

Newton Township Board of Supervisors' Meeting September 11, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:40PM with Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members in Attendance: Douglas Pallman and Robert Naegele

Absent: Kevin Carr

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 June 12, 2023, 2nd by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor.

Approval for the minutes from the August 14, 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:

Terry Purcell thanked the supervisors for all their work during the storm.

New Business:

Resolution 2023-2 – Disaster Declaration: The township signed a declaration due to the storm of September 9, 2023. The declaration is good for seven days and it will help the township get state funds if they become available. **Motion by Naegele to sign the declaration, Resolution 2023-2, 2nd by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor.**

Warren Jacoby – 14017 Upper Maple Drive: Mr. Jacoby was present to submit a formal complaint regarding his septic system. He provided material for review and stated that he has had septic back up in his house since he moved in in 2018 due to a flaw in the system. He is being represented by an attorney and has a lawsuit against the contractors involved. Mr. Sheils will reach out to Mr. Jacoby's attorney to discuss.

Police Services: Mr. Pallman discussed the services received last month by South Abington Police. He stated that his concern is for the safety and welfare of the township residents and that it is time to reevaluate police coverage in our township. There is a meeting Wednesday with South Abington Police.

Township septic line: The township has had ongoing issues with the septic line having to be jetted out. A price of \$1800 from Environmental Services was received to fix the broken/shifted pipe from the building to the tank.

Kinney/Pensak Subdivision: Planning Commission reviewed the subdivision on Valley View Drive and recommended approval contingent on DEP approval and driveway pipes being put at the new driveways. Mr. Kinney stated that when he got the driveway permits, Mr. Haan stated that driveway pipes were not needed. However, the DPW foreman says they are needed. A meeting will be scheduled with Haan, Santarsiero and Mr. Kinney to discuss. **Motion by Naegele to approve the subdivision and sign once approval from DEP is received and the issue regarding the driveway pipes is done, 2nd by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor.**

Unfinished Business: None

Standing Committee Reports: POSTED - Planning Commission

NRVFC: Chief LaCoe reported that there were 26 calls for the month of August. The fire company will be hosting a gun bingo on October 14, 2023.

Recreation Center: The committee reported on the rentals, meeting, activities and the building status. Resolution 2023-1 was presented for signing. The resolution was to apply for the Lackawanna County Re-Invest grant for up to \$5000. **Motion by Pallman to sign Resolution 2023-1, 2nd by Naegele. Motion voted, all in favor.** The amendments to the by-laws were posted at the township and the recreation center. **Motion by Naegele to approve the amended by-laws, 2nd by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor.**

Tax Collector: No report.

Road Master: Naegele thanked the DPW for the work done for the storm. We have three roads that are currently closed – Valley View Drive, Beaver Pond Road and Bridge Lane. Bob Jadiz was present and explained that he has terrible field damage and questioned the size of the stone being used if maybe something larger can be put in so that it doesn't wash out easily. Paving quotes were received for the area of the both salt sheds. Area #1 is by the new salt shed and Area #2 is by the old salt shed. Stafursky bid area #1 at \$36,700 and area #2 at \$19,600 – Conte bid area #1 at \$14,650 and area #2 at 8,000 – Abington Paving may have made an error in measurements and bid area #1 at \$17,470 if the correct measurement was made, it should be \$11,500 and area #2 at \$5,500. Pallman will call Abington Paving and discuss the possible error. **Motion by Naegele to award the quote to Abington Paving, assuming there is a clerical error for approximately \$17,000 with verification, if not, awarding Conte paving for area #1 at \$14,650, 2nd by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor.** There is a pole with a transformer on it that is leaning on Bridge Lane, Fawcett to call PPL in the morning.

CEO: Haan reported that there was a SAPA meeting on Wednesday. Dunmore still has an issue and an answer to that issue is due next week. Haan was informed that there may be a business operating on Beaver Pond Road that does not have a conditional use and to look into it.

Planning Commission: Planning Commission discussed the sewer line with Marty Kelleher, he did not receive a letter from the state regarding his hooking in. The planning commission also met with the new owner of the Red Barn village to discuss his plans.

Solicitor: Sheils reported that the Abington COG will be meeting with the Cohen Law Group to discuss negotiations with Comcast on October 12, the contract expires next year. Sheils also spoke with Attorney Valvano with regards to Terra Manor and the attorney for the Bernstein property. Mr. Bernstein wants to donate his land to the township. Discussion ensued regarding the surveying of the property that the township owns down by the railroad tracks. PADOT did respond to the right-to-know request regarding the stockpile, however, it was incomplete. Al DeGennero, Mascaro, was supposed to get back to the township with an offer for the replacement of oil on Hilltop Drive that their truck tore up, he did not.

Public Input: None

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

Being no further business, Naegele motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40PM, 2nd by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor.