
PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963

NOVEMBER 8, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Bruce Kosack called the November 8, 2017 meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Vice-Chairman Jeffery Zimmerman, Supervisor Elect Howard Lengel, Township Manager Kathy Ferguson, Mayanna Kroh, and others; list on file. Supervisor Ray Stump, Solicitor Gino DiNicola, Road Foreman Rodney Fidler, and Zoning Officer Dan Bode were absent.

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

MINUTES / FINANCIAL

October 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Kosack moved to approve the October 11, 2017 Meeting minutes, Zimmerman seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

Treasurer's Reports – The October General Fund beginning balance was \$604,827.89, receipts were \$46,611.59; expenses were \$59,670.93 and the October General Fund ending balance was \$591,768.55. The Capital Reserve Fund October ending balance was \$2,915,035.79 and the Liquid Fuels Fund October ending balance was \$422,627.03. The October Combined Funds ending balance was \$3,929,431.37. Kosack moved to approve the Treasurer's October report, Zimmerman seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

Approval of Bills – Ferguson noted an addition to the bills, an employee reimbursement for winter safety boots in the amount of \$119.99; total amount of the bills for approval is \$39,741.12. Kosack moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$39,741.12, Zimmerman seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Mayanna Kroh, Township Tax Collector Elect, asked the Board of Supervisors to hold office hours in the Township building next year to collect taxes. Kroh said she would like to keep the same hours the current tax collector has and a brief discussion followed. Zimmerman moved to provide the Tax Collector office space on the property with the hours she is providing us with (March – April on Monday and Saturday from 9 to 12, Wednesdays from 12 to 6; in May – June on Monday from 9 to 12). Kosack seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

REPORTS

Committee Reports

- **Fire Company** – Zimmerman said Ferguson should send a formal letter to both fire companies on the new recruitment policy.
- **Labor Relations** – Kosack noted the Township has a new Road Crew employee, Dan Orwig.
- **Workplace Safety Committee** – Ferguson said the October 25th safety meeting focused on assessing hazards in the workplace and discussion was held on the need for safety gear for welding and how much welding the Supervisors want the Road Crew to do. Ferguson noted the new employee has welding experience and it would save the Township money if we did more of our own welding, but we would have to balance it with the cost for equipment. Ferguson said Stump was looking into it, but had not given her any information; it is something for the Board to consider. The next safety meeting will be held November 27th.

Engineer/Planning Commission

- **R&J Rental LLC Minor Subdivision Final Plan** – Kosack moved to approve the R&J Rental LLC plan based on the Planning Commission's recommendations. Zimmerman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.
- **Sweet Arrow Lake Waterfall Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan** – Kosack moved to approve the Sweet Arrow Lake Waterfall plan based on the Planning Commission's recommendations. Zimmerman seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 2 to 0.

Recreation Board – Ferguson noted the Recreation Board will hold their meeting next week because of Election Day last week.

REPORTS, cont.

Zoning Hearing Board – November 16, 2017 hearing is cancelled, no applications were received.

Zoning Officer / Floodplain Administrator – The Zoning Officer issued 6 permits, received 2 complaints, 14 phone calls, and performed 3 inspections in October.

OLD BUSINESS

Township Water Authority – Kosack said any items would be tabled until the Township budget meeting next week. Ferguson said she gave them three documents regarding the Water Authority; two were from Solicitor DiNicola, one document was from emailed his paralegal and DiNicola had not yet reviewed it.

Zimmerman asked if DiNicola would be at the budget meeting and Kosack said yes. Zimmerman said there were revisions made to the original agreement from SCMA and now there are more revisions to the agreement the Township accepted. Kosack said it is a deal change and Zimmerman agreed.

Kosack tabled the matter until the budget meeting next week, saying he will confer with DiNicola. Zimmerman added that everything is still moving forward with the Township Authority.

NEW BUSINESS

PA Gaming Control Board re Municipal Option to Prohibit Siting of Casino – Ferguson gave information PSATS sent regarding Act 42 of 2017 which authorizes placement of ten Category 4 “mini-casinos” (300 to 750 slot machines and table games) in Pennsylvania. Ferguson said Act 42 also grants municipalities the authority to prohibit a Category 4 casino in their municipality if they pass a resolution and deliver it to the PA Gaming Control Board by December 31, 2017; any action taken after that date will not be valid. Ferguson said if a Township passes the resolution prohibiting the Category 4 casino now, they or future Boards may at any time, one time only rescind the prohibitive motion and allow a Category 4 casino; that motion would be a final decision.

Kosack questioned the host municipality receipts being based on the 2016-17 budget. Zimmerman said he didn't think we should oppose the Category 4 casino, it would be better than the landfill even though it made us an enormous amount which put us in the good position we are in today. A brief discussion followed and Zimmerman said he is not opposed to a Category 4 because of the income, Kosack agreed. Kosack asked if we can get a resolution ready for the next meeting.

Ferguson said you only need the resolution if you want to prohibit the Category 4 casino, the reason to consider it would be to give future Township Boards a choice; this is the only time ever the Township can prohibit it.

Zimmerman moved to *not* send a letter to prohibit a Category 4 casino in Pine Grove Township; Kosack seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

CORRESPONDENCE

PennDOT Schuylkill County Box Beam Bridge Bundle – Ferguson said PennDOT sent a letter notifying us they have selected the bridges on Oak Grove Road over Mill Creek and on Old Forge Road over Fishing Creek as part of their Local Bridge Bundling program at no cost to the Township. Ferguson said PennDOT has been in contact with her, but a meeting has not been set. Zimmerman asked her to request a meeting before year end, he would like to make sure it proceeds as discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Zimmerman requested all non-confidential correspondence for the Supervisors be made available to Township Supervisor Elect Howard Lengel.

ADJOURNMENT – At 7:12 PM Kosack moved to adjourn the meeting, Zimmerman seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ferguson, Township Manager