
PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963

APRIL 11, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Bruce Kosack called the April 11, 2018 meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Vice-Chairman Howard Lengel, Supervisor Ray Stump, Township Manager Kathy Ferguson, Allen Aungst, Bernard Thompson, Larry Hoffman, and others; list on file. Solicitor DiNicola and Road Foreman Rodney Fidler were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Allen Aungst asked if the Road Supervisor is the Road Foreman listing after Recreation Board, Kosack said that is his report. Aungst said he can comment at the end of the meeting.

MINUTES / FINANCIAL

March 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Stump moved to approve the March 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes and Lengel seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

March 28, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Stump moved to approve the March 28, 2018 Meeting Minutes and Kosack seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Treasurer's Reports – The March General Fund beginning balance was \$569,128.14, receipts were \$78,014.31; expenses were \$64,989.93 and the March General Fund ending balance was \$582,152.52. The Capital Reserve Fund March ending balance was \$3,330,504.41 and the Liquid Fuels Fund March ending balance was \$672,037.63. The March Combined Funds ending balance was \$4,584,694.56. Stump moved to approve the Treasurer's March report. Kosack seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 3 to 0.

Approval of Bills – Stump moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$50,874.85, Lengel seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD – Chairman Kosack recognized Allen Aungst to be heard at this time. Aungst asked if the Roadmaster they plan to hire is an additional person to what the Township has now. Kosack said yes. Aungst asked how they justify that. Kosack said based on the workload and what is required of a Roadmaster.

Aungst said he is not questioning the need for a Roadmaster, he is questioning the need for four people; he does not know of a township around us that has more than three full time people. Aungst said you are talking about a pretty hefty tax payer dollar amount for another person with benefits.

Kosack said we are looking at a potential retirement and bringing someone in to get trained and do the job of a Roadmaster. Kosack said there may be a transition period and it was discussed at the budget meetings to look for a Roadmaster. Kosack said the Board is always cognizant of taxpayer funds. Aungst said you need to be, now that people are paying taxes they will be more diligent in watching how you spend the money.

REPORTS

Committee Reports

- **Labor Relations** – Kosack noted the Township will be represented by Eckert Seamans in labor and employment matters which is a specialized position that was approved by the Board in the last special meeting. Kosack said the Board also approved having special representation for negotiating the Comcast franchise agreement.

- **Public Works & Property**

- **2018 Seal Coat Bids** - Stump said there are six roads (Pleasant Hill, Camp, Mexico, Stanhope, and Brookside Roads) being done in the 2018 Seal Coat (double tar & chip) bid. Stump said four bids were received, the highest bid was \$222,408.20 and the lowest bid was \$172,883.20.

Kosack moved to approve the 2018 Seal Coat bid of \$172,883.20 from Hammaker East, LTD contingent upon review of the bid documents. Stump seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Public Works & Property, cont.

- **2018 Road Paving Bids** - Stump said the 2018 Road Paving project was a wearing course on Long Stretch Road, Mountain Road, and part of Pine Hill Road; five bids were received. Stump said the highest bid was \$350,668.85 and the lowest bid was \$302,460.75.
Kosack moved to approve the 2018 Road Paving bid of \$302,460.75 from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. contingent upon review of the bid documents. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.
- **Swopes Valley Road Bridge** - Ferguson said the latest update is the wetland delineation and the field survey are both complete; Ryan Fasnacht recommends the Township start discussion with the property owner regarding the right-of-way. The Board agreed Supervisor Lengel, Township Manager Ferguson and Township Engineer Fasnacht would set up a meeting with the land owner to discuss the right-of-way.
- **Old Forge Road Bridge** – Ferguson said the property near the bridge where we need a right-of-way to put in a wing wall for the bridge replacement is likely to be subdivided soon and the Township needs to have our Solicitor contact Lebanon County (the property owner) about a permanent easement near the bridge. The Board agreed Ferguson should contact DiNicola to move forward with obtaining the easement.
- **Swopes Valley Road** - Lengel asked if the Township is still maintaining the road where Bethel Township comes through. Stump said they maintain the road, but we plow it. Lengel said they paid us at one time to pave it, but they took it back. Ferguson said as a courtesy we have helped them by clearing a rock slide off the road so traffic could get through, but there is nothing in writing. Kosack asked if we could get a memorandum of agreement between the two municipalities and Ferguson said we could contact them.

Engineer/Planning Commission – Ferguson said there was nothing forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Lehigh Engineering – Ferguson said the reports are rather lengthy, she is emailing them to the Board and putting one printed copy in the Correspondence folder for them to read.

Recreation Board – Allen Aungst asked for approval to purchase wood carpet mulch and stain for the pillars at the pavilion. Aungst also asked who approves purchases for budgeted items. Kosack said the Township Manager can approve purchases of budgeted items.

Road Foreman – Lengel suggested the Township get grates with an angle that lets water push leaves into the box. The Board agreed Lengel should get several new grates to try.

Zoning Hearing Board – Kosack read the public notice for a hearing to be held on April 26, 2018 at 6:30 PM to hear a request from Anthony Natale for an appeal of Ordinance violation notices at Spruce Drive and Sweet Arrow Lake Road.

OLD BUSINESS

Schuylkill Firefighter’s Financial Development Org. – A brief discussion was held on donating to the cost of the training building and Ferguson reported she received differing opinions from the Fire Marshal and the Deputy Fire Marshal. Stump said he would contact the Fire Marshal and Deputy to find out more regarding their opinion on donations for the training building.

NEW BUSINESS

Swatara Gap ‘N Back Race – Stump moved to approve a request from Jeff Longenecker of Ride Float Run, to use a section of Swopes Valley Road located in Pine Grove Township for an event his organization is sponsoring; providing a certificate of liability insurance is filed with the Township and safety measures are provided by Ride Float Run. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

CORRESPONDENCE

PSATS Proposed Resolutions – Ferguson provided copies of the proposed resolutions and nominations to the Supervisors for their review and comments to be given to Lengel who is the voting delegate at the PSATS convention.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bernard Thompson said at the end of the Recreation Area where his land meets the Township, the Township put in a big pipe there and it is eroding the soil on his property. Thompson said another thing he wants to bring to the Township's attention is out here where the Township drains come into the railroad bed, it comes across his property and there is a plastic pipe that was put in ten to fifteen years ago, water is coming through and washing the whole thing out. Thompson said somebody put some riprap in and also pushed a tree off the road into this ditch; something has to be done with it. Thompson said everything is washing down the railroad bed and eventually goes into his dam.

Stump said he was out and looked at it and there is a problem there, he suggests we get Ryan (Township Engineer) to look at it and come up with a solution. A brief discussion followed on different solutions and Kosack noted that stormwater is the real problem and we need to identify these areas.

Allen Aungst asked if we are documenting the areas damaged by the pipeline and Kosack said yes. Aungst said there is damage from the pipeline on Oak Grove Road after the turn where Trumbo Road comes in, he said it is an area about 2 yards by 2 feet wide and a real safety issue. Ferguson said she would report it to her contacts at the gas pipeline company for repair.

Aungst also said there are a lot of ash trees in the Township right-of-way along Oak Grove Road and other main travel roads that are dying and need to be taken down. Kosack said the Board has discussed this and has asked DiNicola to look into the Township and property owner responsibilities on this.

Kathy Ferguson said the 2017 Township Audit was given to the Supervisors and is available in the Township office for public inspection.

Bruce Kosack thanked Ferguson for all the time she puts in and for all the things she and the administrative staff do, many times the public is not aware of all they do.

ADJOURNMENT – At 7:34 PM Stump moved to adjourn the meeting, Lengel 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 May 23, 2018.