off the flow of traffic.
- John Askey brought up the issue of the depth of the stop sign at the end of Pfirman Road. Jim said that the depth of the post used for the anchoring of the sign was 3' not 4' as John had previously said was the law. Jim said he would make sure the post was 3' in the ground and that all abandoned stubs would be pulled out.
- Jim Dunn made a presentation with regards to meeting with surrounding townships and boroughs to see if there would be interest in sharing equipment and resources. He also said it would benefit zoning such as actual uses and enforcement. Denny Brown said yes we would be willing to sit down and talk about the issues.
- Graffus Johnston read from the zoning ordinance page 47 that addresses on lot storage. He stated that part #C states that in residential and business districts all outdoor unenclosed storage shall be shielded from view from any street or road or adjacent property with screening or fencing. Graffus's question was it going to be enforced and if so are all people that fall in this category going to be held to the same standard.
- Denny announced that there would be an executive session held after this meeting for legal advice.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Jim Surfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM; seconded by Mike Steinbacher; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

James Surfield  
Susquehanna Township Secretary