

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING  
December 4, 2023

The Ross Township Supervisors Meeting was called to order on December 4, 2023 at 6pm.

In attendance were Chairman James Zahorokio, Vice Chairman Dave Shay and Supervisor Randy Detrick... Also present was Solicitor Timothy McManus. The meeting was held at the Ross Township Municipal Building.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Jack Deemer requested the Board of Supervisors approve his formal proposal to create a 12 x 12 area to be completed as his Eagle Scout project. The paperwork was signed by Supervisor Detrick and motion to approve the project was made by Chairman Zahorokio, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried.

Laura Hoffman, Ross Township Tax Collector provided an update of current tax collecting using Blink camera and credit card payment options have been working very well. She also mentioned a concerns regarding toxic fertilizer being used on farms giving off toxic fumes. The township could protect certain land that the township owns from being exposed to the fertilizer and exposing the residents to the fumes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Dave Shay to approve the meeting minutes of the Budget Meeting held November 1, 2023, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick, and carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Detrick to approve the Board of Supervisors meeting minutes from the November 6, 2023, seconded by Vice Chairman Shay and carried.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Dave Shay to approve the December 2, 2023 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick, and carried.

**PLANS:**

Kirk Estate Plan (12/4/2023)

Attorney for the applicant requested an extension until January 2, 2024 be granted by the Board of Supervisors to give the applicant additional time to meet the conditions of the Planning Commission outlined by the Planning Commission Solicitor and Engineer. A motion to grant the extension until January 2, 2024 was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick, seconded by Vice Chairman Dave Shay, and carried.

A request for Executive Session was made by Supervisor Detrick and Vice Chairman Dave Shay. The Board of Supervisors and Township Solicitor moved to an executive session at 6:15pm and returned to continue the meeting at 6:37PM

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Zoning**

Shawn McGlynn, SFM Consulting, provided an update on the zoning hearing matter. The hearing consists of the review of the zoning office's determination that the property submitted for permitting is a distribution center vs a warehouse and is pending final decision by the zoning hearing board.

### **Part-Time Non CDL Snow Plow Driver Position Candidate**

A motion was made to hire Raymond Bross to the position of part-time seasonal snow plow driver at \$15.45 per hour by Vice Chairman Dave Shay and seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried.

Jack Deemer – Eagle Scout Project – Addressed during open to the public section of the meeting. A motion to approve the project was made by Chairman Zahorokio, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Resident Zoning Issue-Resident Daniel Joseph Oelrich presented an issue with two parcels he currently owns. He was issued a permit in 2015 for a pole barn. The issue currently was related to letter to stop construction of barn because the acreage does not meet requirements and he also has animals on the property and if those animals are in violation of current zoning ordinances. The properties he owns are separate but adjacent together they meet the two acre requirement but separate do not. The Township Solicitor, Tim McManus commented that the zoning issue would not be resolved by the Board of Supervisors but the Zoning Hearing Board. Shawn McGlynn also added that the complaint into the office are also related to animal husbandry, the owner has a pot belly pig and without combining the two lots the land acreage does not meet the requirements unless combined. Tim McManus added comments regarding the documentation that allows the deed change to be done without going to the planning commission. Section 705 of the SALDO lot joinder deed / lot line adjustment did not need to go to the Planning Commission for review prior to Board of Supervisors approval. There are however costs associated with this review process.

2023 ARP Retention Incentive Road Crew - A motion to approve the incentive payment in the amount of \$5000.00 per full time Road Crew employee was made by Vice Chairman Dave Shay and seconded by Randy Detrick and carried. The incentive pay is compensation for completing projects as township employees that reduced the cost of the Ross Road Project significantly and working through COVID to be paid out to active full time road crew employees before year end 2023.

2024 Budget Adoption - Vice Chairman Dave Shay discussed the 2024 mentioned that there is no resident real estate tax in Ross Township and the township does not impose other taxes on the residents that some others do. A balanced budget in the amount of \$882,819.67 was presented. A motion to adopt the 2024 budget was made by Vice Chairman Dave Shay, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried.

A motion to ratify the advertisement of the notice to appoint CPA for 2023 Audit was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick, seconded by Vice Chairman Shay and carried.

Insurance 2024 Renewal - Vice Chairman Dave Shay made a motion to approve the renewal of the 2024 Insurance policy with Caputo Insurance in the amount of \$34,880.00 seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried.

**EVENTS:**

November 11, 2023 – Veteran’s Memorial Dedication was a success. Thanks to Linda Kresge, Eric Longenbach and Martha Rezeli for coordinating the set up and presentations. Supervisor Randy Detrick initiated prayer, PA State Representative Jack Rader spoke, musicians, photographers and residents that made the dedication as success. Thank you to all who participated.

December 2, 2023 Tree Lighting and Pictures with Santa- Santa arrived by Blue Ridge Hook & Ladder Fire Truck and counted down the tree lighting. The tree lighting was a success. Blue Ridge Hook & Ladder brought pre-filled bags of candy. Families enjoyed light refreshments and children visited with Santa.

Vice Chairman Shay announced that Tim McManus would not be seeking re-appointment in 2024 as he is semi-retiring. The Supervisors thanked Tim for his service to the township.

Vice Chairman Shay also thanked those that re-elected him to Supervisor and commented that he looks forward to serving all residents for the next six years.

2023 ARP expenses will be reconciled in December and ARP funds allocated to the general fund and payroll fund for approval at January meeting.

**ROAD FOREMAN REPORT:**

The Supervisors thanked Ethan and the road crew for completing Ross Road. Ethan asked about bidding the old truck on bid. Suggested \$12,500 to run until date before next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Hold Harmless agreement submitted by resident to be reviewed with Solicitor and SEO for next meeting. The list of Correspondence items were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

State law requires first meeting of the year be held the first Monday of each year, unless Monday falls on a holiday, then the meeting is held on the first Tuesday. The re-organization meeting will be held January 2, 2024 at 6pm, the regular monthly Board of Supervisors meeting will follow the re-organization meeting.

**RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES:**

After a review of the bills to be paid, a motion to approve the processing and payment of all current bills was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick, seconded by Dave Shay and carried.

Jeff Snyder, Zoning official asked the Board of Supervisors if they had any questions about the violations list. The Supervisors did not have any questions at the moment.

There being no further business, Supervisor Randy Detrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm, the motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Dave Shay and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Brown  
Secretary/Treasurer