

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
SUPERVISORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

At 7:00 p.m. on February 5, 2018 the Ross Township Supervisors meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chairman Howard Beers, Vice Chairman Tina Drake and Supervisor Shay were present. Solicitor McManus was also present.

The minutes of the January 2, 2018 organizational meeting and the January 2, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

The Treasurer's report was approved on a motion made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-

PLANS-A time extension request until April 2, 2018 was received from DE & S properties. A motion was made by Supervisor Shay to grant the request. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.

OLD BUSINESS-Supervisor Shay gave an update on the generator discussion from last month and noted that he spoke to Senator Scavello who indicated that the next grant round is the end of July and if we wait until such time we can apply for an electrical upgrade/generator. The funds if granted would be available in September.

The next agenda item is discussion on the Aqua Pa. road occupancy permit provisions. Some discussion took place and Chairman Beers indicated the questions pertained to both Solicitor McManus and Russ Kresge, Township engineer. Solicitor McManus noted that the general liability insurance question (#5 letter of Jan. 15) response should be the same amount the Township carries which is one million each occurrence, two million aggregate and a five million umbrella, stating that Aqua may or may not have the 5 million umbrella which may be a little too much. Chairman Beers asked when they are doing this work and have completed their day and someone drives into the site how does the Township get protected. Solicitor McManus indicated it would be unusual for the Township to have exposure such as that but they need to provide the insurance discussed which would cover. Chairman Beers noted that the Township can't stop them from digging the road and can't stop a lawsuit should that occur. The remaining questions should be responded to by Russ Kresge, Township Engineer with some input from the Road Foreman. Supervisor Shay asked about the fire hydrant installation that was discussed with this project. Chairman Beers indicated he has to get together with the fire company for their suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS-With reference to preventative maintenance on the heat/a/c unit for the municipal building, two proposal have been received one from Plum-Air and the other from Nauman Mechanical. Chairman Beers noted the difference between them is Nauman will change filters on the second trip and Plum-Air will change filters and service. (Plum Aire price \$890 , Nauman \$525 both annually) Chairman Beers wasn't sure that it needed the twice a year service but certainly the filters need changing. It was decided to table this decision until the next meeting to provide time for review.

A Keep Pa. Beautiful grant announcement was discussed and it was determined the grant was to promote recyclables by offering recycle bins for park placement. Some discussion took place which led to not putting these containers because it allows the use of them for household trash and other items to accumulate rather than for the purpose intended.

The next grant discussed is from DCNR Vice Chairman Drake noted some items that were previously Discussed (last year) exercise stations along the trail, an amphitheater, multi purpose field. It was noted that this grant is a 50/50 match. Judy Breidinger, Park Committee Chairperson added that some additional signage with park rules would be another item needed. She explained they would be in addition to those that are presently in the kiosks and should be placed at either entrance to the trail to include the lower end (by pond -3 locations).The Road Foreman was asked to look over the rules and order such signs. Discussion on whether to include the cost of the signs in the DCNR grant. Director Bernie Kozen noted that the cost would be a small expense for such a grant which is more geared to larger improvements. The exercise stations were discussed and Mr. Kozen noted the regional park stations were approximately \$15,000 and he suggested an LSA grant for that which is no 50/50 and no engineering required. Chairman Beers requested that Mr. Kozen include the exercise stations together with the generator when composing the LSA grant and he agreed. Getting back to the DCNR grant Mr. Kozen noted that after a grant is awarded the applicant has four years to provide the matching funds. Vice Chairman Drake queried the park committee if there is anything else needed. Other than the signage there was no other comment. Mr. Kozen mentioned that ESSA also has an annual grant program.

Supervisor Shay discussed the possible installation of standpipes for use by the fire company. The locations being considered are the Jones pond at Weir Lake Rd. and Meixsell Valley Rd. and the Lake at Rossland Lakes. He went on to say that in discussion with the Road Foreman he could install them and Supervisor Shay noted with permission from the property owners involved. Chairman Beers agreed with the idea if Supervisor Shay wanted to talk to the property owners.

Chairman Beers noted receipt of a letter from SFM noting that they do not want to work in the Township and suggested appointing Lehigh Valley Inspection Services as the BCO for Ross Township. Supervisor Shay made that suggestion into a motion which was seconded by Chairman Beers. A roll call vote resulted in Supervisor Shay and Chairman Beers in favor and Vice Chairman Drake opposed. The motion carried.

Chairman Beers noted he received a phone call from Dave Manter who told him he want to continue to serve as Township SEO.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT-Some discussion took place concerning guide rail on Stone Hill Lane which was damaged by an accident. Supervisor Shay noted contact with the insurance company of the person involved should be made and the Road Foreman indicated he has a copy of the accident report also. In any event the guide rail needs to be repaired and the Road Foreman will move forward in that regard.

Chairman Beers asked if Ray Price has the truck and will a bill be sent. The Road Foreman noted the dealer will get a bill together and send it.

Chairman Beers suggested that the Road Foreman put together information on the road projects for this year when time permits.

CORRESPONDENCE-

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

The time was 7:30 p.m. and executive session was called to discuss personnel matters.

At 8:06 the meeting convened with Chairman Beers announcing personnel was discussed and no decisions were made.

Supervisor Shay made a motion to switch the Health Care to a Highmark Blue Care PPO Gold #9 and continue to keep the deductible at \$250.00 and Township would create an HRA program through a third party called the Harrison Group to pick up the difference between the \$250.00 deductible and the \$4000 at a cost of \$50.00 per month (Township cost) to administer it. Same company the employees have now just a different plan. This should take effect May 1st and run through Dec.31 for 2018 and restart in January 2019 for a twelve month cycle. Also, a dental program would also be with Highmark plan F-4W as well as vision known as Fashion Advantage #1 paid for by the Township. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.

Supervisor Shay added that consideration should be given to an "opt out" clause that should be added to the Township policy manual stipulating that proof of coverage must be provided if the opt out is chosen by any full time eligible employee there would be a benefit replacement program and would provide a stipend of \$400.00 per month to also include any employee 65 or older who would not be eligible for Township health insurance, however, the employee could opt out and back in. Supervisor Shay made a motion to the aforementioned. Vice Chairman Drake noted that we have one employee who is presently 65 and older and noted that she is being paid \$610.00 per month so this new policy would drop that down to \$400.00? Chairman Beers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting in favor of the motion was Supervisor Shay and Chairman Beers. Voting against was Vice Chairman Drake.

Chairman Beers moved to increase salaries by 3% with an option of another 3% to go towards an IRA or 401K with employees putting in 3% (or more). However, this needs to be done within a reasonable time (no bonus check will be made as in the past). Vice Chairman Drake asked who is involved in this retirement option and Chairman Beers indicated the road crew because the only other employee is at a point where drawing on it is the only option. Both Vice Chairman Drake and Supervisor Shay noted this 3% should include all full time employees, but, Chairman Beers reiterated that Doris' age prohibits certain retirement plans the others may be interested in and therefore he would like the road department to decide on the type of investment. After this discussion it was decided to see what plans are discussed. Chairman Beers noted that the 3% will begin when they enroll in a plan if the employees procrastinate they will lose the Township contribution while not enrolled. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Price, Secretary