ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

MEETING

APRIL 1, 2019

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Ross Township Supervisors was called to order at

7:00 p.m. by Chairman Howard A. Beers. Vice Chairman Drake and Supervisor Shay were present.

Solicitor McManus was present also.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

After a review of the minutes and Treasurer’s report a motion was made by Supervisor Shay to

approve the minutes of the March 4, 2019 meeting, the March 11, 2019 Special meeting and the current Treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC- Resident Linda Kresge was recognized who discussed getting electric to the flag pole at the site of the Veterans Memorial. She would like two lights put up and then have electric to the

site. Supervisor Shay noted that we will be having some electrical work done soon when the generator

is ready to be installed and could maybe coordinate the work with that. Supervisor Shay added that he

will look into some LED lights. Vice Chairman Drake noted she will be in touch with Mrs. Kresge.

Resident “Butch” Kresge was recognized who spoke about the solar panels and asked what the update is

on the credits sold. He noted that the investment of $100,000 may not have been a good investment depending on the return. Vice Chairman Drake reported that $406.00 have been received thus far with

an additional $248.00 sold but not received as of this date. Chairman Beers noted that he has to look

at the inverters which will reveal the amount of electricity that was made and then figure out how much was saved on electricity. He also added that the life span is approximately 30 years noting that each year their productivity drops a little.

PLANS-Frank Smith was recognized on behalf of Pa. American Water Co. who noted that last year the

subdivision was given approval by the Board and since then some changes were made and is now submitting the same plan which supercedes the previous plan. There is one minor drafting change and a change in the conveyance date. A new plan will be submitted for signatures after Hamilton Township

signs it. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay to approve the plan as recommended by the Planning Commission. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS -Some discussion took place regarding the Stormwater Ordinance and how to proceed.  
Chairman Beers noted he had a discussion with Carson Helfrich with some of his questions from last

month particularly the use of Pocono Township’s ordinance since they are in a different watershed.

Solicitor McManus noted that he worked on the Pocono Townships Ordinance and felt the mechanics

of it were much better than the one the County was offering and the Township can place it’s own

restrictions on set backs and buffers. A motion was made by Supervisor Shay to proceed with Carson

Helfrich and the William Penn mini grant for a total project cost not to exceed $7,385. The motion was

Seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.

The agritourism sample ordinance was next on the agenda and Chairman Beers noted that the CJERP

has not fully discussed this matter yet and discussion will continue.

DCNR Grant deadline is April 10th no project decided on for this round.

With reference to a submission from Polk Township for amendments to their Zoning a SALDO the

Supervisors had no comments and a motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by

Supervisor Shay to that effect. The motion carried.

Three Lawn Service proposals were received. Vice Chairman Drake discussed the possibility to hiring

a grounds and building maintenance person seasonally and read from an ad she obtained. Chairman

Beers expressed and opinion that perhaps we would have to pay more than the ad suggests. Vice

Chairman Drake thought it would be good to have a person on hand to do other odd jobs. Some discussion took place concerning the expenses for the past couple of years and it was also noted that

we would need to purchase equipment and we would assume some liability also. It was decided to

consider this for the future but for now we need mowing. A motion was made to accept the proposal

from George Washburn at $315.00 per mowing made by Supervisor Shay, seconded by Vice

Chairman Drake and carried. Linda Kresge mentioned that the Valor group often has veterans who

are looking for work. Supervisor Shay and Vice Chairman Drake both reiterated that there will be no

driving over the pavers with the mower. Linda Kresge noted she is considering planting boxwoods along the edge of the pavers to prevent driving over them.

Vice Chairman Drake reported about the sign at the former Municipal Building saying that the resident

who made the sign is no longer able to use the equipment to “fix” the sign. Chairman Beers said he

may be able to pull the letters off to change it and make it acceptable. Vice Chairman Drake said she

continue to look into the matter.

Some discussion took place concerning the abandoned vehicle ordinance other Township’s have in

place. (Chestnuthill and Smithfield) and it was decided that Solicitor McManus would draft a proposed

Ordinance similar to those.

Mark Van Britsom has submitted an application (same as his grandmother from last month) to obtain

a refund of the Realty transfer tax he paid in error. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake. with all paperwork in order, to refund $206.25 as requested. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and

carried.

NEW BUSINESS-A proposed amendment to the Moore Township Official Map was received as a courtesy

submission since a small portion touches Ross at the top near the Appalachian Trail. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay that Ross Township has no concerns with

this. The motion carried.

A bid request has been received from the COG and Chairman Beers noted we should submit a request to

be included in their bid process. It was suggested that we bid 200 tons. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to that effect which was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

Chairman Beers noted some information received through the COG which involves Habitat for Humanity. The program states that if income is less than $38,0000 for a single person and if your homeowners is in jeopardy of being cancelled because of a failing roof or deck Habitat for Humanity

would do the work which would cost the homeowner 75% of the cost. ($44,000 for family of 2)

A letter of support has been received from Chestnuthill Township in their efforts to secure a grant

for a bridge replacement over Silver Valley Rd.. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to have Chairman Beers sign the support letter through the CJERP group. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

A Park Ordinance was received from Polk Township with a request for a review. No comments were

made concerning this Ordinance.

Chairman Beers noted that the playground is in need of mulch. We can obtain this product through the

Co-stars program at a delivered price of $1,569 for 60 cubic yds. which is less expensive than the Township picking it up locally. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to purchase the playground

mulch from River Valley Recreation as indicated above. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay

and carried. “Butch” Kresge was recognized who noted that before placing new mulch some drainage

issues must be addressed to increase the life of the mulch.

Vice Chairman Drake thanked her Sister for donating pictures of the Township Park and building and she

added that they will be hung in the building.

Vice Chairman Drake noted that the Zoning Officer changed hours on March 12th and wanted to stress

that the alternate should be filling in if hours are changed such as this. Supervisor Shay agreed and noted that it should not happen again.

Vice Chairman Drake discussed the vacancy that has occurred with the resignation of Sharon Steen as

Part time Sec. and Part time P/C Secretary and suggested an advertisement be placed seeking a replacement. Some discussion took place concerning the rate of pay which was decided to be $13.00

per hour; 15 hours per week and one planning commission meeting on the third Tuesday evening at

7:00 p.m.. Chairman Beers noted that in speaking to Ms. Steen she indicated she mails the paperwork

for the meeting to each member and he suggests in lieu of that she should email them the paperwork and then have it at the meeting also (so that don’t have to print out the information and the mailing costs would be cut down). Vice Chairman Drake added that the Secretary should sit in on interview.

Vice Chairman Drake made a motion to advertise for the position as discussed. Chairman Beers added

that it is necessary to have someone in the office to learn and to fill in when the Secretary has vacation and personal time. Supervisor Shay was not in favor of having another person for 15 hours

a week in the office and stated that the cost is approximately $10,000 annually. He suggested just

hiring a planning commission secretary. Chairman Beers seconded the motion made by Vice Chairman

Drake. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Voting in favor was Chairman Beers and Vice Chairman

Drake. Supervisor Shay voted against. The motion carried.

Vice Chairman Drake “thanked” Ethan Brewer, Road Foreman for cleaning up the remains of the truck

fire debris on Mountain Rd..

Chairman Beers discussed some suggestions he sent to the Park Committee one of which is having a concert in the park. While it was discussed they were talking about having one next year and Chairman

Beers was thinking more of this year. He noted that he has a couple of them in mind. The cost would be

borne by the Township. If the band/s are available it was decided to have it this year. Some discussion

took place about adding crafters to the community day event and charging for their spot and also have

insurance coverage. Chairman Beers noted he would contact the two bands he has in mind and report

back.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT-Some discussion took place regarding a dollar amount allowance to have trees

Removed from the township right of way that the road crew cannot remove themselves. Supervisor Shay noted that he thinks we should prioritize them. Chairman Beers suggested the Road Foreman should get some prices.

Line striping was next and a list was submitted. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake to contact

the line striper. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

Road blacktopping projects were discussed and it was noted that $288,000 is in the Liquid Fuels Account. After a review of the list which included Ruby Ct. Development, Chestnut Ridge Plantation

and a few other road options. It was determined that Ruby Ct. Development would be bid as the main

project. The Secretary suggested putting all the roads out as alternate bids keeping the Ruby Ct. development as the base bid as we have done in the past. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake

to advertise as aforementioned. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE-A request was received concerning a Disc Golf Program for the Township Park and

It was decided to have the Secretary write to Mr. Cycak suggesting he attend a Ross Township Park

Committee meeting to discuss the matter. Chairman Beers noted there may be a liability issue to consider.

A letter was received from a group known as AWSOM requesting a donation. A motion was made by

Vice Chairman Drake to donate $100.00. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

Supervisor Shay discussed the renewal of the employees health insurance due May 1, 2019 noting a better rate from Geisinger than the Highmark we presently have. Chairman Beers noted that he spoke

to both employees involved and was told that their Doctors take the Geisinger plan and that the coverage is extended out of state (for emergency room type of visit). Supervisor Shay moved to switch

to the Geisinger plan. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Price, Secretary