
PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963

JULY 11, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Bruce Kosack called the July 11, 2018 meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Vice-Chairman Howard Lengel, Supervisor Ray Stump, Solicitor DiNicola, Township Manager Kathy Ferguson, Township EMC Kevin Frantz, County EMA John Matz, Dustin Juritsko, Bonnie Brown, Larry Hoffman, Joe Fegley, and others; list on file. Road Foreman Rodney Fidler was absent.

PRESENTATION – John Matz from the Schuylkill County Emergency Management office presented Pine Grove Township Emergency Management Coordinator Kevin Frantz with a plaque of his Basic Local Coordinator Certification.

Matz stated Emergency Management Coordinators have an important and sometimes thankless job; he has a staff of four so when serious things happen in the County, there is no way they could handle everything without relying on the local coordinators giving them information about what is going on throughout the County. Matz thanked Frantz for his work for the Township and the County.

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

MINUTES / FINANCIAL

June 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Stump moved to approve the June 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes and Lengel seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

June 20, 2018 Public Hearing Minutes - Stump moved to approve the June 20, 2018 Public Hearing Minutes and Lengel seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Treasurer's Reports – The June General Fund beginning balance was \$647,169.38, receipts were \$63,148.05; expenses were \$87,878.67 and the June General Fund ending balance was \$622,438.76. The Capital Reserve Fund June ending balance was \$3,340,543.67 and the Liquid Fuels Fund June ending balance was \$674,884.45. The June Combined Funds ending balance was \$4,637,866.88. Stump moved to approve the Treasurer's June report. Lengel 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 \$256,795.34, Kosack seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0. Ferguson noted the bills included an invoice of \$172,883.20 for the tar and chip road project. Kosack asked if the amount would be paid by Liquid Fuels Fund. Ferguson noted the Township needs approval from the PennDOT rep before using Liquid Fuels Fund for payment.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD - Kosack noted everyone to be heard is speaking about stormwater and said at every meeting we have been to at PSATS this has been a big concern, there is talk of stormwater regulations in every township. Kosack said stormwater regulations come with a high cost, it is a burden of the Township that will be passed on in the form of taxes. Kosack said one of the things we are told for stormwater management in significant events like we just had, there is no stormwater management protection that you can have for those events; acts of God are events that happen. Kosack said stormwater comes from people building new houses, driveways, etc.; when we institute a stormwater program in the Township, if you want to put a new driveway in you will be allowed only a certain amount of square footage, only allowed a certain size house and everything goes to drainage. Kosack said everything you do will be considered for stormwater, you may have to put in rain gardens and lots of other things. Kosack noted when stormwater problems occur on private land in the Township, there is not a lot the Township can do, but they are going to get stormwater regulations in the Township and they will be looking for people to serve on that committee.

Dustin Juritsko, 57 Nut Grove Road, said his issue is a Township road drain next to Cardinal Lane that dumps water down the mountain onto State Game Lands, it runs along the AT&T line right-of-way, across two other properties above him and then hits his property square on.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD, Dustin Juritsko, cont.

Juritsko said he has installed French drains, swaled his property, etc. to contain the water; however, the water originates up above at the Township drain and is not diverted properly away from the properties below. Juritsko said he has spoke with Supervisor Lengel about the road being redone and a pipe put in place, but the drain has to be assessed because it cannot be dumped to that side.

After further discussion, the Board of Supervisors agreed to go out with the Township engineer and take a look at the drain. Stump said he will make arrangements with the engineer. Juritsko added that in the future he may be interested in serving on a committee for stormwater management.

Bonnie Brown, President of Swatara Village Home Owners Association, read a statement (on file) about property damage in Swatara Village caused by stormwater runoff. Brown stated that run off boxes added to I-81 in recent years have added to the stormwater and it is overwhelming the area causing properties along Trestle Court to lose as much as four feet of their property to erosion. Brown noted that development around the Village has contributed to the stormwater runoff to the swales (provided years ago) that lead to the creek. Brown asked the Township for help in fixing the problem that involves 140 homes and asked for an impact study of the flow of all waters meeting at the entrances to their development.

Discussion followed on the cost to taxpayers for stormwater regulations and management, representation for a stormwater program, examples of stormwater regulations, etc. The Board of Supervisors agreed to have the Township engineer look at the area to see if there are any avenues the Village could pursue. Stump said he will make arrangements with the engineer to look at the Village when they visit the Juritsko property.

REPORTS

Committee Reports

- **Fire Company / EMS** – Stump said he is setting up a meeting with the two fire companies.
- **Public Works & Property** – Stump said he and Lengel will probably make a slight change in Personnel, we are not hiring anybody. Kosack asked about the storms ruining some of the road projects they were working on and Lengel said yes, the one on Long Stretch Road.
- **Tax Collection Committee** – Kosack stated the House Finance Committee passed a resolution in March to conduct a study to see if they should replace the current local tax collection system, the study is required to be completed by December 31, 2018. Ferguson added there is an address if anyone would like to comment on the issue.

Engineer/Planning Commission

- Marlin C. and Donna L. Hummel Minor Subdivision Final Plan – Kosack moved to approve the Hummel Minor Subdivision Final Plan, Stump seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.
- Bohler Minor Subdivision & Boundary Line Adj. Final Plan - Kosack moved to approve the Bohler Minor Subdivision Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration, Lengel seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Recreation Board – Kosack asked if the soccer issue was worked out and Larry Hoffman said the Recreation Board is working on it. Joe Fegley asked about putting no parking signs at the turn near the playground. Kosack asked who would enforce it. A brief discussion followed, no decision was made.

Road Foreman – No report was given.

Zoning Hearing Board – Kosack noted the June 28, 2018 Zoning Hearing Board Minutes were received, the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on July 12, 2018 Meeting at 6:30 PM to work on proposed Zoning Ordinance revisions, and a Hearing will be held on July 25, 2018 for variance requests from the City of Lebanon Authority for property along Old Forge and Oak Grove Roads.

OLD BUSINESS

County Office of Solid Waste – Stump moved for Pine Grove Township to participate as a host site in the Schuylkill County Fall Clean-Up event with hours from 8 AM to 3 PM on September 13th and September 14th. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

Lehigh Valley Occupational Center – Stump moved to approve engaging Lehigh Valley Health Network OccMed Center for employment and pre-employment testing services. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

UCC Permit – DiNicola said there is an on-going legal issue with a business that is operating in the Township without an occupancy permit, various measures were taken by the Zoning Officer to no avail and a citation was filed with the District Judge who found them guilty. DiNicola said the Township asked they be assessed a fine per day (from January 10, 2018), but the judge refused to do that and only fined them for one day. DiNicola said the judge fined them a minimum amount and encouraged the business owners to come into compliance; if they don't comply the Zoning Officer can cite them each day he is aware they are occupying the property. DiNicola said if that does not work, the Board could consider a more extreme measure of having the building closed.

Light-Heigel – DiNicola said he contacted the former UCC company as directed by the Supervisors to make sure there was no confusion concerning their role with respect to prior outstanding UCC permit applications up through the date the Township retained a new BCO. DiNicola said he sent the letter out and he thinks everyone understands what their responsibilities are.

CORRESPONDENCE

Oak Grove Road Bridge Utility Reimbursement Agreement – Stump moved to approve the PPL Utility Relocation Reimbursement Agreement contingent upon Oak Grove Road (T866) referenced in the document as the location of the project. Lengel seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 3 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bonnie Brown asked about the landscaping outside the Township building, the weeds, the poison etc. Supervisors said the road crew was too busy with the road work from the storms to keep up with it and they thought the cost from the bid they got was too high.

Ed Kreiser asked when they pick up the recycling. Ferguson said the County has a schedule with different items picked up each day; they don't have many trucks, so if one breaks down or there is a holiday like last week, they do get behind on their schedule. Ferguson said she noticed it was stacked up at the bins and if it isn't resolved tomorrow she will call the County.

ADJOURNMENT – At 7:33 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 August 8, 2018.