



Washington Township
15973 South State Route 44 Highway
Allenwood, PA 17810

Supervisors' Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair O'Rourke with Road Master Ulrich and Vice Chair LaForme present. There were ten citizens in attendance. The meeting had limited seating due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Mr. LaForme made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 6th, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ulrich and unanimously approved.

Financial Reports

Secretary Satteson read the account balances and presented several reports including expenditures, revenue, payroll and profit & loss statements.

Citizens Participation

Karen Weimer brought up that another township has call-in available for meetings and was wondering if that is something this township can do. Chair O'Rourke stated that a lot of those call-in meetings and zoom meetings have technical difficulties and about half of those attending tonight probably don't have computers. The supervisors are not opposed to the idea. It was also discussed about using the fire hall building in the future allowing more people to attend. It was mentioned that everything is made available on the website. Jamie Weimer asked if there are paper copies available of the last few months of meeting minutes and Secretary Satteson stated that copies are available in the lobby. It was noted that copies of tonight's meeting minutes would not be available until approved at the next meeting.

Karen Weimer then stated that because there haven't been many meetings open to the public, there are tons of rumors going around and she wanted to know if Bonnie Taylor was getting unemployment compensation. Chair O'Rourke stated that our lawyers are dealing with that now and he believes the answer is no. Mrs. Weimer then asked about overweight dump trucks using township roads. She wanted to know if that was an issue and if it would break down roads. Road Master Ulrich stated the trucks that have recently been on the roads are doing township business and they are bonded. If

someone comes in and wants to do a project, they have to be bonded. Mrs. Weimer then asked what that means. George explained that a company out of Williamsport comes out and videotapes the road and the construction company must post a bond or bank check. When work is complete, the company comes back in and videotapes the road again to determine wear and tear. If there is significant damage, the township keeps the bond money for repair to the road(s). Chair O'Rourke stated there will always be trucks too heavy for the roads and the way to protect the township and tax payers is to require bonding. It's just like an insurance policy, so if they do damage, we can take from that insurance policy and repair the damages. Road Master Ulrich said we cannot stop trucks from making local deliveries. Mrs. Weimer then said that she heard the issue was that the big dump trucks were doing township work that caused the bridge damage on Snook Road and she wanted to know if these construction vehicles were bonded. George said if they were doing township work then yes they were bonded. The reason that Snook Road is closed, is that the pipe is rusted out. It was not damaged by the trucks.

A written complaint was read by Chair O'Rourke. It was from John Haynes for lack of work on Leisure Acres Road. George stated he is in the process of getting prices from contractors. All the fill is sitting outside here for that project and it should begin in the next month. Susan will let John know that work is expected to begin within the next 30 days.

Jamie Weimer stated that she likes the way the new agenda and financial reports look.

Road Master Reports

Back road project is well underway. Shale has all been delivered and is in place. Next week, stone will be applied. The oil and chipping is supposed to happen the 5th or 6th of this week. Green Pine road was rebuilt with a sub base and George estimates that the road can be chipped for \$7,000 and he would like to add it on to the Hammaker contract. Mr. LaForme made a motion to add this work to the Hammaker East contract, seconded by Chair O'Rourke and unanimously approved.

Leisure Acres road should be started in 30 days or less.

Planning Commission Reports

Nothing from the planning commission.

Reports and Recommendations from the Chair

The township does now have a website. Agendas, participation forms, financial reports and meeting minutes are available on the website along with other useful information.

The office area has been opened up making it more accessible and the agendas have been changed. We continue to move forward in making positive changes including transparency. The office is now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, (3-8 PM on Mondays/Fridays, 9 AM – 5 PM on Wednesdays).

With Susan being here, we are doing everything in about half the time as we did prior. She is averaging 20 hours or less per week. We are trying to save the township as much money as we can. Susan recently completed an online course, the ABC's of Liquid Fuels. Some things are new to her and some things are not and for those new things, she is doing some online training to become familiar.

Time sheets have been changed to include employee signature and supervisor approval. All employees must sign their time sheet and have it reviewed and approved by a supervisor before being paid. Hours worked will be reviewed by all supervisors as part of a monthly process.

Information Items

- Received 2019 Act 13 funds in the amount of \$24,654.85
- \$60,000 check to fire company from township's fire account toward purchase of new truck
- Purchased new zero turn from Best Line Equipment in the amount of \$3,799
- An audit was conducted on our workers compensation policy resulting in a \$176.00 premium refund.

Old Business

Zoning ordinance amendment will be advertised prior to the September meeting. The maximum building height for agricultural building will be changed to 50 feet. We will then be in line with the surrounding townships.

Snook Road Bridge is rotted and in very bad condition. The option is to either rebuild the bridge or figure out an alternative. As far as taxpayers of the township are concerned, it probably isn't wise to rebuild that bridge since there are two more bridges on the road that may not last much longer. Aside from serving the three houses, this road is not necessary as there are two other roads accessing Back Road. Vacating the

back portion of Snook Road is being considered. A culdesac would be added so those people with driveways there can still access them. If land owners don't agree with this option, the last option would be to close the back part of the road permanently.

A meeting will be scheduled with Solicitor Engelman, Engineer Pysner, all supervisors and the land owners to review these options.

New Business

Mr. Ulrich would like to look into different insurance companies. Chair O'Rourke stated that we started looking into it earlier this year but were too close to the renewal period so it was decided to revisit next year a few months prior to renewal.

Meetings will continue to be held with limited seating until we are told otherwise. The possibility of phone call meetings will be looked into as well as the possibility of holding meetings at the fire hall allowing a few more people to attend.

Motion to adjourn at 6:27 p.m. by Mr. LaForme, seconded by Mr. Ulrich.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Satteson

Susan Satteson
Washington Township Secretary