

Penn Township Supervisor Meeting

February 21, 2024

Chairman Isaac Ramer Jr. called the 2.21.2024 Supervisor Meeting to order at 5:45 pm, and turned the meeting over to Jim Bathgate for a Zoning Ordinance Amendment's Public Hearing.

Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Jim Bathgate called the public meeting to order at 5:46 pm to discuss Zoning Ordinance Amendments that allow Farnettes to be a permitted use within the Rural Residential (RR), Low Density Residential (R-1) and Agricultural Conservation (AC). This would allow the keeping of chickens in these zones subject to section 1116 and section 1135. The Penn Township Planning Commission worked on these amendments and then forwarded their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors then gave preliminary approval and forwarded the amendments to the Snyder County Planning Commission and Penn Township Planning Commission for final review. Julie Hartley read the response from the Snyder County Planning Commission as follows, "The Snyder County Planning Department has reviewed the proposed Ordinance to amend Penn Township Zoning Ordinance to provide for farnettes as a permitted use in the Rural Residential Zone, Low Density Residential Zone and Agricultural Conservation District subject to Sections 1116 and 1135. The proposed amendments also address keeping of chickens in a residential area. After review the Snyder County Planning Department has no comments". Jim continued by noting that the Penn Township Planning Commission had no additional comments. The public hearing was duly advertised in the Daily Item. Prior to these amendments, farnettes were allowed by conditional use but the amendments change it to a permitted use. Any applicant must comply with all the criteria set forth in Section 1116 and Section 1135. In section 1116 the changes were that a minimum of one acre and a set-back of twenty-five feet must be met in order that chickens may be kept on the property. In Section 1135, chickens will not be permitted to run at large, must be housed in sanitary conditions, feces must be disposed of in a proper and sanitary way, feces shall not accumulate into a public nuisance, chicken manure may be composted and used on gardens and slaughtering or butchering of chickens for personal consumption or religious practices shall be permitted. Discussion was held by the attending public regarding manure disposal. Jon Payne asked if the Board of Supervisors reviewed the changes prior to tonight's hearing. Jim explained to the Board of Supervisors that the amendments can be accepted tonight or can be accepted at a later date at another board meeting. **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Isaac Ramer Jr., and Board acclamation to adjourn the public hearing on the Zoning Amendments at 6 pm.**

Chairman Isaac Ramer Jr. called the 2.21.2024 Supervisor Meeting back to order at 6:01 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present included: Supervisors: Isaac Ramer Jr., Ross Smoker, Mark Strawser, Township Manager Julie Hartley and Solicitor Jim Bathgate

Public Present: Bill Kline, Jon Payne, Chad Brandt, Chris Fetter and Colin Rice.

Minutes – **On motion by Mark Strawser, seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to approve the February 7, 2024 supervisor's meeting minutes.**

Persons Present to be Heard: None

New Business:

Advertisement for Road Project: Fair Oak, Perkinson, Pine Brook, Sportsman and E. Kratzer Rd. – Mark explained that other roads like Pine Brook have shown winter damage that needs addressed so he asked that the roads that be placed out to sealcoat bid be Fair Oak Road, Perkinson Road and Sportsmans Drive. He will secure estimates for the roads that need shoulder base repairs at the next Supervisor's meeting for discussion. **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to advertise Fair Oak Road, Perkinson Road and Sportsmans Drive to secure fiber sealcoating, fog sealing and line painting bids.**

Advertisement for Stone Bids – **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to advertise the stone bids for 2024.**

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February 21, 2024

Alternate Sewage Code Enforcement Office Appointment, Paul Rapp – Jim explained that an alternate Sewage Code Enforcement Officer should be appointed in case of a conflict of interest with the current SEO. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to appoint Paul Rapp as the alternate Sewage Code Enforcement Officer.**

Chad Shaffer to Review Fike Brother's Carpet One Land Development – The Penn Township Planning Commission has recommended to the Board of Supervisors that Chad Shaffer review the Fike Brother's Carpet One Land Development Plan. **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to have Chad Shaffer, Township Engineer, review the Fike Brother's Carpet One Land Development Plans.**

Selling of Old Oil Shop Furnace – Discussion was held about the disposal of the old oil shop furnace. Jim noted that personal property of the Township sold for less than \$2,000 was allowed unless someone affiliated with the Township purchases the item. Mark will check with local heating contractors to gauge interest.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments – **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to table the zoning ordinance amendments until the April 3, 2024 meeting.**

Old Business:

Public Comment:

Jon Payne – Jon asked why estimates for berm base repair were not available for this meeting. The response was that estimates are being done by the PennDOT representative and should be available at the next meeting.

Colin Rice, DH&L Fire Co. – Colin reported that there were twenty-six incidents in January with no fire loss and thirty-man hours were clocked. On March 17th a group from DH&L will be going to Wisconsin to see the ladder truck in production. It is expected to be placed in service sometime in June or July.

Colin Rice, EMC – Colin noted that he has attended one virtual training since becoming the Penn Township Emergency Management Coordinator. He will work with Derek Shambach, County EMC, to further his training.

Jon Payne – Jon asked when the next Township newsletter will be published and if a day designating free loading of mulch at the compost area could be advertised.

FYI:

- DCNR Comfort Station Grant Completion Letter
- ACH Payroll Report for 2.22.24
- Invoice Report for 2.21.24

Land/Subdivision:

- Ronald & Ryan Herman, Add-on Subdivision, filed 8.24.23, due 5.17.24
- Riteway Sealing/Brandan Longacre Conditional Use, filed 2.1.24, due 4.5.24
- Fike Brothers Carpet One Land Development, filed 2.1.24m due 4.30.24

Approval of Accounts Payable (State and General Funds)- **On Motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation, to pay bills.**

Adjournment - **On motion by Ross Smoker, second by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation the February 21, 2024 Supervisor's Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.**

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Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Hartley
Manager