

July 20, 2023

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Recording of Meeting: Susan Bryant from the Northwestern Press.

Recognition of members of the press: Susan Bryant from the Northwestern Press via Zoom.

Public comment on agenda items: None

Approve minutes of the June 15, 2023 regular monthly meeting: Motion by Steven Bachman, seconded by David Fink to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2023 regular monthly meeting. Motion carried.

Executive session: None

Payment of bills: Motion by Jonathan Jakum, seconded by Steven Bachman to approve the payment of the bills General Fund checks # eft4892 – eft4921 and 24504 – 24546 and State Fund check #1742 - 1743. Motion carried.

Monthly Reports

Regional EMS Steering Committee Report: Steven Bachman & Jay Scheffler gave their reports. There will be a meeting with all EMS & all Supervisors in September to discuss the Lehigh County Radio project. It could cost each department around \$100,000 in 2025.

Fire Company: Jay Scheffler gave his report.

Emergency Management Coordinator: Dawn Didra gave her report.

Ambulance Service: No report.

Veterans Memorial Committee: Steven Bachman gave his report.

Farmland Preservation Board: No report.

Director of Office Operations: Jonathan Jakum gave his report.

Director of Parks and Recreation: Steven Bachman gave his report.

Director of Public Works: David Fink gave his report.

Road Superintendent: Kevin Huber gave his report.

Township Administrator: Janice Meyers gave her report. The Board agreed no changes would be requested for 2024 in the township Delaware Valley Health Insurance plan.

Township Zoning Officer: Dawn Didra gave her report. Motion by Steven Bachman, seconded by David Fink to accept the quote from Keith McGimpsey for the painting of the administrator's office for \$400.00 including supplies.

Township Engineer: Chris Noll gave his report.

Environmental Advisory Council: No report.

Township Solicitor: Atty. Keith Strohl gave his report. The deeds for the NWRC and township properties are ready for signature. Once signed the deeds will be recorded and copies of all the paperwork will be given to the township and NWRC.

Steven Bachman asked that the Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society as a recurring agenda item.

Subdivision and Land Development: There were no plans to review but the planning commission reviewed a revised plan for the Heidelberg Heights subdivision and David Fink suggested that Kevin Huber review the plan regarding the proposed cul-de-sac's location and dimensions.

Unfinished Business:

Status of Buckery Road Bridge Replacement: Chris Noll reported there was a meeting with Conservation District regarding funding. A Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads grant application has been submitted requesting \$130,000 for this project.

Driveway ordinance change: Tabled until next month.

Local Taxing options for Farmland Preservation: Atty. Keith Strohl commented on the time table to get a referendum to increase EIT for farmland preservation on the ballot. The process takes 4 to 6 months and up to a year. David Fink confirmed his intention is for Farmland Preservation only using an EIT tax with no sunset date on the tax. Janice Meyers will contact Wildlands Conservancy to come talk to the Board. Atty. Strohl gave the Board a copy of the Heritage Conservancy's Leaders in the Fields booklet for a reference.

New Business:

Andy Gildner of Keystone Technology to speak to the Board re: upgrade computer backup to cloud service: Andy Gildner explained to the Board how the cloud technology works and stressed the importance of cybersecurity insurance. The quote from Keystone Technology LLC for cloud-based backup is \$300 per month. Janice Meyers will request a cybersecurity insurance quote and add the cost of cloud-based technology to the 2024 budget.

Appointment of fulltime zoning and administrative assistant. Motion by Jonathan Jakum, seconded by Steven Bachman to hire Katie Fabian at an hourly wage of \$17.50. Hours to be Monday thru Friday 9am to 4:30pm. At any time, the Board may change the hours to 8-4:30 if deemed necessary. Motion carried.

Quote for water treatment system for Sulphur: Motion by Steven Bachman seconded by David Fink to approve quote from Blue Mountain Water Systems for a Sulphur breaker system for \$2,064.92. Motion carried.

Changes to Employee Handbook: Tabled until next month. Janice Meyers gave the Board a copy of the changes to review.

Adopt Ordinance #2023-1 imposing upon owners of animals a duty to keep animals under restraint. Motion by David Fink seconded by Steven Bachman to adopt Ordinance #2023-1. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Bruce Zellner- Road crew did a great job cutting the brush at Best Station Road and Saegersville Roads as well as work they did on Jones Road.

Correspondence:

Letter from Night in the County coordinator regarding fire trucks and fire police: Motion by David Fink seconded by Steven Bachman to authorize the fire company personnel, trucks and equipment and fire police to participate as requested and agreed upon with the Night in the County Coordinator. Motion carried.

Letter from Slatedale-Emerald Area Lions Club: Invitation to their annual dinner. The Board said anyone that wishes to attend would pay for their own \$20 ticket.

Adjournment:

Motion by Steven Bachman, seconded by David Fink to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted as transcribed by Dawn Didra,

Janice M. Meyers
Secretary to the Board of Supervisors