
PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963

DECEMBER 13, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Bruce Kosack called the December 13, 2017 meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Vice-Chairman Jeffery Zimmerman, Supervisor Ray Stump, Supervisor Elect Howard Lengel, Township Manager Kathy Ferguson, Patrick Caulfield, John H. Stahl, Heath Machamer, Allen Aungst, Larry Hoffman, Gerald Lengel, and others; list on file. Solicitor Gino DiNicola, Road Foreman Rodney Fidler, and Zoning Officer Dan Bode were absent.

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

YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION – Chairman Kosack presented Supervisor Jeffery Zimmerman with a certificate from the Township State Association in honor of his eight years as a Pine Grove Township Supervisor and a gift of a briefcase from the Township.

MINUTES / FINANCIAL

October 3, 2017 Budget Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2017 Budget Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2017 Budget Meeting Minutes

Kosack moved to approve the October and November meeting minutes listed above and Stump seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0 for the minutes of October 3rd, October 24th and November 8th. For the minutes of November 14th, Kosack and Stump voted in favor of the motion and Zimmerman abstained stating he was not present; motion carried 3 to 0 with one abstention.

Treasurer's Reports – The November General Fund beginning balance was \$591,809.53, receipts were \$87,100.80; expenses were \$87,059.82 and the November General Fund ending balance was \$591,809.53. The Capital Reserve Fund November ending balance was \$2,918,031.92 and the Liquid Fuels Fund November ending balance was \$423,026.50. The November Combined Funds ending balance was \$3,932,867.95. Stump moved to approve the Treasurer's November report, Zimmerman seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Approval of Bills – Ferguson said included with the bills is the annual donation to Suedburg Fire Company and their financial reports; the total of bills for approval is \$42,344.30. Zimmerman moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$42,344.30 (including the annual donation of \$12,500 to Suedburg Fire Company), Stump seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Patrick Caulfield, Schuylkill County Municipal Authority (SCMA) Executive Director, said he has the final version of the Asset and Obligation Agreement, dated December 31, 2017 for the official acquisition of the Pine Grove Township Water Authority System. Caulfield said he has three original agreements to sign, the Township is the first to formally sign the agreement; the County and the Township Authority will sign it at their meetings on December 20th. Caulfield said when all the signatures are on, there will be a number of exhibits attached to the agreement, including the final financial closeouts from December 31st.

Caulfield presented a check from SCMA to the Township in the amount of \$409,120.44 and gave the agreements to Chairman Kosack to sign.

John Stahl said he no longer has any comments unless they have any questions for him. The Board had no questions.

Heath Machamer spoke to the Board about two subdivision plan's Planning Waiver and Non-Building Declaration (Hummel and Aungst/Blankenhorn plans) that were not acted on by the Planning Commission under direction of the Township Solicitor because of a letter submitted by his former partner's attorney prior to the Planning Commission meeting.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD, cont.

Machamer said it is his understanding that his client’s attorneys’ have spoken with the Township Solicitor and the Township is ready to move forward with the Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declarations. Machamer asked the Supervisors to forward the Planning Waiver and Non-Building Declarations to DEP; he is planning to resubmit both plans to the Township in January and hopefully have approval by the February meeting.

After discussion and review of the recommendation from Solicitor DiNicola, Zimmerman moved to approve the Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration for the Hummel plan and the Aungst/Blankenhorn plan, and forward them to DEP pending the signature of the Planning Commission. Stump seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

REPORTS

Committee Reports

- **Workplace Safety Committee** – Ferguson said the November 29th safety meeting was the second in a series focused on selecting the right type of protection for specific hazards to eyes, face, and respiratory system. The next safety meeting will be scheduled in December as weather conditions allow.

Engineer/Planning Commission

- Venzl 4-Lot Minor Subdivision - Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration – Kosack moved to approve the Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration application, Stump seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Lehigh Engineering (Floodplain, Code Issues, UCC Permits)

- International Property Maintenance Code – Ferguson said Ralph Hummel From Lehigh Engineering recommended the Township adopt the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code to help with some of the code complaints the Township is receiving. Zimmerman noted the International Residential Code addresses the construction of the inside and exterior of a structure and this code addresses the property around the structure; he recommended adopting the code. Stump moved to adopt the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code, Kosack seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Recreation Board

- Quotes for Tree Removal – The following quotes were received to cut down and remove the dead ash tree near the walking path:

	<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Leave Wood</u>	<u>Haul Away</u>
1. Newcomer Tree & Landscape, Pine Grove			\$1,185
2. DP Contracting		\$1,200	\$1,500
3. Blue Mountain Tree Co., Pine Grove			\$1,500
4. Fisher Tree Service, Pottsville		\$1,800	

Stump moved to approve the bid from Newcomer Tree & Landscape for the project, Zimmerman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Recreation Board Chairman Allen Aungst noted he picked up the water meter to install in the Recreation Area bathrooms.

Road Foreman – No comment was received on the report.

Zoning Hearing Board – Kosack said a Zoning Hearing will be held December 28, 2017 at 6:30 PM for the Pugh property at 189 Suedberg Road, for a Special Exception and Variances.

Zoning Officer / Floodplain Administrator – The Zoning Officer issued 9 permits, received 2 complaints, 15 phone calls, and performed 1 inspections in November.

OLD BUSINESS

PennDOT Field View Bridge Meeting – Ferguson said she, Rod Fidler and Ryan Fasnacht (Benesch Engineering) attended a meeting held at the Township with Branch Township, Hegins Township, Gannett Fleming Engineers, PennDOT and others regarding the bridge bundling project that includes Oak Grove Road Bridge and Old Forge Road Bridge. Ferguson said she was disappointed to hear from PennDOT there is a possibility they will not be able to do all four bridges because it is Federal funding and PennDOT has no control over the funding; one or two bridges may be dropped from the project.

PennDOT Field View Bridge Meeting, cont.

Ferguson said one issue discussed was all work must be done in Township rights-of-way and Old Forge Road's wing walls are outside the right-of-way. PennDOT asked if necessary would we agree to them replacing the bridge and we do the wing walls. Ferguson said Fasnacht indicated the Township could do that, but we want them to do the whole project. Ferguson said we are researching records to find any documentation showing the right-of-way is wider than 33'.

Ferguson said PennDOT would like the Township to send the "Notice of Intent to Enter" letters to residents who own property around the bridges so survey work etc. can be done. Zimmerman moved to approve the Township office sending the "Notice of Intent to Enter" letters to residents for the PennDOT bridge project, Stump seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed 2018 Real Estate Tax Resolution – Kosack read the proposed tax levy resolution. Stump moved to adopt Resolution #2017-09 fixing the tax rate for the year 2018 at the sum of 1.5 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation, Kosack seconded the motion. Stump and Kosack voted in favor of the motion, Zimmerman opposed the motion, and motion carried 2 to 1.

2018 Proposed Budget- Kosack moved to adopt the 2018 Budget as proposed, Stump seconded the motion. Kosack and Stump voted in favor of the motion, Zimmerman opposed the motion; motion carried 2 to 1.

Township January Meeting Dates – The Organization meeting will be held January 2, 2018 and the Supervisor's meeting will be held on January 10, 2018; both meetings will be at 6:30 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

Schuylkill Firefighters' Financial Development Org. – Ferguson said the Firefighters' organization is asking for contributions toward the new burn building that was constructed at the fire school site in Frackville. After discussion, the Board said they would defer the decision for recommendations from the Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal.

HDH Group Property Insurance – Ferguson said for informational purposes, she wanted to note the Township has received an update to their property insurance that excludes coverage for inflatable, fabric or air supported structures, such as domes etc. Ferguson said this should be kept in mind if we consider salt storage domes and we need to continue prohibiting bounce houses in the Recreation Area.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Allen Aungst asked if the sale price of the Water Authority covered the loans that were given to the Authority. Kosack said yes it did and Zimmerman said it did, with interest. Aungst asked if there was a public hearing on the implementation of the real estate tax. Kosack a hearing was not necessary, it was done by resolution. Aungst said he sees there is \$14,000 for a vehicle to follow the mower, he suggests getting some bids and contracting that out. Stump said they have talked about it. Ferguson said the \$14,000 is for all part-time help, including working supervisors, snow plow drivers, flaggers, etc. Aungst asked if they are looking at tar and chip. Kosack said yes and Ferguson said it is listed in one of the budget meeting minutes.

Larry Hoffman, asked about the recent fires in the area, Zimmerman said there is an investigation going on.

Gerald Lengel thanked Zimmerman for his public service. Lengel noted the Ravine Memorial stonework and joints have been sealed, he is still in the process of getting a flagpole. Lengel asked what the pay will be for the new tax collector. Ferguson said no decision was made, the tax has just reinstated at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – At 7:26 PM Stump moved to adjourn the meeting, Kosack 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 January 10, 2018.