

Newton Township Board of Supervisors' Meeting

November 13, 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 October 9, 2023, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.

Approval for the minutes from the September 11, 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:

Joe Beezup – Upper Maple Drive: Mr. Beezup wanted to know what the progress is for putting in a cross pipe on Upper Maple between his property and his neighbor's. It was discussed that we need the approval from both he and his neighbor. It was also discussed that his neighbor was given a verbal cease and desist from digging in the right-of-way. Mr. Beezup complained that when the township dug the ditch across the street, the township put water on his property. The roadmaster denied that that is what happened. The township will have the DPW meet with both parties to discuss the situation.

Ron Ezzo – Upper Maple Drive: Mr. Ezzo was highly irate and voiced his opinions of his neighbor. Mr. Ezzo was asked to leave due to his anger and accusations of the board.

Adam Stella – 1264 Country Club Road, asked if we heard anything more regarding the RTK request sent to PADOT. Sheils again explained that he went to PADOT for the NPDES permit and was sent to DEP. DEP asked for a 30-day extension and we should have it by next meeting.

Jones – Beaver Pond Road: Mr. Jones was present to complain about his neighbor not picking up her trash. The trash is blowing into his property.

New Business:

2024 Proposed Budget: The 2024 budget was presented. **Motion by Naegele to approve the 2024 budget for public review to be voted on at the December 11th meeting, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.**

Loader: Bids for a loader were received after public advertisement. Medico for \$130,000 minus \$10,000 for trade in. Powell's for \$64,000. Bids are tabled for the DPW to inspect.

9-9-2023 Storm Update: Naegele discussed that the township has spent \$395,117.14 so far for the storm. Bills are still outstanding for Valley View Drive (which is complete) and Bridge Lane (which is being worked on currently). There has been no financial help from PEMA or FEMA.

Chrissy Jacoby: Mr. & Mrs. Jacoby own property on Upper Maple Drive and wanted to discuss the issues that their son, Warren Jacoby, has endured with his septic system.

Unfinished Business: None

Standing Committee Reports: POSTED - Planning Commission

NRVFC: Chief LaCoe reported that there were 46 calls for the month of September and 25 calls for the month of October. The fire company's engine, which was damaged in the September storm, is still out of service. The fire company was able to borrow an engine from another company. The gun bingo was a success and another will be planned for next year. There is a breakfast with Santa planned for December 10th.

Recreation Center: The committee reported on the rentals, meeting, activities and the building status. They would like to hire Jennifer Richards as a staff employee. **Motion by Naegele to hire Jennifer Richards at \$10.75/hr., 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.** The supervisors approved the Wi-Fi upgrade and the repair and upgrade of the emergency lighting in the building.

Tax Collector: No report.

Road Master: Naegele discussed the work of the DPW. The salt shed is complete and salt is being purchased to fill it. Santarsiero will have to look at the two loaders that were bid and take a look at the water issue on Upper Maple Drive. Easement letters still need to be done for Ford's Pond and Cherry Hill.

CEO: Haan reported that he is fielding calls. He will work on a letter of citation for the resident on Beaver Pond Road with the garbage issue with Attorney Sheils.

Planning Commission: Planning Commission recommended a conditional use hearing for the proposed changes at the Red Barn Village. Payment for the conditional use has not been received, therefore, a hearing cannot be scheduled yet.

Solicitor: Sheils reported that he attended a Zoom meeting with Attorney Cohen and the Abington COG regarding the Comcast franchise agreement. Newton's contract expires January, 2025. The attorney is hoping to get a 5% franchise fee and negotiating broadband and more coverage in rural areas.

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 8:31PM, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.