

**HELLAM TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
MINUTES OF June 6, 2024**

The Hellam Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Dave Cox. Supervisors Bill Conaway, Nedette Otterbein and Michael Shillott were present in person. Supervisor Mark Myers was present, via Zoom. Corina Mann, Township Manager and Kate Nopulos, Admin. Secretary were also present, in-person.

Agency, Departmental & Committee Reports

None

Public Hearing:

A: Ordinance 2024-01: Private Firearm Target Practice Area:

There was much discussion regarding Draft Ordinance 2024-01: Private Firearm Target Practice Area. Several members of the community came out to express their opinions, both in support and concern for the Draft Ordinance. Scott Hursh of Dogwood Drive stated that he thinks the ordinance is a great idea, but the definition of a target was not well defined. He went on to outline several areas of his concern including the need for a certified safety officer to give guidance on backstop materials and construction to make sure they're to regulation, that the definition of a responsible adult excludes several demographics, that clay shooting was not considered in the draft, that there was no provision for a warning included, and that the penalties for violating the ordinance were too stiff. Resident Troy Billet raised his concerns that the Many were being penalized for the Few under the current draft ordinance, in reference to Chief Doug Pollock's explanation that the ordinance was being put in place due to reckless behavior witnessed in the Township that the current ordinance could not address effectively.

Mr. Billet commented that there are State laws that handle issues such as these and we should leave it up to the State to enforce them. He also highlighted the fact that he thinks adding distances to the ordinance was a bad idea and that the draft excludes nighttime gun sight calibration.

Chairman Dave Cox interjected that the draft ordinance's intent is not to restrict or dictate what you can or can't shoot. Township Manager Corina Mann clarifies that the ordinance was drafted in such a way as to give the Township some relief in terms of liability in case a backstop was to fail.

Michelle McLain of 965 Chimney Rock Road voiced support for the draft ordinance recalling an incident that occurred at her home, where a stray bullet struck her residence without ever finding out who did it. Cathy Chronister of Orebank Road questioned whether there was a Township noise ordinance in which Planning Commission Chairman Devin Winand clarified that we do have a noise ordinance, however it only includes barking dogs and event venues, which the latter requires a device that needs constant calibration. Resident Mike Martin also commented that a width of 6 feet for a backstop is not big enough in his opinion.

After much discourse, the decision was made by the Board of Supervisors to send the Draft Ordinance back to the Planning Commission for review, to address the resident concerns. Supervisor Nedette Otterbein asked for clarity that by doing so would require the Township to readvertise for Public Hearing, at the Township's expense, which the Township Manager confirmed. Chief Pollock offered to participate in the next Planning Commission meeting, taking place June 13, 2024 at 6:00PM, to lend his knowledge and expertise to the commission while they revise the Draft Ordinance.

Communications from Citizens

Land Studies was present to give a presentation about Kreutz Creek Flood Mitigation, grant process, sites of interest and explained Watershed Wide Plan Permitting.

Supervisor Shillott gave a summary of the progress of the Stormwater Task Force which began in February of 2022. The Township applied for a Growing Greener Grant in 2023 but was not awarded. The Township is not working with Land Studies and the intent is to form a partnership for not only this year grant submission but also working together in the future to continue the effort of flood mitigation in the Kreutz Creek area.

The Watershed wide permitting is that of the approach for long range planning of the entire area done in phases. The Watershed Wide Permit is not one site specific application and it could last for more than 15 years, allowing phases to be done in that time frame, when funds or opportunities become available.

Residents spoke of some of the concerns and experiences with flooding issues over the years. The Township task force will work closely with Land Studies to determine the first sites to be included in the grant application.

Planning and Zoning

Minutes Approval

Upon a motion by Supervisor Conaway, seconded by Supervisor Shillott, the meeting minutes from May 16, 2024 were approved, with corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports

Disbursements List – Upon a motion by Supervisor Otterbein, seconded by Supervisor Shillott, the disbursements lists for May 23, 2024 and June 6, 2024 in the total amount of \$221,317.90 from the General Fund was approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager & Solicitor Reports

Corina Mann, Manager:

- Provided information pertaining to financing for Backhoe in the amount of \$173,780. Upon a motion by Supervisor Shillott, seconded by Supervisor Conaway, the financing was approved unanimously with Fulton Bank with the rate of 6.45% and the term of five years.
- Provided copy of update from DEP for River Drive Culvert showing completeness of application has been acknowledged and will move onto technical review.
- Provided copy of Horn Farm Summer Solstice event to be held on June 22, 2024. RSVP required.
- Stated the Public Works building upgrade to the same access system of the Administration offices has been completed.
- Stated the contractor, Sage, is in-house and working on the upgrades to the meeting room.
- Stated the community center roof has been installed and the phase of the renovation will be installing new lights and updating electric service to one meter instead of two.

Communications from Supervisors

- A. Goals/Objectives and Priorities: Supervisor Otterbein provided copies of the Hellam Township Board of Supervisors Annual Objectives. This is a living document and will be on the agenda for the second meeting of the month for the Board for reporting progress and activities. The Board

was asked to review and list any changes or suggestions that they would like to see made to the format. (Copy Attached)

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. Resolution 2024-10: Growing Greener Grant Submission Authorization. Upon a motion by Supervisor Shillott, seconded by Supervisor Otterbein, Resolution 2024-10 was unanimously approved.
- B. Upon a motion by Supervisor Otterbein and seconded by Supervisor Shillott, the Capital Fund Request form Hellam Fire Department, in the amount of \$151,000 was unanimously approved.
- C. The next Board of Supervisor meeting will be held on June 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the Hellam Township Municipal Meeting room.
- D. Chairman Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Corina L. Mann
Secretary