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# **PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**

**175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963**

**AUGUST 9, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

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**CALL TO ORDER** - Chairman Bruce Kosack called the August 9, 2017 meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Vice-Chairman Jeffery Zimmerman, Solicitor Gino DiNicola, Township Manager Kathy Ferguson, Fire Marshal Greg Pijar, Cody Schaeffer, Mike Hower, Dan Rose, Jessica Williams, Eileen Miller, John Stahl, Brian Schach, Sandra Heim, and others; list on file. Road Foreman Rodney Fidler, and Zoning Officer Dan Bode were absent. Supervisor Ray Stump joined the meeting in progress.

**RECOGNITION AWARDS** - Pine Grove Township Supervisors and Fire Marshal Greg Pijar awarded certificates of recognition to Cody Schaeffer, Mike Hower, and Dan Rose, for distinguished service to the community as volunteer members of Ravine Fire Company on May 18, 2017 while responding to a call for a person in cardiac arrest, for assisting in life saving efforts and utilizing their training with a defibrillator to restore the person's pulse for transport and subsequent release from the hospital.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** – No public comment was received.

## **MINUTES / FINANCIAL**

**July 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes** - Kosack moved to approve the July 12, 2017 Meeting minutes, Zimmerman seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

**Treasurer's Reports** – The July General Fund beginning balance was \$530,871.72, receipts were \$85,983.65; expenses were \$68,534.49 and the July General Fund ending balance was \$548,320.88. The Capital Reserve Fund July ending balance was \$2,905,141.17 and the Liquid Fuels Fund July ending balance was \$560,797.61. The July Combined Funds ending balance was \$4,014,259.66. Zimmerman moved to approve the Treasurer's July report, Kosack seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

**Approval of Bills** – Kosack moved to approve bills in the amount of \$37,221.63. Zimmerman seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

## **PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

**Jessica Williams**, Township Intern, gave the Board of Supervisors a written report, pamphlet, draft letters and postcard mailer developed for the On-lot Septic System Project she worked on at the Township this summer. Williams worked under the direction of Kathy Ferguson, Township Manager, on developing the program for the Township to become compliant with their Act 537 Sewage Plan by having homeowners get on-lot septic systems pumped and inspected every three years.

Williams also distributed the pamphlet to the public with information saying septic tanks that are not taken care of frequently have problems like overflowing into yards, toilets flushing slowly or drainage fields failing. Williams said the Township plan would be a three-phase plan with the first year as the first phase, etc.; properties chosen for each phase would be based on the age of the home and the area they are located.

Williams said cost estimates received from local haulers average about \$250 for a 1,000 gallon tank with \$200 more for larger tanks. Williams noted if tanks fail the inspection and replacements are needed, there are sources of assistance for low-income homeowners, such as PENNVEST and possibly CDBG funds through the Township.

Kathy Ferguson, said the on-lot septic system pumping is not something that is newly required, it is part of the Township's official Act 537 Plan filed with DEP years ago and it was never acted on. Ferguson said at some point DEP will come to check Township records and in light of the recent complaints from residents about neighbor's septic system problems, it is obvious there is a need for the Township to take some action. Ferguson said the draft resolution is based on what other townships are using and includes requirements for homeowners, regulations for pumpers/haulers, an easy reporting system, and exemptions for special circumstances. Ferguson said all documents are drafts, they need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors and reviewed by the Solicitor.

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD, cont.**

John Stahl said an amendment to the Township Act 537 Plan was done in 2003 and asked if this program could be done without re-doing the entire Plan which is to be updated every ten years. Ferguson said the next step would be to incorporate this into a new Act 537 Plan, which is definitely in our plans. Zimmerman noted this will only happen next year if the Board of Supervisors approve the program.

**Eileen Miller**, 53 Oak Grove Road, said she was here in 2015 and 2016 about the water running over the road onto her property and was told the engineer was going to look at it and she hasn't heard anything since then. Miller said the water is now coming over, running down her driveway and into her garage. Miller asked why the Township doesn't dig a ditch where the dirt driveway is so the water can run down by the house.

Ferguson said Ray Stump may be here later to speak to Miller regarding the issue. Ferguson added that a member of the Road Crew went to a class on stormwater and he asked the Schuylkill Conservation District to come and advise us on the best remediation for the area; they have an appointment scheduled. (When Stump joined the meeting in progress, he said to Miller the Road Crew has been in touch with the Schuylkill Conservation District and they are delayed because of all the rain and the list of places they have to go, but they plan to look at the area.)

**REPORTS**

**Committee Reports**

- **CDBG** – Ferguson said the 2017 allocation for Pine Grove Township is \$83,095 and our projects need to be identified in September for an October hearing date and the November due date. Ferguson recommended the Supervisors use the 2017 CDBG funds for low income families that may need repairs to their septic systems.
- **Workplace Safety Committee** – Ferguson said the July 25<sup>th</sup> Safety meeting was about identifying hazards when working outside, applying first aid when injured, and a quiz on outdoor hazards. The next meeting will be held August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Supervisor Ray Stump joined the meeting in progress at 6:56 PM.**

**Engineer/Planning Commission** – July 5, 2017 meeting was cancelled, no applications were received.

- **Bridge Grant Resolutions** – Zimmerman moved to adopt **Resolution #2017-02** (Oak Grove Road Bridge - \$463,750), **Resolution #2017-03** (Old Forge Road Bridge - \$460,890), and **Resolution #2017-04** (Swopes Valley Road Bridge #1 - \$800,000) for DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund grant applications. Kosack seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0. Zimmerman noted based on a previous motion, that if the grant is not received, the Township plans to fix the Swopes Valley Road bridge anyway.

**Recreation Board** – Zimmerman moved to accept the resignation of James Pierce, Stump seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

**Road Foreman** – No comments were received.

**Zoning Hearing Board** – August 24, 2017 hearing is cancelled, no applications were received.

**Zoning Officer / Floodplain Administrator** – The Zoning Officer issued 8 permits, received 3 complaints, 17 phone calls, and performed 3 inspections in July.

- **Alternate Zoning Officer** – Zimmerman asked DiNicola if the Board of Supervisors can take action in the absence of the Zoning Officer. DiNicola said zoning is typically reserved for the zoning officer and they could appoint an alternate. Zimmerman said he would recommend that an alternate zoning officer is appointed in the 2018 organization meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Township Water Authority**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The Board of Supervisors and Solicitor DiNicola adjourned to an Executive Session at 7:03 PM on the sale of the Township Authority; they returned at 7:11 PM and the meeting resumed.

Chairman Kosack said no action would be taken tonight regarding the Township Water Authority. John Stahl said he is on the agenda, he wants some discussion and details of what is going on.

**Township Water Authority, cont.**

After discussion, Zimmerman said the purchase agreement is in only draft form, so they are not taking any action. DiNicola said he has been in contact with their solicitor and everything is proceeding in a positive direction. Zimmerman said the agreement is between the Township and the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority, the Township Authority Board is not part of the agreement. Zimmerman said the ball is in the County's court.

**Recycling Event** – The Township's Electronics Recycling event was announced for Saturday, August 12, 2017, from 8 AM until Noon, it is for Township residents only.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority** – Kosack read the letter from the Joint Treatment Authority notifying the Township quarterly sewer billing at non-domestic users' rates for the Recreation Area will begin on October 1, 2017 and the Township was instructed to install a water meter.

Zimmerman asked Larry Hoffman, Recreation Board member who was present, to put the issue of installing a water meter on the Recreation Board's next agenda. Hoffman agreed.

**Brian Schach** - Schach asked about the presentation he made last month and said it should have been under Old Business. Kosack said he can speak under Public Comment.

**Budget Meeting Dates** – The Board of Supervisors agreed to hold Budget Meetings on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Solar Innovations** sent a letter to the Township notifying them of their intent to register for a Fish Habitat structure permit in the Swopes Valley Watershed. No comments were received.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Brian Schach** said he was here last month with multiple problems and is here to find out what solutions they came up with and the second thing he wants to ask is he was told by the Zoning Officer to get his property surveyed and he wants to know who's going to pay for it because the Zoning Officer wasn't doing his job.

DiNicola spoke to Schach saying he wasn't here last month, but has reviewed the minutes and understands there are some accusations lodged against some property owners near him. DiNicola said since the last meeting Mr. Ugliodoro has obtained counsel and when the Township is faced with issues like this, it has always been his advice to the Township to not provide a forum for neighbor's disputes. DiNicola said Schach should probably contact his own attorney for advice if he feels aggrieved by something the Zoning Officer did.

**Sandra Heim**, Outwood, asked why Pine Grove Borough has police and we don't. Heim described multiple problems with her neighbors and little action from the State Police. Kosack said there was a discussion on having a police force in the Township and it was not received well by Township residents. After discussion, Heim asked if the issue of police in the Township could be brought up again and Kosack said absolutely, all it takes is for the residents to agree to support it and help pay for it.

**ADJOURNMENT** – At 7:33 PM Zimmerman moved to adjourn the meeting, Stump seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Kathy Ferguson, Township Manager**

**Approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 13, 2017.**