

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 David Fink and Steven Bachman, Administrator/Secretary-Treasurer Janice Meyers, Road Superintendent Kevin Huber, Township Solicitor Atty. Keith Strohl from Steckel and Stopp Law Offices, Chris Noll from Keystone Consulting Engineers, as Township Engineer, Zoning Officer Dawn Didra, and Zoning and Administrative Assistant, Katie Fabian. Absent: Jonathan Jakum, Board of Supervisors.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recording of Meeting: None.

Recognition of members of the press: 7:41pm Arrival: Susan Bryant from the Northwestern Press via Zoom

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None.

Approve minutes of the September 22, 2023 budget meeting and regular month meeting: Motion by Steven Bachman, seconded by David Fink to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2023 budget meeting and regular monthly meeting. Motion Carried.

Executive Sessions: 7:33pm Session 1: Steven Bachman, David Fink, Atty. Keith Strohl, Janice Meyers, Dawn Didra, Session 2: Steven Bachman, David Fink, Atty. Strohl, Kevin Huber. Atty. Keith Strohl announced both executive sessions were to discuss employee matters. General Meeting resumed at 7:41pm.

Payment of Bills: Motion by Steven Bachman, seconded by David Fink to approve the payment of the bills General Fund Checks # EFT4996 – EFT5028 and 24629 – 24665. (No State Fund checks.) Motion Carried.

Monthly Reports

Regional EMS Steering Committee: Steven Bachman gave his report.

Fire Company: David Fink and Jay Scheffler gave their reports.

Emergency Management Coordinator: Dawn Didra gave her report.

Ambulance Service: Steven Bachman read from the NOVA September report.

Veterans Memorial Committee: Steven Bachman gave his report.

Farmland Preservation Board: Steven Bachman gave his report.

Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society: Steven Bachman gave his report.

Director of Office Operations: No report in Jonathan Jakum's absence.

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

Director of Public Works: David Fink gave his report stating he would have a quote for the truck wash bays to include with the grant application.

Road Superintendent: Kevin Huber gave his report.

Township Administrator: Janice Meyers gave her report.

Zoning Officer: Dawn Didra gave her report.

Township Engineer: Chris Noll gave his report. The Heidelberg Heights Major Subdivision developer granted a 90 day extension for review/approval of the plan.

Environmental Advisory Council: No Report in Jonathan Jakum's absence.

Township Solicitor: Keith Strohl gave his report.

Subdivision/Land Development: None.

Unfinished Business:

Driveway Contractors Ordinance: Tabled.

EIT Increase Referendum: Keith will be putting together information surrounding the advertisement of the referendum. The newly formed Referendum Committee will bring suggestions to the Board based on their research and community feedback. Teena Bailey is noted as the contact person for public inquiries. First meeting of the Referendum Committee is Tuesday, 10/24/2023 at 7pm in the township meeting room.

New Business:

Residents Jacob Howard and Alexandria Maloutas-Howard to address the Board re: Zapolska-Afghan Dogs. Jacob Howard stated that on September 27, 2023 Ms. Zapolska's Afghan hounds escaped their home. The dogs got into the duck pen on Mr. Howard & Ms. Maloutas-Howard's property and unfortunately killed all 4.

Corporal Matt Orchulli, of the Pennsylvania State Police Bethlehem Barracks addressed the Board and constituents regarding the state police response and dog laws. He confirmed that the state police and dog warden are responsible for filing summary and criminal charges in this type of incident. The only mechanism the township has for enforcement is to issue fines if there is an ordinance violation.

Dawn Didra confirmed PA State representative, Ryan MacKenzie's office had been made aware of past incidents in January. He was also made aware of the most recent incident. He and his staff are working toward strengthening the State Dog Laws.

Citizens Colleen Andrews, Steve Metzger, Tyler Sell, Melinda Howard, Daniel Romig, and Nicole Pongo also spoke about their concerns regarding Ms. Zapolska's dogs.

Resident Nicole Pongo to address Board re: traffic at Heidelberg Heights Road and Glen Court: Nicole Pongo addressed the Board regarding the many traffic violations she witnesses throughout the township, especially at the Heidelberg Heights Road and Glen Court stop sign. Ms. Pongo also alleged that staff and the Board have not addressed her concerns when they were voiced previously.

Corporal Matt Orchulli, of the Pennsylvania State Police Bethlehem Barracks addressed the concern by explaining they can set up a "reoccurring call" that will require a State Police officer to report to the intersection and document each offense at a specified time period. Corporal Orchulli advised anyone can call the PA State Police Bethlehem Barracks to request this.

David Fink thanked Ms. Pongo for her comments and said the township would address her concerns if possible.

Resident Barbara Heffintrayer to address the Board re: concerns regarding Open Burning in the township. Ms. Heffintrayer was not in attendance.

Proposed 2024 Budget 2nd Review: David Fink stated budget changes were made at the Budget Meeting and upon those adjustments, the budget should be balanced for the next budget meeting.

MS4 Stormwater Management Plan Ordinance: Chris Noll explained he will review the ordinance and give the Board copies. He will also find out if the planning commission is required to review the ordinance.

Northwestern Lehigh Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Donation: Motion by Steven Bachman to contribute \$250, as in past years, for the NWL Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, motion seconded by David Fink. Motion approved.

Resolution #2023-19- Submission of the Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for Revitalization of the Heidelberg Township Municipal Building, motioned by Steven Bachman to approve Resolution #2023-19, seconded by David Fink. Motion carried.

Resolution # 2023-20 Submission of the Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for the Buckery Road Bridge Replacement, motioned by David Fink, seconded by Steven Bachman to approve Resolution #2023-20. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment:

Motion by Steven Bachman, seconded by David Fink to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted as transcribed by Katie Fabian,

Janice M. Meyers
Secretary to the Board of Supervisors