

February 16, 2017

The Heidelberg Township Board of Supervisors held their regular meeting at 7:30pm at the Municipal Building, 6272 Route 309, New Tripoli, PA 18066. Present were Supervisors Steven Bachman, and Jonathan Jakum, Administrator/Secretary-Treasurer Janice Meyers, Road Superintendent Kevin Huber, Zoning Assistant Dawn Didra, Township Solicitor Atty. Keith Strohl from Steckel and Stopp Law Offices., and Township Engineer Christopher Noll from Keystone Consulting Engineers. Supervisor David Fink was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recording of Meeting: Charlie Perich, and Jennifer Bodisch of Northwestern Press

Recognition of members of the press: Jennifer Bodisch of Northwestern Press

Approve minutes of the January 19, 2017 regular monthly meeting: Jonathan Jakum made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2017 regular monthly meeting as written. Steven Bachman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public comment on agenda items: Carl Brieninger may have comments

Executive session: None

Payment of bills: Motion by Steven Bachman, seconded by Jonathan Jakum to approve the payment of the bills General Fund checks # eft2712 – eft2736 and 21104 - 21147 and no State Fund checks. Motion carried.

Monthly Reports

Regional EMS Steering Committee Report: No report.

Fire Company: David Fink had asked Janice Meyers to relay the following report: A letter was received from the Northwestern Lehigh School District thanking the fire company and NOVA for their services. Officer vacancies have been filled, and the wing event raised about \$2,000.00.

Ambulance Service: Steve Bachman read from the NOVA activity report.

Director of Office Operations: Jonathan Jakum reported: Audit is almost complete, Janice Meyers and Kevin Baer attended a webinar on Emergency Management, the Emergency Management plan is being updated, the zoning office has been very busy with permits, Dawn received the Outstanding Planning Education Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute, Dawn is getting ready to work on the newsletter, and Steve, Janice, Dawn and I attended the LCATO business meeting this month.

Director of Parks and Recreation: Steve Bachman reported: Chris Noll and he met to plan where the cross walk(s) will go. Night in the Country date has been set for August 19th.

Director of Public Works: No report.

Road Superintendent: Kevin Huber reported that the road crew is working on trimming trees, dirt roads, cold patching, Jones Road drainage pipes are separating, so they filled in where the dirt was washing away, cleaned out ditches, replaced the ceiling in Kevin's office.

Township Administrator: Janice Meyers reported that the audit is going well, and she has been working on the agenda items.

Township Zoning Officer: Christopher Noll, from Keystone Consulting Engineers reported on current and on-going investigations of violations and permit application reviews.

Township Engineer: Christopher Noll, from Keystone Consulting Engineers reported he has been attending the MS-4 meetings and updating the information for new report submission. He met with Steve and the cross country coach regarding where to put the crosswalk on Northwest Road.

Environmental Advisory Council Report: Dawn Didra reported: Unofficial meeting was held to brainstorm projects and fundraising ideas for the coming year.

Subdivisions/Land Development: None

Old Business:

Heating/Cooling system: A motion to table was made by Steve Bachman and seconded by Jonathan Jakum. Motion carried.

Proposed zoning ordinance changes: A motion to approve moving forward with advertising the proposed ordinance changes was made by Steven Bachman and seconded by Jonathan Jakum. Motion carried.

Truck Loan – Resolution #2017-18. Due to the amount of the loan, an ordinance is required, advertise 2 times and submit to DCED. A motion was made to advertise and push through as fast as possible by Steven Bachman and seconded by Jonathan Jakum. Motion carried. Kevin Huber will contact Mack Trucks and Janice Meyers and Keith Strohl will prepare the paperwork for advertising.

New Business:

Resolution #2017-17 – Amend fee schedule to correct tax collector fees for 2017. Motion by Steven Bachman, seconded by Jonathan Jakum to adopt resolution #2017-17. Motion carried.

Agricultural Security Area Addition request – Kevin Smith, Kistler Road, 154.167 acres. A motion was made by Steven Bachman and seconded by Jonathan Jakum to table the request. Motion passed.

State Police fees in proposed PA state budget – Steven Bachman asked that residents contact their representatives to let them know they are opposed to the proposal. The proposed \$25 fee per capita would cost the township \$85,000. Janice Meyers will compose a letter to the state for the Board to sign.

Phyllis Breininger to speak to the board regarding tax collection: Phyllis Breininger commented. Carol Betz, Lowhill Township tax collector, also commented. Steve Bachman said the new commission rate is in line with what the school district has been paying. He thanked Phyllis for her many years of service.

Public Comment:

Resident Carl Breininger asked if Jonathan Jakum looked at what the tax collector would be getting before making the decision and asked why the supervisors did not hold an executive session with Phyllis. Solicitor Keith Strohl explained that it would be a violation of the sunshine law because Phyllis, as the elected tax collector is not an employee, she is a public official.

Carol Betz and resident Charlie Perich asked why the fire tax not separated on the tax bill. Janice Meyers explained the Lehigh County as delinquent tax collector would not collect the fire tax if it was listed as a separate line item. The comment section of the tax bill does provide a breakdown of the millage.

Correspondence:

Fitzpatrick, Lentz and Bubba letter stating that the Lehigh Tax Collection Committee wants to meet less often and that changing the bylaws may be necessary in order to do that.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Steven Bachman, and seconded by Jonathan Jakum to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted as transcribed by Dawn Didra,

Janice M. Meyers
Secretary to the Board of Supervisors