

ROSS TOWNSHIP
SUPERVISORS MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2018

At 7:00 p.m. on the above date, Chairman Beers called the meeting to order with members Vice Chairman Drake and Supervisor Shay in attendance. Solicitor McManus was also present.

The minutes of the November 5, 2018 meeting were approved with a motion made by Supervisor Shay, seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried. The current Treasurer's report was also approved by a motion made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

Chairman Beers asked for a motion to adopt the 2019 Budget of \$731,290.00. A motion was made by Supervisor Shay, seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried. An additional motion was made by Supervisor Shay to have no Township Real Estate Tax for 2019. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to advertise the intent to hire a CPA to perform the 2018 audit of the Township. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-Russ Kresge a Township resident and former Supervisor was recognized who asked if the Township Real Estate tax was just eliminated for 2019? Mr. Kresge went on to explain the last time the tax was eliminated was to assist residents during the recession period and then put back on to help fund the Fire Co.'s truck request. Chairman Beers noted that was partially true and Vice Chairman Drake added that it was decided at a meeting, and is in the minutes at the time, to put the mileage back on to provide the funds to fulfill the Fire Co. request for a donation towards the purchase of a new fire truck. Chairman Beers added that he didn't think the taxes had to be put back on at that time to accomplish that.

PLANS-

OLD BUSINESS-Some discussion took place concerning the signs for the park and the pricing of same. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to approve purchase of the signs from Kemmerer as proposed. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried. Although in favor of the purchase Chairman Beers noted that all these signs in and around the park are disturbing the appeal of the park and be unsightly.

The next item was the internet for the maintenance building and some discussion was that the bridge that Supervisor Shay spoke about is doable, however, he would like to look into other options.(approx.. \$200.00) (table till next meeting)

Discussion took place regarding the Stroud Township sample agritourism ordinance noting questions from the Ross Township Planning Commission as to why this should be entertained. Chairman Beers noted that the Zoning Hearing Board felt that our ordinance was vague (gray areas) and this sample ordinance cleaned up those areas. The Township Zoning Officer also had other comments, Solicitor McManus noted that many municipalities have similar language as those suggested by the zoning officer. Chairman Beers noted that this sample will be reviewed at the next CJERP meeting (January) and it was determined that the Solicitor would hold on his review until CJERP's input.

NEW BUSINESS-Chairman Beers discussed the Stormwater Ordinance and how it relates to Carson Helfrich who submitted his proposal in the amount of \$7,385.00. Supervisor Shay noted he would like to look into some other agencies like DEP to see if there are any grant funds for this purpose. Chairman Beers indicated he would like to move ahead with this issue instead of waiting for a grant. Vice Chairman Drake thought it was quite a bit of money also. Solicitor McManus added that he spoke to Carson and it seemed as he would work with Pocono Township and therefore offered Ross an hourly rate while working concurrently. Chairman Beers noted he is not in favor of such extreme restrictions and it needs to be addressed in an expeditious manner. Supervisor Shay agreed with the feelings of Chairman Beers, but, felt that 30 more days would be time to look at another avenue. (tabled until next month)

Chairman Beers noted an ad was placed in the West End Happenings as has been done in the past jointly with Chestnuthill, Eldred, Polk regarding snowplowing at a cost of \$290.00 to be shared with each municipality involved. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay to pay the Township's share of this cost. The motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the fee structure for Lehigh Valley Inspection Services for 2019. Some discussion took place concerning roofing permits and fees in addition to structural permit requirements. Other discussion was if replacing something with no structural change is a permit required. Chairman Beers noted that this submission needs to be looked over and discussed next month. Solicitor McManus noted that it is not a one size fits all.

Chairman Beers noted he noticed a plan to collect metal spoons for Valor and suggested the Township place a box at the building for this purpose.

Vice Chairman Drake noted that she attended a meeting in Florida where the Marines were recognized for their Toys for Tots campaign and noted that the Township should recognize our local efforts also. Perhaps a plaque to be presented to the Marine Corp. representative. All agreed with the idea.

Vice Chairman Drake asked if the sign for the former building could be changed to say "Maintenance Department". She agreed to check into that.

Solicitor McManus noted he received a couple of calls from Mr. Chopek's attorney relating to the LCB and the noise ordinance and he noted that he is an advisor to the board and does not set policy but concerns should be addressed at the Supervisor's level. Chairman Beers made a motion to keep things the way they are and we are not interested in taking on this change. No second was made to the motion and Vice Chairman Drake noted that at this time we are not in favor and didn't think it needed a motion but that she would call and explain it to him. Supervisor Shay suggested that she call as she stated.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT-Supervisor Shay noted on the recommendation of the Road Foreman hiring Randy Delp at the current rate of pay for a part time snow plowing position. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.

It was decided to accept the \$2,500.00 bid for the used truck in as is condition. Supervisor Shay noted a certified check should be received from the buyer. A motion was made by Supervisor Shay, seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.

The Road Foreman submitted prices on new vehicles to be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

A letter regarding an extended warranty was received in connection with the Dodge pick up truck and it was determined that the Road Foreman look into the terms.

CORRESPONDENCE-An email was received from Fallon Horan Open Space Coordinator for the County grant program. Supervisor Shay said he contacted her but will do a follow up.

A letter for assistance from a resident of Robins Ct. was received and it was determined to have the Road Foreman take care of the matter.

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES-Chairman Beers asked about a bill from Hamilton Township and the Secretary noted it is for Ross Township's share of the Worker's comp insurance for the Fire Co..

Chairman Beers noted that the alarm went off one night and it was noted that the alarm was not set. It was determined that the cleaning company must have left it off. The Secretary noted she spoke to the Supervisor who indicated she would come here and go over the whole system with the cleaning crew. The Secretary was requested to check with the alarm company to see if the alarm could be programmed to be set at a designated time, in case it is not set manually for some reason.

After a review of the bills a motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Price, Secretary