

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, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recording of Meeting: Blue Ridge Cable Channel 13 News.

Recognition of members of the press: Blue Ridge Cable Channel 13 News.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None.

Approve minutes of the October 19, 2023 budget meeting and regular month meeting: Motion by Steven Bachman, seconded by David Fink to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2023 budget meeting and regular monthly meeting. Motion Carried.

Executive Session: Jonathan Jakum, Steve Bachman, David Fink, Dawn Didra and Katie Fabian met in executive session from 7:10pm to 7:25pm. Jonathan Jakum announced the discussion was regarding employee matters.

Payment of Bills: Motion by Jonathan Jakum, seconded by David Fink to approve the payment of the bills General Fund Checks # EFT5029 – EFT5051 and 24666 – 24704. (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 October report.

Veterans Memorial Committee: Steven Bachman gave his report.

Farmland Preservation Board: Steven Bachman gave his report: Metzger/Zimmerman Farm; approval and purchase amount pending appraisal completion. The RPA paid for the appraisal. Janice Meyers to send a letter to Lehigh County Farmland Preservation and a copy to the Rural Preservation Association regarding the township's commitment to help fund the purchase of the Metzger/Zimmerman tract paying 1/3 the cost, RPA 1/3 the cost and Lehigh County 1/3 the cost.

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

Director of Office Operations: Jonathan Jakum gave his report.

Director of Parks and Recreation: Steven Bachman gave his report: Skate Park at New Tripoli Rec Fields is nearing completion; pickle ball courts are under construction/nets will be added after winter season.

Director of Public Works: David Fink gave his report: a grant application for the previously discussed 'Truck Wash Bay' will need to wait until a full quote can be obtained. Currently, HLLW COG is storing all

equipment in the Heidelberg Township Potato Barn, request was made by the Board to the secretary to draft a letter inquiring on sharing the storage of the equipment between the four townships. Next COG meeting is December 11, 2023.

Road Superintendent: Kevin Huber gave his report, including the challenges surrounding opening the Potato Barn as a garage.

Township Administrator: Janice Meyers gave her report.

Zoning Officer: Dawn Didra gave her report. Dawn will obtain a copy of the Weisenberg Township fire code ordinance for review by the Board.

Township Engineer: Chris Noll gave his report. Buckery Road Bridge Grant award of \$131,000.00 paperwork has been obtained from the Lehigh County Conservation District and provided to the township secretary for processing.

Environmental Advisory Council: Jonathan Jakum acknowledged Jeff Kistler's community contribution of removal of the Twp Building Rain Water Collection Barrel for the winter season.

Township Solicitor: Keith Strohl gave his report.

Subdivision/Land Development: None.

Unfinished Business:

Driveway Contractors Ordinance: Dawn Didra and Chris Noll continue their review.

MS4 Stormwater Ordinance 2023-2 presented to the Board by Chris Noll. Motion by Jonathan Jakum to advertise the ordinance, seconded by David Fink. Motion Carried.

EIT Increase Referendum: Ben Weiss presented the following information for review by the Township Solicitor:

Committee Members: Christine "Teena" Bailey, Elizabeth Stetson, Ashley Schneider, Matt Schneider, Aimee Good, Rebekah Weiss, Ben Weiss, Patti Fenstermacher. Recommendations to the board:

1. A .175% rate of tax to be assessed.
2. The tax would be an Earned Income Tax (EIT) imposed upon all wage earners living in Heidelberg Township.
3. The Referendum would be placed on the ballot for the Primary Election, April 23, 2024.
4. If passed, the EIT would take effect on January 1, 2025.
5. The tax would sunset after 10 years.
6. The purpose of the tax would be for farmland and open space preservation and conservation.

New Business:

2024 Final Budget reviewed. Motion for the advertising of the 2024 Final Township Budget by Steven Bachman, seconded by David Fink. Motion Carried. No tax increase for 2024.

Township Office Position Changes: Motion for appointment of Dawn Didra as Assistant Township Administrator and Assistant Township Secretary by Jonathan Jakum, seconded by David Fink. Motion carried.

Battery Recycling Program: Call2Recycle: Steven Bachman motioned to approve the continuation of the rechargeable battery recycling program, free for township residents through Call2Recycle, \$77.50 a box for the twp, seconded by David Fink. Motion carried.

Elected Auditor Resignation: Motion to accept elected Auditor Sharon Metzger's resignation by Steven Bachman, seconded by Jonathan Jakum. Motion Carried. New auditor position posted to community sign. 30-40 hours per year, currently \$10 an hour (pending current legislation). Will train. If at least two auditors are not appointed, the Board is required to advertise for a CPA or competent accountant to perform the audit resulting in a much higher cost.

Public Comment:

Paul Kavolchik: The Multi-Municipal Plan is in the process of reviewing the zoning uses. No changes to zoning at this time.

Jeff Kistler: EIT Referendum Status: No approval at this time; consideration is pending the Solicitors review of the ballot question wording.

Correspondence:

Sanctuary at Haafsville is no longer able to provide stray dog services.

LVPC is hosting the Lehigh Valley General Assembly virtually and actively pursuing township officials to attend.

Adjournment:

Motion by Steven Bachman, seconded by Jonathan Jakum to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted as transcribed by Katie Fabian,

Janice M. Meyers
Secretary to the Board of Supervisors