

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2019

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Ross Township Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Howard Beers at approximately 7:00 p.m.. Vice Chairman Tina Drake and Supervisor David Shay were present. Solicitor McManus was also present.

Chairman Beers asked all present to stand while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the January 7, 2019 organizational meeting the regular meeting were approved on a motion made by Vice Chairman Drake and seconded by Supervisor Shay as was the current Treasurer's report. The motion carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-

PLANS-An extension request was received for the Ervin Miller property from Collura Engineering and Surveyors through the Ross Township Planning Commission and was recommended for approval. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to approve. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried. (until May 20, 2019)

OLD BUSINESS-Supervisor Shay discussed the Stormwater Ordinance noting that a letter of interest was sent (since the last meeting) for a William Penn Grant that will contribute \$4,000-\$5,000 for the cost and they will work with Carson Helfrich. Supervisor Shay and Vice Chairman Drake noted that they both signed the letter discussed. However, Chairman Beers stated that he did not sign it and further his concern is that the group offering the grant may have too much input that the Township doesn't want and he wants to be in control of our Township. Supervisor Shay noted that this is just a starting point to determine, possibly by the next meeting, if it is something that is satisfactory to the Township at which time a decision to do it or not can be made.

The next item on the agenda was discussion on the agritourism sample ordinance and Chairman Beers stated that the CJERP meeting was cancelled and we were awaiting input from them for suggestions. So the matter was tabled until next month.

Lehigh Valley Inspection Fees were next on the agenda some discussion took place with Supervisor Shay saying that the fees are different than done in prior years and he reviewed the past procedure and what is presently being done. He noted that with the budget being done with real numbers the fees do not need to change as new fees creating more money has not been budgeted. He compared it to the franchise fees that are passed on to residents which he is in opposition to as he is any taxes that are not necessary. He went on to say the Supervisors have control of these fees and he feels they should not be passed on to homeowners for frivolous repairs that are being made as improvements. Vice Chairman Drake discussed the hourly increase from \$35.00 per hour to \$40.00 per hour, Supervisor Shay noted that this amount is way cheaper than two years ago. Vice Chairman

Drake noted she feels there is a difference in other fees and discussed the 30% the township would receive from the previous zoning officer (out of the fees collected). Chairman Beers in an effort to clear up the fees issue indicated that the previous BCO charged higher fees than the present BCO and that's what came back to the Township. Vice Chairman Drake noted that getting the 30% would supplement the hourly rate (although the zoning officer and BCO are two different paying positions) Chairman Beers added the previous BCO fees were the same or a little higher than the present BCO fees. It was discussed between the Secretary and the Chairman that they did a review of the past fees and compared them to the present fees which resulted in a \$6,000 difference that the Township is not getting with the present fees in place. Chairman Beers ended with since zoning is a separate issue the BCO could raise his rates by 30% to allow this additional fee for the Township which would bring it back in line with previous years. It was understood that presently the BCO has the applicant make a check out to Lehigh Valley Inspection Services for the BCO work and a separate check to the Township for Zoning \$50.00 residential and \$100.00 for commercial. Chairman Beers noted that the Township is not supposed to be making money but only to cover costs involved. Supervisor Shay stated he feels each property owner should be able to hire any inspector they want. Supervisor Shay moved to accept the fees as proposed. The motion was seconded by Chairman Beers. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Voting in favor was Supervisor Shay and Chairman Beers. Opposed was Vice Chairman Drake. The motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Cyber Liability Insurance question and Vice Chairman Drake noted that there is a liability out there but she wasn't sure to what degree that would affect the Township and suggest it be given some thought in the future. Vice Chairman Drake made a motion to that effect and it was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

Some discussion took place concerning the grant application for the Monroe County Open Space Fund and it was decided to try to obtain funds if the park committee has something in mind since moving the schoolhouse won't particularly work for this round. Judy Breidinger indicated at the Park meeting they noted that the trail needs some work, a ramp should be made from the playground to the pavilion and mulch for playground. Discussion was surrounded on doing some trail re-work. It was decided to have Russ Kresge submit the necessary information. Bernie Kozen noted if you are not under the threshold you must pay prevailing wage. So it was decided to apply for \$9,000 and the Township would put in \$9,000.+or- to keep it under the aforementioned threshold. It was determined that the Secretary and Bernie Kozen, Exec. Director of WEPSOC work on this application.

Regarding the sign at the former Township building, Vice Chairman Drake noted that when "Butch" Kresge returns from vacation she will get together with him and the sign person and work on it.

**NEW BUSINESS**-Some discussion took place concerning the Opt out of the Building code and Solicitor McManus gave a review of his letter on this subject. Supervisor Shay asked if the township could provide a list of qualified inspectors. Chairman Beers expressed concerns over obtaining a permit without doing other remedial work governed by the subdivision that was approved and perhaps a land development requirement may be overlooked. Solicitor McManus agreed that policing it could be an issue unless that is part of the regulations to start with. Supervisor Shay said he will do some research into this matter and report back.

Chairman Beers noted that DCNR is also opening a round of grants for recreation. Some discussion took place on using such funds to move the schoolhouse to the park property. Supervisor Shay said he would check with Mr. Stoltzfus in Lancaster for an estimate.

The annual Spring clean up was discussed and it was noted that Chrin Hauling no longer does clean ups. It was determined to contact other haulers for proposals, however, April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> were tentatively set pending obtaining a contractor. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

Township wide permit free yard sale was set for May 4<sup>th</sup> on a motion made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried. (same time as last year)

Vice Chairman Drake recognized the State Police, Emergency Management Personnel, Ambulance and Fire personnel for their response to a truck fire that she recently witnessed on Mountain Rd. she also included Ross Township road department as well.

Vice Chairman read an email she received this a.m. from Paul Jarrett involving changing zoning officer beginning with an appointment tonight---Tracy Herman as Zoning Officer and Paul Jarrett as BCO. Vice Chairman Drake said she thought this was very short notice and that he is telling the Township what to do. She added that good work ethics are to give a two week notice for this type of change. She said she does not feel secure with this going on as at a moments notice this could change to! Chairman Beers noted that he didn't think Paul would not come here. Chairman Beers noted he did not see a problem with this and moved to appoint Tracy Herman and zoning/codes officer and Paul Jarrett and BCO. Vice Chairman Drake interjected saying "after she left us last year?" The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and Vice Chairman Drake said "I'm opposed".

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT-Traffic study completed and three way stop sign is authorized for the signs and ordinance to be adopted. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to authorize Solicitor McManus to draft up a stop sign ordinance and advertise same, the motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

Supervisor Shay asked about the extended warranty for the truck that was submitted and it was determined to obtain the warranty. A motion was made by Supervisor Shay, seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.

Chairman Beers noted the Road Foreman obtained some information about the purchase of a new Truck which were Peterbilt at approx.. \$85,500 and the Road Foreman thought it was best because of the proximity of the dealer for maintenance. The Freightliner was \$85,300. The Mack was \$103,200. The up-fit would be approximately \$16,000. Color to be determined. (green was favored as all other trucks are green) A motion was made by Chairman Beers to purchase the Peterbilt-cab and chassis per the specs the Road Foreman obtained. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

Supervisor Shay asked if there is anything that can be done when a vehicle is abandoned in the middle of the road during snowplowing. Such as having it towed away. Solicitor McManus will look into that.

CORRESPONDENCE-A letter was received from Monroe County Control Center asking if the Fire and Emergency services providers are the same as last year and the response is yes.

The Township was asked to write support letters for grant applications from Polk Township, WEPOSC and Chestnuthill Township. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay to submit such letters to respective applicants.

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES-Supervisor Shay said he spoke to Royal Security about the recent invoice and was told the device was 3year old and out of warranty. The Secretary noted that when it was taken out of the office she was told it was under warranty. Chairman Beers noted a camera should be installed behind the Secretary and also behind the Zoning Officer allowing a better visual. Supervisor Shay will price check when he calls about the aforementioned warranty.

After a review of the bills to be paid a motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay to pay the bills as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Price, Secretary