

Newton Township Board of Supervisors' Meeting
August 14, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM with Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members in Attendance: Kevin Carr and Robert Naegele

Absent: Douglas Pallman

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Naegele to approve the minutes of July 10, 2023, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.

Approval for the minutes from the June 12, 2023 meeting are tabled until next month.

Announcements: None

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

Public Input:

Bob McMinn discussed that the RTK was sent to PADOT regarding information requested concerning the stockpile. They will respond by August 31, 2023. McMinn stated that he will start the water testing. Attorney Sheils was asked if he looked into the case law and he stated that he did not yet, he is waiting for the RTK response.

New Business:

Terra Manor: David Lapotka, Reuther & Bowen, and developer Shannon Cross were present to discuss waiver requests. Waiver #1 – Section 609: Shade trees. They request trees not be required. **Motion by Naegele to approve the waiver request, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.** Waiver #2 – Section 603.11: Access easement requires a minimum width of 50' for lot 35 – providing a 25' wide access easement. **Motion by Naegele to approve the waiver request, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.** Stop signs will not be required on the turns. Waiver #3 – Section 603: Roadway design standards (Table V1-1). Requesting a waiver for the minimum roadway centerline from 150' to 35'. **Motion by Naegele to approve the waiver with the increase in shoulder to accommodate larger trucks, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.** Waiver #4 – Section 603.10: Shoulder width – request of 3' be permitted, 6' is required. Planning Commission and engineer is needed to give recommendation with review of new shoulder width for trucks. **Motion by Naegele to approve, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.** Planning Commission has to approve of the waiver. If they approve, today's date will be used and a written approval will be done. Discussion regarding the

dedication of the road. Township is not voting but will consider. Per the engineer's comments, it was discussed. Attorney Sheils has reviewed the documents provided and discussed with Mr. Cross that he would like to discuss with their attorney that there is information lacking in the documents.

Marty Kelleher – Country Club Road: Mr. Kelleher was present to discuss that he would like the township's approval to connect to the water line of the State Hospital. Naegele questioned if he was in possession of a capacity letter from the State Hospital. Mr. Kelleher stated he will get one. Mr. Kelleher also stated that according to our ordinances, he doesn't have to do soil testing if he is within 150 yards of the line. Township does not agree. He also stated that the State Hospital is building a new plant, this is news to the township as we have not been informed. Mr. Kelleher was informed that he will need to get a letter from the State that he will be allowed to tie into the lines and the capacity.

Bernstein Property – Forest Acres Drive: Naegele was contacted by Attorney Kelly regarding a piece of property owned by Bernstein. The property is located across the street from the Lilik's. Bernstein would like to donate the land to the township. Discussion tabled until Pallman returns. Attorney Sheils will reach out to Attorney Kelly to discuss.

Unfinished Business: None

Standing Committee Reports: POSTED - Planning Commission

Recreation Center: The committee reported on the rentals, meeting, activities and the building status. They will be having a bingo and requested the permission of the township to apply for a small games of chance license for \$125.00 for a one-year license. Fawcett to reach out to DGK to discuss. The committee is also applying for grants. The first one is for \$5,000 for outside recreation. A resolution needs to be done and will be voted on at next month's meeting. The second grant is an LSA grant for \$25,000 to \$1,000,000.00. Naegele stated that they will need to discuss with Mr. Haddock, State Representative, whether the township itself, will still be able to apply for the LSA Grant as we are planning a DPW garage. The by-law amendments were tabled until next month because Carr would like to have the language in place that the committee is capped at \$3,500.00 per month to spend without approval. The by-laws will have to be posted again. The supervisors discussed the pay rate for the rec center manager. **Motion by Naegele to approve the hourly rate of \$14.50 for Bobbi Jo Klinkel, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.**

Tax Collector: No report.

NRVFC: Chief LaCoe reported 42 calls for the month of July. He also stated that the chicken BBQ and car show was a success. There will be a gun bingo on October 14, 2023.

Road Master: Naegele reported that the salt shed is substantially complete. The drainage work on Lisa Lane should be completed by Wednesday. New plans were provided to the residents on Fairway Drive; however, they can't agree. Santarsiero met with Mrs. Hoffman Upper Fords Pond Road regarding a drainage problem in her driveway that is washing out our road and culvert every storm. She agrees to allowing the township access to put in a ditch. Attorney Sheils will work on an easement for her to sign. Naegele still has to work on the Cherry Hill Road exhibits for the easement information for Attorney Sheils.

CEO: Haan still working on the trailer situation on Newton Ransom Blvd., however, he is still unable to get any cooperation. It was discussed that he will now send a letter and the township is moving forward to get the property cleaned. Haan also discussed that Dunmore is holding up the passing of the SAPA plan and with the township's approval, will reach out to the SAPA committee to hold a meeting to discuss.

Planning Commission: Planning Commission would like to see the ordinance passed now with regards to a minimum two-acre lot.

Solicitor: Sheils reported that he sent a letter to J.P. Mascaro with regard to the damage the truck did on Hilltop Drive. He is still waiting on a reply. Attorney Sheils also discussed a RTK request of Warren Jacoby for information on a septic issue. Os Patton is going to get him some paperwork.

Public Input: None

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

Being no further business, Naegele motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:47PM, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.