

**ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
MEETING  
AUGUST 7, 2017**

The Ross Township Supervisors meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. this date by Chairman Howard A. Beers. Members present were Vice Chairman Tina Drake and Supervisor Russell A. Kresge, Jr.. Solicitor Timothy McManus was also present.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2017 meeting and the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-**Resident Joseph Staples was recognized who asked about the status of the new Municipal Building. Vice Chairman Drake responded by stating the final punch list has been received and is being reviewed by the General Contractor with a few items that need to be completed. Mr. Staples asked if the move will take place by our Community Day event and Vice Chairman Drake responded by stating as long as the General Contractor finishes up the punch list items.

Joe Vogt a resident of Mountain Rd. stated that he is a graduate of the Penn State Master Watershed Steward Program and was present to promote the program which is a volunteer program focused on a broad range of water and natural resources topics to educate the communities about stream ecology, wetlands, and other natural resources. Events such as rain barrel building workshops and seminars on backyard stormwater management are conducted. Mr. Vogt suggested the Township look at the pamphlets he brought along as a means of educating them on this program which is a first for Monroe County although has been in effect in Berks, Bucks, Chester as well as others.

Peter Marini a new resident to Ross Township who lives on Meixsell Valley Rd. was present and discussed the speed of vehicles traveling there. He also was seeking information regarding building and other permits he is not familiar with. Chairman Beers responded by telling him as far as permits he should contact the Zoning Officer and he informed him of the hours he is available in the office. Regarding the speeding vehicles he reiterated how fast and furious they are and he said it is terrifying. Vice Chairman Drake suggested calling the State Police who may be able to come out and investigate this situation. Mr. Marini suggested strips in the road to deter speed. Chairman Beers said he is not in favor of strips or cuts in the road.

Brian Stankovich the newly appointed Township Emergency Management Coordinator was present and introduced himself and expressed appreciation to the Board for the appointment. Vice Chairman Drake welcomed him.

**PLANS-**The David Shay minor subdivision was on the agenda for approval. A review of the plan was done and a motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Kresge to approve the plan as recommended by the Ross Township Planning Commission conditioned upon receipt of approval from DEP of the exemption filing. The motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS-** Solicitor McManus stated that the SALDO and Zoning Amendments that are pending are still under review by the various agencies and once accomplished he will proceed with a hearing date.

Chairman Beers discussed the Stryker Farm location and noted that several years ago a group was present at a meeting with questions regarding any ordinances or regulations pertaining to pig farming. In the discussion their concerns were surrounded by if it is allowed what will happen if the odor became an issue. Chairman Beers said presently the odor has increased and he noted the pigs run free and there seems to be too many of them. There was also concern over run off into the nearby Aquasichola Creek. It was decided to have the Zoning Officer look into the matter and to have the Secretary draft a memo to him concerning these issues.

Chairman Beers asked if the Zoning Officer assistant matter was resolved . Vice Chairman Drake explained that he is certified and doesn't make any decisions. He just fills in when he cannot be there. All decisions are made by the Zoning Officer himself. Chairman Beers added that the hourly rate was set for the Zoning Officer when he was hired and that was his added concern. Supervisor Kresge said the Zoning Officer is available to the assistant for any questions and after meeting with him felt assured.

**NEW BUSINESS**-Discussion took place regarding a revised payment application #10 for the new Municipal Building. The application has been received from the General Contractor, has been signed by him and the Architect together with a certificate of substantial completion and a check list of outstanding items totaling \$3,310.00. Also enclosed is a statement that the builders warranty period is to begin August 15, 2017 and will run for one year. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to make the payment of \$56,137.90 (revised payment #10)to Going Green Construction Services, Inc. holding back \$3,310.00 (for the punch list items) The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Voting in favor was Vice Chairman Drake and Supervisor Kresge. Voting against was Chairman Beers. The motion carried. The Secretary noted that the Occupancy Permit has been issued by the UCC inspector and Zoning Officer also.

Chairman Beers noted that a large oak tree fell on Mountain Rd. Saturday. His concern is that there are many trees in that area that are causing a possible hazard and questioned the Township being liable for any occurrence. Solicitor McManus stated that the Township does not have liability if the tree is on private property. Solicitor McManus added that the Township may advise the property owner of a potential hazard on their property but the Township is not liable since it is not on Township owned property or the Township right of way. The Road Foreman asked if the tree is a hazard can the Township take the tree down. The Solicitor said if it is an eminent hazard you can take it down. The Road Foreman noted that around the Township there are a lot of trees that create the same situation. He noted Faulstick Rd., Blue Ridge Rd. and Meixsell Valley Rd. as examples.

**ROAD FOREMAN REPORT**-Chairman Beers asked about the blocked drain mentioned in his report and he noted that is located on the hard curve on Anchorage Rd. (Austin Rd. location) he anticipates using a 6" schedule 40 pipe.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE-**

**RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES**-A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried. Added to the motion was to pay the moving company bill in the amount of \$1,457.90 to Matheson Transfer Co..

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,