

Penn Township Supervisor Meeting

April 3, 2024

Chairman Isaac Ramer Jr. called the 4.3.2024 Supervisor Meeting to order at 5:30 pm and turned the meeting to Jim Bathgate for a Conditional Use Hearing for Brandan Longacre of Riteway Sealing.

Chairman Isaac Ramer Jr. called the 4.3.2024 Supervisor Meeting back to order at 6:02 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public Present: Bill Kline, Shellie McCurdy, Paul Long, Chad Brandt, Colin Rice, Keith Beaver, Brandan Longacre, Crystal Flauaus and Nick Jacobson

Executive Session – Chairman Isaac Ramer Jr. announced that an executive session was held on March 20th from 6:20 pm until 6:25 pm to discuss personnel issues with no decisions made during that time.

Minutes – **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to approve the April 3, 2024 Supervisor's meeting minutes.**

Persons Present to be Heard:

Colin Roush, DH&L Fire Co. – Colin reported that there were twenty-four incidents, forty-man hours and seven calls located in the Township and no fire losses in March. March 30th was the annual Easter egg hunt and open house which had one hundred and thirty-two children participating. He also shared that the new ladder truck will be in Pennsylvania on April 8th and will then have the equipment mounted which will take approximately one month. Isaac asked about a Junior Firefighters program and Colin replied that they have been in contact with neighboring stations to start a program.

Crystal Flauaus – Crystal questioned the Board about blighted properties in Penn Township. The township has no property maintenance code in place. There is a nuisance ordinance that addresses rubbish and trash. Jim suggested that the Supervisors have the Planning Commission research the subject. **On motion by Mark Strawser, seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to request that the Planning Commission research blighted property ordinances.**

Shellie McCurdy – She shared with the Board the number of students using the after school drop-in program and noted that ten new students have signed up. Each month more students get involved and many quality groups share their resources with the children in attendance including the Children's Museum and Big Brothers & Sisters. The cornhole tournament was a successful fundraiser and another one will be held on May 4th.

Nick Jacobson – Nick introduced himself and noted that he is a Democrat seeking the office of State Representative for the 85th District. He would like to help schools, protect farmland and bring down the cost of healthcare.

New Business:

Awarding of Stone Bids – **On motion by Mark Strawser, seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to award the following stone bids: Meckley's Limestone – #57/2B Stone, 2RC Stone, R-3 Rock, AS 2 Anti-skid, 19mm Amesite and 25mm Amesite; National Limestone – 2A Stone, Gabion Stone, Riprap Stone, R-4 Rock and R-5 Rock. National Limestone was not awarded AS 2 Anti-skid because of past quality issues.**

Opening and Awarding of Sealcoat Bids – **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to accept the lowest bid of \$125,496.90 from Midland Asphalt Materials, Inc. of Bloomsburg to sealcoat, fog seal and line paint Fair Oak Road, Sportsman's Drive and Perkinson Road.**

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Resolution 2024-14, Pawling Station Railroad Crossing – Penn DOT has requested a resolution from the Board of Supervisors that would allow them to file the Pawling Station Railroad Crossing improvement project with the PUC. The Township will be responsible for some painting and installing advance warning signs but all other components of the project will be fully funded through PennDOT. **On motion by Issac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to adopt Resolution 2024-14 to allow Penn DOT to seek approval from the Public Utility Commission to make alteration to the Pawling Station Road Railroad Crossing.**

Transfer of Comfort Station Funds to General Funds – **On motion by Mark Strawser, seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to transfer the Comfort Station checking account funds to the General Fund checking account since the project is complete.**

Change of Recycling Hours to 3 pm – **On motion by Mark Strawser, seconded by Isaac Ramer Jr., and Board acclamation to change the Recycling Center hours to close at 3 pm instead of 2 pm.**

Les Dale, CDL Class B – Tabled until later in the meeting.

Summer Help – **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to advertise for summer help.**

Automatic Gate for Compost Site – **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to purchase an automatic gate system and four hundred cards for the Compost Site from Apollo Fence Company of Richfield in the amount of \$11,899.00 if wi-fi can be secured.**

Middlecreek Township Compost Site – After discussion about Middlecreek Township utilizing the compost site it was decided that Mark should speak to them and the issue will be tabled and discussed at the next meeting on April 17th.

Maturing CD Investments – Two CDs valued at \$240,000 each are maturing from Edward Jones and discussion was held on the which CD terms to re-invest in. After discussion the following motion was made: **On motion by Mark Strawser, seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to purchase one certificate of deposit in the amount of \$240,000 for a term of eighteen months at 5% interest and one certificate of deposit of \$240,000 for a term of two years at 4.85% interest if the rates are still current.**

60-Day Extension for Fike Brother's Land Development – Jim informed the Board that a sixty-day extension letter was filed for the Fike Brother's Land Development. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to grant a sixty-day extension to the Fike Brother's Land Development application.**

ARPA Fund Reporting – Jim asked about the ARPA fund use and filing. Julie informed the Board that all funds were expended and this year's report was filed.

Old Business:

Zoning Ordinance Amendments Regarding Keeping of Chickens – Jim noted that a public hearing was held on February 21, 2024 to adopt amendments regarding the keeping of chickens in the Township. The amendment allows a farmette as an allowed use in the RR, R1 and AC zones with a minimum of one acre. Section 1135 regulating the use was also added to the Zoning Ordinance. **On motion by Mark Strawser, seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to approve the Zoning Ordinance amendments regarding the keeping of chickens.**

Executive Session – An executive session was called at 7.34 pm to discuss personnel issues and the meeting was reconvened at 7:35 pm with no decisions made at that time.

New Business (continued):

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Les Dale, CDL Class B – It was discussed that Les Dale has obtained his CDL Class B license and that a raise in pay should be given for his effort. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to give Les Dale an increase of fifty cents to increase his hourly rate from \$18.25 to \$18.75.**

Reports

- Julie Hartley, Township Manager, Report Provided
- Mark Strawser, Roadmaster, Written Report Provided
Verbal Report: SRS Electric is working on the by-pass lighting junction boxes but not all lights are working yet. Herman Road tree trimming is complete.
- Julie Hartley, Zoning Officer, Report Provided
- Colin Rice, Emergency Management Coordinator
Verbal Report: Currently S. Market Street to Bake Oven Hill Road are flooded and he expects that sometime tomorrow S. Front Street will need to be closed.
- Jim Bathgate, Township Solicitor

Public Comment: Bill Kline asked if the farm for sale at Miller Farm Road and Old 522 could be developed. The AC Zone has many restrictions regarding development.

FYI:

- ESCRA January 17th Minutes
- ESCRA February 21st Minutes
- Invitation to Earth Day at ESP
- Seven Mountains EMS Week
- Payroll ACH for 4.4.24
- Check Register 3.21.24 to 4.3.24

Land/Subdivision:

- Ronald & Ryan Herman, Add-on Subdivision, filed 8.24.23, due 5.17.24
- Fike Brothers Carpet One Land Dev., filed 2.1.24, due 6.28.24
- Riteway Sealing/Brandon Longacre Conditional Use, filed 2.7.24, due 4.5.24, Hearing 4.3.24

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 Isaac Ramer Jr., and Board acclamation the April 3, 2024 Supervisor's Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Hartley
Manager