

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
MEETING  
AUGUST 5, 2019

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Ross Township Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with members Howard A. Beers, Jr., Tina Drake, and David Shay present. Solicitor McManus was also present.

Chairman Beers led those present with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the June 3, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion made by Supervisors Shay, seconded by Chairman Beers and carried.

The minutes of the July 1, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried. The current Treasurer's report was also approved in this motion.

The first item on the agenda is an Ordinance given #85 which regulates parking of vehicles on Ross Township roads. Solicitor McManus reviewed the advertisement that was done and an overview of the ordinance's enforcement sections. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay to adopt this Ordinance. The motion carried.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-Roger Christman, Chairman of the Ross Township Planning Commission was recognized who discussed the Ag Security Committee and noted that a new member needs to be appointed (a Supervisor). Chairman Beers moved to appoint Vice Chairman Drake. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay. Vice Chairman Drake accepted if Roger Christman assists her. The motion carried.

Bernie Kozen presented a flyer for Ross Township's Community Day for the Supervisors to look over to be distributed to groups and vendors. He questioned the food and entertainment stating he did not line up any entertainment. Chairman Beers noted he talked with Dave LaBar who helped out last year with music and he is willing to do the performing this year also. Chairman Beers noted that in soliciting donations for food the Saylorsburg Dollar General does not participate in donating but the Giant in Wind Gap will give a gift card if the Township supplies a letter explaining the event. It was agreed that the Township will take care of the food and entertainment with the Bernie and the park committee taking care of the vendors and volunteer groups. Bernie indicated he received an email from Robert Butler, Monroe County Republican Committee asking if he could set up a voter registration table at Community Day and the decision was not to allow that as it has political affiliations.

Martha Rizeli of the Ross Township Historical Committee was present asking about the sign in front of the former Township Building suggesting that it add the name of the Historical Committee since their museum is growing people would be able to locate it when necessary. Supervisor Shay noted that the sign should also indicate "Road Dept" as well as Historical Committee. It was decided to use both names on the sign.

PLANS-The Ervin Miller Plan was next on the agenda and Neil Policelli was present as the consultant

this plan. He requested, on behalf of his client Mr. Miller, that the plan be withdrawn ,at this time, without prejudice. A motion was made by Supervisor Shay, seconded by Vice Chairman Drake and carried.

OLD BUSINESS-Monroe County Waste Authority submitted a Litter Ordinance for review and possible adoption which was forwarded to Solicitor McManus for input. Solicitor McManus explained the Ordinance sample includes a section from the crimes code and recommended that the Township not adopt it the way it is written. The Supervisors did not act on this request.

The next item was the appointment of a part time secretary/Planning Commission secretary. Vice Chairman Drake moved to appoint Patricia Howerter. There was no second to the motion. Vice Chairman Drake said are we going to advertise again for the position? Supervisor Shay said he feels a part time secretary is not needed but that a part time planning commission secretary would be warranted. Chairman Beers indicated that he didn't think the candidate Vice Chairman Drake moved to appoint was qualified enough for the position. While Chairman Drake felt the other candidate chosen had some other jobs in mind and was going to attend school which would take her from the job. Chairman Beers nominated Heather McDonald (the other candidate) and there was no second. Chairman Drake stated that the Secretary should advertise again for this position. Roger Christman, Planning Commission Chairman interjected by saying there seems to be an issue with the part time secretary but not the planning commission so by advertising the same position again you may not come to a decision again. Much discussion took place on this matter which resulted in Supervisor Shay saying he doesn't think there is enough work to warrant a part time secretary in the office and while Chairman Beers indicated he didn't think a part time office secretary was needed either he would have agreed to Heather McDonald since he felt she was very qualified having varied skills. Vice Chairman Drake felt that both positions are needed. Vice Chairman Drake added that when the Secretary is off it would be nice to have someone in the office as well as to learn the position for the future. Chairman Beers agreed with that and explained that is why he felt he picked a qualified person. It was decided to have the Secretary call the two remaining applicants and offer the part time Planning Commission Secretary job for \$100.00 a month and to re-advertise for a part time secretary. Vice Chairman Drake made a motion to that effect which was seconded by Chairman Beers and carried. There was some additional discussion whereby Chairman Beers would attend the Planning Commission meetings and take minutes. Mr. Christman indicated that the meeting attendance is not the bulk of the position and added that the paperwork and notification to the members is a requirement as well as doing the Ag Security work which is approaching.

NEW BUSINESS-Vice Chairman Drake discussed the concert that is scheduled for the park on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$500.00 of which she will pay half the cost. Supervisor Shay indicated he will donate \$100.00 toward the cost also. There was discussion about refreshments and a representative from the Ross Township Historical committee said they could discuss serving drinks when they meet this week and the park committee could also discuss selling hot dogs when they meet this week also. Both are supposed to get back with the decision.

Chairman Beers discussed the Fire Co's request to include the Worker's Comp. payment, usually made to Hamilton Township (as Ross Townships share of the cost) in their donation this year and in the future. Supervisor Shay indicated that since the budget does not allow for that it would be his suggestion that we look at that for next year. Vice Chairman Drake agreed.

Chairman Beers discussed the Fire Co. wanting to purchase a new truck and he suggested perhaps an LSA grant, however, he was advised by them that the Township's would have to apply for them since they cannot apply themselves. Solicitor McManus indicated he thought they could but he would research the question.

Chairman Beers announced that the next Supervisor Meeting will be held Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> since the Labor Holiday falls on the first Monday.

Some discussion took place regarding the refurbishing of the walking trail which included getting proposals from contractors. Chairman Beers noted there are several scenarios but it's important to come up with the plan we want so all contractors are dealing with the same project and understand exactly what we want done. Butch Kresge reviewed what was done when the trail was built and noted there was no engineering cost. Chairman Beers noted that since there is a grant involved the engineering was necessary to submit the grant application. Therefore, it changes some of the ways the job needs to be done. Mr. Kresge noted that sometimes these grants aren't offering the best options. Chairman Beers agreed.

Butch Kresge offered "thanks" to Doris Price and Sharon Steen for the donations of the concrete benches at the Veterans Memorial.

Chairman Beers discussed the fall clean-up and noted that he contacted Scotto who gave the same price and terms as last year. Vice Chairman Drake moved to sign the proposal from Scotto and it was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

A list of items was discussed that have to do with maintenance and repairs to the new municipal building. Ranging from pressure washing to landscaping, touch up paint, staining timbers, ceiling tile, etc. It was decided that some things can be done by the maintenance dept. and others by getting prices from contractor.

Email received from Clean up the county and the Supervisors decided not to join in with that program at this time.

Vice Chairman Drake noted receipt of an email from Russ Kresge, Township Engineer discussing a review and some supplemental information for the Stormwater Ordinance that Carson Helfrich is working on. Mr. Kresge noted that his part in this will cost between \$1,000-2,000. Chairman Beers said if we don't have Russ review it there could be a problem. The consensus was the cost was high for just a review. It was decided that Chairman Beers discuss this with Carson Helfrich for clarification and then a decision will be forthcoming.

The Deputy Phil program was discussed and it was determined to take the 1/6 page being offered for \$199.00. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Drake, seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT-The road foreman gave an update on the truck noting that it will be going to E.M. Kutz after it comes in to Peterbilt.

Some discussion took place regarding the backhoe repair resulting in a motion by Vice Chairman Drake to approve the repair of \$2,800. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shay and carried.

Chairman Beers suggested that the road foreman contact the line strippers to see if they can come in and stripe Faulstick Rd.. The other Supervisor agreed to this request.

Chairman Beers discussed the fire company wanting to put a \$50.00 per property tax for thei purpose and Solicitor McManus responded saying it must be done on assessed value not per property.

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 Shay and carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Price, Secretary