
PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963

MARCH 14, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – Vice-Chairman Howard Lengel called the March 14, 2018 meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Supervisor Ray Stump, Solicitor DiNicola, Township Manager Kathy Ferguson, Larry Hoffman, Kevin Bensinger, Jacob Bensinger, and others; list on file. Road Foreman Rodney Fidler was absent. Chairman Bruce Kosack joined the meeting in progress at 6:40 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Chairman Lengel said the cost of salt for the past year was \$19,818 and the cost including the cinders was \$25,000. Lengel remarked he wants to let the people know how the road crew is taking care of the roads.

MINUTES / FINANCIAL

February 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Stump moved to approve the February 14, 2018 Meeting minutes and Lengel seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

February 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Lengel moved to approve the February 22, 2018 Meeting minutes and Stump seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

Treasurer's Reports – The February General Fund beginning balance was \$555,054.88, receipts were \$84,928.84; expenses were \$70,855.58 and the February General Fund ending balance was \$569,128.14. The Capital Reserve Fund February ending balance was \$3,327,773.92 and the Liquid Fuels Fund February ending balance was \$424,450.74. The February Combined Funds ending balance was \$4,321,352.80. Stump moved to approve the Treasurer's February report. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 2 to 0.

Approval of Bills – Stump moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$44,521.60, Lengel seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD – No requests to be heard were received.

REPORTS

Committee Reports

- **Workplace Safety Committee** – Ferguson said the February meeting was cancelled.

Engineer/Planning Commission

- **Aungst Minor Subdivision & Boundary Line Adj. Final Plan** – Stump moved to approve the Aungst Final Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 2 to 0.

Supervisor Bruce Kosack joined the meeting in progress and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

- **Pine Grove Borough Water Project Minor Subdivision Final Plan** - Stump moved to approve the Pine Grove Borough Final Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Committee Reports, cont.

- **Labor Relations** – Kosack said there will be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting regarding personnel.
- **Public Works** – Stump said he met with the PennDOT rep today and the road bids will be ready by Tuesday. Stump moved to advertise the 2018 Road Project, Lengel seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Ferguson said the Road Foreman would like to schedule crack sealing in April for one week and the 3 days credit that Sealmaster owes the Township; the roads to work on are: Pleasant Hill, Long Stretch, Brookside, Mexico, Camp, Spruce, Terrace Hill, and Lake Terrace.

Kosack asked if potholes are patched before tar and chipping. Stump said yes, and the leveling course will take care of the potholes on the other ones. The Board of Supervisors agreed for Fidler to proceed with crack sealing as proposed.

Lehigh Engineering – Ferguson said all reports for SEO, Zoning, UCC, and Code Enforcement are in the Supervisor’s folders. Ferguson noted there are definitely some amendments needed to the Zoning Ordinance; Ralph Hummel is taking note of some and will help us with revisions this year.

Traffic Control Signs – Lengel asked about working on road signs. Ferguson said we have a complete road sign program that documents all the signs on Township roads, GPS locations, when they are replaced, vandalized, etc. Lengel said there is a road that doesn’t have any signs on it. Kosack asked what type of sign he’s talking about and Lengel said traffic control signs. Ferguson said if there is a road without signs, it should be reported to the Road Foreman.

Recreation Board – Kosack said the March Meeting Minutes were received and noted that a work party will be held at the Recreation Area on April 14th at 9 AM. Kosack asked if the Soccer Association is responsible for parking and to put signs up. Discussion followed on the parking issues and Ferguson was advised by the Board to send a letter to the Soccer Association regarding their responsibilities regarding parking during practice and games.

Road Foreman – Stump said he received a call from a resident in Swopes Valley, they are very glad the road crew did the ditch cleaning there. Lengel said the road crew have done a very good job; people could get to work.

A discussion was held on fallen and/or dead trees that are a hazard on Township roads. Questions on whose responsibility trees are when they are not in Township right-of-way and falls on the road, landowners’ responsibilities, ash trees that are dying, and possibly developing a program to take of trees that are a hazard to the roads. DiNicola said he can review the Township code, other ordinances, and policies that would apply.

Kevin Bensinger suggested getting a waiver signed by the property owner if the Township cuts any trees down.

Zoning Hearing Board – Kosack said January Hearing minutes were received and a hearing will be held on March 22, 2018 to hear a request from Dustin Cashman for variances for 245 Suedberg Road.

OLD BUSINESS

Tax Collector Resolution – Kosack read aloud the draft resolution. Stump moved to adopt Resolution #2018-12 setting the Tax Collector’s compensation and additional remuneration for work related to collection of taxes levied and assessed. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

2012 International Property Maintenance Code Ordinance – Stump moved to adopt the 2012 Property Maintenance Code, Ordinance #89; Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried 3 to 0.

Smiles for Miles Request – Ferguson said confirmation was received from Kevin Frantz, Township Emergency Management Coordinator that Suedburg Fire Police will provide public safety for the 5K. Kosack moved to approve the 5k event, Stump seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Township Workshop & Budget Meetings – Kosack moved to approve advertising the follow meetings to be held in the Township building in 2018 at 6:30 PM: Supervisor Workshop Meetings on March 28th, April 18th, June 20th, and August 15th; Budget Meetings on October 22nd, October 29th and November 19th. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Recycling Event – Stump moved to hold a recycling event for Township residents only, on June 6, 2018 from 8 AM to Noon, with the same conditions as last year and to include a dumpster from Klingers for metal items. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

2016 Service Invoice – This item was held for Executive Session due to possible litigation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Auditor Salary Request – DiNicola said an auditor requested to waive their compensation and/or reduce it to a dollar, which is consistent with what some officials have done at the state and federal level. DiNicola said the Second Class Township Code sets compensation for elected officials and the Pennsylvania Constitution also indicates we cannot increase or decrease an official’s compensation after they are elected. DiNicola said he feels the compensation has to be paid by virtue of the

Auditor Salary Request, Cont.

statutes. DiNicola advised the Board to table the matter and to convey the substance of his memo to the auditor; if the auditor wishes to provide any legal authority in support of their position, we would be happy to take a look at it. The Board agreed and Ferguson will contact the auditor.

DEP Permit Issuance for Swatara Creek Floodplain Restoration – Ferguson noted this was for information for a permit given to Schuylkill Conservation District for the floodplain project and she read the description of the area that would be impacted in the Borough and the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Hoffman asked if the Township has made a decision on contributing to the Schuylkill Firefighters' training building. Ferguson said she believes the Board was waiting for input from the Fire Marshal and she is not sure that was communicated to him, she will check the records. Hoffman asked if they would need bids to get a motion light at Recreation Area bathrooms. The Board said no and gave him permission to purchase and have the light installed.

Joan Schwer asked if we will take paint at our recycling event and Ferguson said no, we do not have anyone who will accept that.

Kathy Ferguson said Pine Grove Borough notified her their water line project will begin on Monday and will involve Tulpehocken Street from the traffic light to the intersection with SR895, residents should plan for traffic delays; the estimated end date of the project is June 9th.

Executive Session – At 7:37 PM the Board of Supervisors, Solicitor DiNicola, and Township Manager adjourned into Executive Session on personnel and possible litigation. The meeting resumed at 7:55 PM. After a brief discussion, the Board of Supervisors agreed to advertise for a Township Roadmaster through PSATS and Indeed.com (an on-line job site).

ADJOURNMENT – At 7:57 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 April 11, 2018.