

**ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Ross Township Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Beers with members Vice Chairman Drake and Supervisor Kresge present. Solicitor McManus was also present. The meeting continued with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES & TREASURER'S REPORT-A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Kresge to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2017 meeting and the Treasurer's Report as presented.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to adopt the 2018 Budget. Supervisor Kresge seconded the motion and added that the tax millage would be set at 1.5 mills the same as it has been for the past 24 years. The motion carried.

Jack Frain and Tracy Johnson, on behalf of Boy Scout Troop #109 ,were on the agenda and neither one was present.

Sharon Steen, Ross Township Tax Collector was recognized and she presented the name of Judy Warner as her Deputy Tax Collector for her term of office. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to approve this appointment. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-Bernie Kozen thanked the Supervisors for the use of the building on Saturday for the tree lighting event which was attended by approximately 40 kids and many adults. He stated the event was very successful and appreciated all the help.

David Shay was recognized who asked to have some answers for the next meeting which are the total cost of the new building from design to move in; the total amount borrowed; and when did the millage go up to 1.5. from 0.

PLANS-A time extension request from DE & S properties was discussed. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to grant the time extension until February 5, 2018. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried. Carolyn Lange a resident of Mountain Rd. asked where the DE & S Property is located and Chairman Beers responded Meixsell Valley Rd. and Blue Ridge Rd..

OLD BUSINESS- NONE

NEW BUSINESS-Solicitor McManus discussed the Aqua Pa. road occupancy permit request and noted some revisions to the application (which should also be used with other application of this nature) He noted that the Road Foreman issues this type of permit and some provisions are attached to be made a part of this permit issuance as conditions of same. He and the Township Engineer have discussed these conditions and are in agreement that they be attached to the permit when issued. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Kresge to follow the procedure

Solicitor McManus described. The motion carried. Chairman Beers noted that Solicitor McManus draft an Ordinance to perfect the one that is presently being used. Some discussion took place regarding placement of fire hydrants along the Aqua Pa. pipe replacement route and it was tabled to obtain information concerning the cost of the water that would be used from the hydrants and their locations in addition to the \$22.00 per month for each hydrant.

Some discussion took place concerning the mini casino resolution which has a deadline of December 31, 2017. The resolution adopted prohibits the location of a category 4 licensed facility within Ross Township. Solicitor McManus noted that he drafted it using PSATS sample as a guide. The Resolution #190 was adopted on motion by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried.

Chairman Beers noted receipt of two proposals from Hoffman Electrical one for a generator and the other to install a plug for welding at the Township workshop. Some discussion took place and it was decided to table a decision and to get other proposals.

Supervisor Kresge noted that this meeting will be his last meeting after 24 years as a Ross Township Supervisor. 288 meetings, many hours plowing snow, etc. he reviewed his experiences over the many Years of his life. Supervisor Kresge noted that as of this a.m. there was on deposit at the First Northern Bank & Trust Co. in the Township's accounts \$922,304.17 which indicates that the Township is not in bad shape and we have a debt of only \$375,000.00. The millage rate was 1.5 mills 24 years ago and is presently 1.5 mills presently. He went on to say the millage was never raised but rather eliminated for a period of time and then put back on. He referred to a flyer that was distributed by candidate David Shay and pointed out his opinion of the fiscal responsibility comments. Supervisor Kresge expressed appreciation first of all to his wife. He went on to say that she also was the committee leader that had the Veterans Memorial erected and complimented her on the terrific job. He thanked Doris for her years of service and input on all Township activities. Judy Breidinger the park Chairperson was thanked for her work, Sharon for her assistance in all the office duties, Ethan was noticed for his abilities and work stating "we made a good move in hiring you". He addressed Tina and reviewed her work as a Supervisor noting her common sense was so helpful and he told about all the improvements that were made during her tenure and how much of an asset she was to work with. He discussed the solar panels and noted that he was in favor of those but realizes maybe that wasn't a good expenditure. When it was time to build the new building the entire board was in favor of building it but the numbers came in very high and was rebid as a means of trying to get a lower amount. We had applied for a grant which came in at \$369,900.00. At the same time we obtained and estimate to refurbish the old building which came in at \$530,000.00. At this point we expended architectural fees and if the new building wasn't built we could have possibly lose the grant money. So a decision was made by Vice Chairman Drake and himself to build the new building. Chairman Beers was opposed at this time. He stated that the statement that the building cost the Township \$900,000 is "smoke" since the grant was \$369,900 plus a \$54,000 grant for the restrooms. Finally, with the fact that the Township has \$922,304.17 as of this a.m. Supervisor Kresge made a motion to pay off the loan of \$375,000 plus interest. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Drake. A roll call vote on the motion resulted in Vice Chairman Drake and Supervisor Kresge in favor and Chairman Beers opposed. The motion carried.

Supervisor Kresge reviewed the Fire Co. donations over the past 4-5 years which consists of \$45,000 annually together with a \$40,000 five year commitment to their truck fund. This was accomplished while real estate taxes were collected in approximately the amount of \$75,000.00 (1.5 mills) All other purchases did not increase taxes as is indicated on the aforementioned flyer. He expressed appreciation to all present for allowing him to serve. This was followed by a round of applause.

Vice Chairman Drake discussed the Veterans Memorial and noted that a couple of meeting ago it was brought to the Supervisors attention that they are short some funds to complete the paver area around the memorial. Vice Chairman Drake moved to donate \$5,000.00 to the Committee for the purpose of its completion. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried.

Pam Fleetwood was present and noted that a discussion at an earlier meeting was to honor the victims of the August 2013 shooting by placing their names on or near the Veterans Memorial. She explained that her husband was one of the victims and she is opposed to such an idea and that it should remain a Veterans Memorial. It was explained that a resident had suggested that and the Supervisors opposed it also. She noted that she has known Mr. Kresge for many years and looks to him as a great Supervisor who is well prepared and does a good job and is sorry he won't be back.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT- Vice Chairman Drake noted some Hemlock trees are coming down on Mountain Rd. and asked that he look them over. He concurred.

Vice Chairman Drake indicated that we might be short snowplowing this Winter and should look to some part time help.

#### CORRESPONDENCE-

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES-After a review of the bills to be paid, a motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kresge and carried.

Vice Chairman Drake read Resolution #189 honoring Russell A. Kresge for his service to Ross Township.

Jack Frain apologized for being late and was present on behalf of Boy Scout Troop 109 asking that a United States Flag he submitted be flown for a day at the Township Building after which it will be presented to the Grandfather of an Eagle Scout who constructed the Fallen Soldier monument along the walking trail. Soon after it was completed the Scout was killed in an automobile accident.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m. .

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Price, Secretary