

Newton Township Board of Supervisors' Meeting
February 12, 2024

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

Board Members in Attendance: Douglas Pallman, Kevin Carr and Robert Naegele

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Carr to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024 Reorganization and General Meeting minutes, 2nd by Naegele. Motion voted, all in favor.

Announcements: None

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

New Business:

Loader: January 15, 2024, bids were received and opened for used loaders. The best price received was from Cleveland Brothers for \$44,000 for a 2012 Case 621F wheel loader. DPW Foreman has inspected the machine and found it adequate for the township. **Motion by Naegele to approve the purchase of the loader, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.** Fawcett will get rates for bank loans for three years and five years.

Cohen Law Group: A proposal was received from Dan Cohen of the Cohen Law Group for representing Newton Township in the cable franchise agreement with Comcast. Mr. Cohen has represented this township and other townships in the Abington COG in the past. **Motion by Carr to approve the proposal, 2nd by Naegele. Motion voted, all in favor.** The standard rate for a single municipality of Newton's size would be \$8,600 but a discount of 20% would happen with multiple townships signing on.

Bartholme/Lomeo Subdivision: Mike Dudley, LaBella, was present to discuss a waiver request to not obtain highway occupancy permits for this subdivision. **Motion by Carr to approve the waiver contingent on the language being put on the plans that the township will not be held liable if the permits cannot be obtained in the future if someone wants to develop the land, 2nd by Naegele. Motion voted, all in favor.**

Eric Davis, Ginader & Jones: Eric Davis was present to discuss the audit of the books for the township for 2023. **Motion by Carr to accept the audit as prepared, 2nd by Naegele. Motion voted, all in favor.**

Standing Committee Reports: POSTED - Planning Commission

NRVFC: No report.

Rec Center: Committee chairperson Terri Purcell presented the board with the committee report. The committee needed to replace a board member and have requested the board to appoint Heidi Smith. **Motion by Naegele to appoint Heidi Smith to the committee, 2nd by Carr. Motion voted, all in favor.** The rec committee would also like to hire Sue Richter as a staff employee. **Motion by Carr to hire Sue Richter, 2nd by Naegele. Motion voted, all in favor.** The committee presented a quote from Scranton Craftsmen for the front railings replacement for a total cost of \$5,250.00. A deposit of \$3,000 would be required. Quotes were requested elsewhere, however, there was no response.

Road Master: Naegele discussed that the trench drain at the bottom of Camelot collapsed and was temporarily repaired but will need to be permanently fixed this spring.

Zoning: Haan reported that he has been fielding calls regarding the new zoning

Planning Commission: Haan reported that the Planning Commission accepted the plans for the Bartholme/Lomeo subdivision and the Sheridan Subdivision.

Solicitor: Sheils reported that he has spoken with DEP due to Pileggi appealing the decision of DEP with regards to his earth moving for the road into his proposed development. Sheils will respond that the township has no interest in the road. Sheils is also working on the lease with Daydreamers. A point they have made is that they would like to township to pay a percentage of the water testing costs. Fawcett to check with the certified operator if the township would still need to have testing done if the daycare did not occupy the building.

Unfinished Business:

Police Contracts: Newton Township Board of Supervisors has been in discussion with both Clarks Summit and South Abington with regards to police coverage in Newton Township. The supervisors have a few items to still discuss and may hold a special meeting to sign a contract.

Public Input:

A.J. Jones – Beaver Pond Road: Mr. Jones was present again to discuss the issue with the garbage in the neighbor's yard. Township will move forward with a citation from the magistrate's office since there has been no response to the code enforcement officer.

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 8:50PM, 2nd by Pallman. Motion voted, all in favor.**