

Newton Township Board of Supervisors' Meeting
February 8, 2021

General Meeting called to order via ZOOM meeting at 6:34PM.

Board Members in Attendance: Kevin Carr and Robert Naegele

Absent: Douglas Pallman

Board Guests in Attendance: Robert Sheils, III, Solicitor; D. Scot Haan, CEO; Francine Fawcett, Secretary/Treasurer

Guests: Sabrina Herbert, Jennifer Kwiatkowski and M. Jeffrey LaCoe

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Naegele to approve the minutes of the Reorganization and General Meeting of January 4, 2021 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.

Announcements: None

Correspondence: Correspondence is available with the Secretary's office during regular business hours for review.

New Business: None

Unfinished Business:

Master Plan: A new plan from Highlands Associates was sent to Naegele. He will forward to everyone.

Act 537 update: Shiels stated that he was having discussion with the township engineer and Attorney Bill Lawrence to assist with legal issues. Naegele asked for a rate schedule from Attorney Lawrence.

Website: Need update from Pallman.

Standing Committee Reports: POSTED - Planning Commission

Real Estate Tax Collector: Kwiatkowski reported that there were 66 parcels that did not pay the taxes. That totals about \$9,000+. County is asking if the township wants to now charge the 10% penalty on those parcels. Township passed the resolution to waive penalty fees for the year 2020 until December 31, 2020. Shiels will check the resolution.

Road Master: Naegele discussed the work performed by the DPW this past month and applauded their work for the big storm. Township is struggling to get DPW help and will discuss further at the next meeting. The grant applied for with Lackawanna Conservation for the culvert replacements has been submitted. Truck maintenance was performed and the loader has been fixed and under budget. The pipe replacement on Kimberly Circle will commence come Spring. We need to get the update on the culvert replacement from the township's engineer.

NRVFC: 24 calls for the month of January.

Recreation Center: Herbert reported the need to replace one of the boilers in the center. After researching, the price received from Power Engineers of \$9,995 was the best price. To replace it to a new boiler would usually run \$28,000. Will work on getting prices for the other boiler before that one goes down. Opening of the rec center is still on the hold. Herbert will check with the dance instructor regarding students outside of the daycare students coming into the building.

Solicitor: Sheils reported that this virtual meeting is in compliance with Section 47:41 – public notice published. Pileggi appealed the courts decision. Working on getting more details for the update of the Act 537.

Planning Commission: Haan reported that the Planning Commission recommends adoption of the SAPA plan. They also are recommending a 2-acre minimum lot size, SAPA did not recommend. Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission will advertise for public comment and have a ZOOM meeting. Next meeting will be February 16, 2021.

Code Enforcement: Haan reported about a hoarding situation on Newton Ransom Blvd. He is donating a dumpster for removal of junk to get it cleaned up. The house is not condemnable because it has running water and electricity, they are using the stove for heat.

Bills: Motion by Naegele to approve the bills as read and prepared, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.

Public Input: None

Being no further public input and discussion, Naegele motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted by Francine Fawcett