

ROSS TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATION MEETING

January 2, 2024

The Ross Township Reorganization Meeting was called to order on January 2, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Supervisors David Shay, James Zahorokio and Randy Detrick were in attendance. The meeting was held at the Township Municipal Building.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

First on the agenda was to nominate a Temporary Chairman. Supervisor Detrick made motion to appoint Supervisor Shay as Temporary Chairman, seconded by Supervisor Zahorokio and carried. A motion was made by Supervisor Detrick to appoint Supervisor Zahorokio as Chairman, seconded by Supervisor Detrick and carried. A motion was made by Supervisor Detrick to nominate Supervisor Shay as Vice Chairman, seconded by Chairman Zahorokio and carried.

Vice Chairman Dave Shay made a motion to nominate the following, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried:

Appoint Deb Brown as Secretary/Treasurer part time.

Appoint Ethan Brewer as Road Foreman. Supervisor Detrick added that Ethan only be required to attend monthly Board of Supervisors meetings on an as needed basis.

Appoint Richard Campbell of King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul, and LLC as Township Solicitor.

Appoint a representative from King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul, and LLC as Township Solicitor Alternate

Appoint Representative from Keystone Consulting Engineers, as Township Engineer.

Appoint Nate Oiler of RKR Hess as Alternate Township Engineer.

Appoint Ryan Engler as Sewage Enforcement Officer.

Appoint Jonathan Shupp as Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer.

Appoint James Fareri, Newman, Williams, Mishkin, Corvelyn, Wolfe & Fareri

Appoint Representative from Newman Williams, P.C. as Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor.

Appoint Michael Gaul (King, Spry, Herman, Freund, Faul, LLC) as Planning Commission Solicitor

Appoint Representative from King, Spry, Herman, Freund, Faul, and LLC as Planning Commission Solicitor Alternate.

Appoint Deb Brown as Planning Commission Secretary.

Appoint Any Ross Township Supervisor as the PSATS Delegate to Attend Annual Education Conference.

Appoint Dave Bray to UCC Joint Board of Appeals Member

Appoint Chairman Zahorokio as Pocono Mountains Council of Government Representative.

Appoint Any Available Supervisor as Voting Delegate to the State Convention.

Appoint Chairman Zahorokio as CJERP Regional Planning Commission Voting Member

Appoint Roger Christman as CJERP Regional Planning Committee Second Member.

Appoint Brian Stankovich as Emergency Management Coordinator

Vice Chairman Shay made a motion to appoint Anita Elnhoff rate of \$27.00 per hour. The candidate brought great credentials and PSATS zoning – there was no second.

Supervisor Randy Detrick made a motion to nominate the following, seconded by Chairman James Zahorokio and carried with a vote of 2 to 1. Vice Chairman Shay opposed.

Appoint SFM Consulting as Zoning & Codes Officer with an additional 2 hours per week at a rate of \$65.00 per hour. SFM will attend one Board of Supervisors meeting and one Planning Commission meeting per quarter to address zoning issues.

Appoint Representative of SFM Consulting as Alternate Zoning & Code Officer.

Vice Chairman raised concerns to continue with SFM and feels it a very poor decision to continue with SFM. Chairman Zahorokio felt that continuity was important and Supervisor Detrick expressed that time was in issue in the past to support the issues. Motion passed 2 in favor and Vice Chairman opposed. Vice Chairman Shay notes when complaints come his hand are washed of the issues. Chairman Zahoroiko expressed support of SFM and the continuity to complete the job and Supervisor Detrick felt that there was not enough time previously to allow proper follow up and attending a meeting will provide accountability to residents.

Vice Chairman Shay made a motion to appoint Lehigh Valley Inspections as building code official per the document submitted to township.

Vice Chairman Shay made a motion that BUI be building code official and inspection official.

Vice Chairman Shay made motion that Keller Building & Zoning be inspection official. The motions were not seconded.

Supervisor Randy Detrick made a motion to nominate the following, seconded by Chairman James Zahorokio and carried with a vote of 2 to 1. Vice Chairman Shay opposed.

Appoint SFM Consulting as Building Code Official/UCC Inspector

Appoint Representative of SFM Consulting as Alternate Building Code Official.

Vice Chairman Shay voiced concerns about using same company for zoning and building.

Vice Chairman Shay made a motion to appoint Frank Pirano as vacancy board member.

Supervisor Randy Detrick made a motion to nominate the following, seconded by Chairman James Zahorokio and carried with a vote of 2 to 1. Vice Chairman Shay opposed.

Appoint Dave Trout as Vacancy Board Member

Supervisor Randy Detrick made a motion to nominate the following, seconded by Vice Chairman Dave Shay and carried:

Appoint Geoffrey Worthington as Zoning Officer Solicitor

Appoint Vice Chairman Dave Shay Delegate to the Monroe County Tax Committee

Appoint Berkheimer as Earned Income Tax Liaison.

Appoint Secretary/Treasurer Deb Brown as Open Records Officer.

Reappoint Lauri Lapping, Roger Green and Dave Labar as Planning Commission Members

Appoint Kirk, Summa & Company, LLP as CPA Firm to Perform Ross Township 2023 Audit.

Supervisor Detrick made a motion to nominate the following, seconded by Chairman Zahorokio And carried:

Appoint Vice Chairman Shay to Agricultural Security Commission

SET WAGES:

A motion to increase Secretary/Treasurer salary by 3% was made by Dave Shay and seconded by Chairman Zahoroiko and carried. Supervisor Detrick asked how much the 3% represented. The increase was .75 per hour.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Shay to increase the rates of Road Foreman and Road Crew positions to increase by 1.00 for Hourly Employees as stated during the 2023 Budget Session, seconded by Chairman Zahorokio and carried. This increase is 3% for the Road Foreman and 5% for the crew.

Vice Chairman Dave Shay made a motion to increase the receptionist salary by 3%. Supervisor Detrick asked how much 3% was equal to. The 3% would have been .51 per hour. A motion to increase the Receptionist salary to \$20.00 per hour was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick, seconded by Chairman Zahorokio and carried with the vote of 2 in favor and 1 opposed indicating this amount was not approved in the budget. Vice Chairman Shay opposed.

A motion to keep the Planning Commission Secretary salary at \$100.00 per month was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick, seconded by Chairman Shay and carried.

ESTABLISH:

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Shay to keep Township depository funds with the same Financial Institutions; First Northern Bank and Trust Company and PLGIT, motion seconded by Supervisor Detrick and carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Shay to keep the amount of the Treasurer's Bond at \$800,000.00, seconded by Supervisor Detrick and carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Shay to keep the Holiday and Benefit Policy the same as 2023 and seconded by Supervisor Detrick and carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Shay to set the Mileage Compensation at the 2023 Federal Allowed Rate, 67 cents per mile, motion seconded by Supervisor Detrick and carried.

MONTHLY MEETING DATE & TIME:

The Ross Township Board of Supervisors Meetings will be held the first Monday of the month at 6PM at the Township Municipal Building. If it falls on a holiday, the meeting will be held on the following Monday. The motion was made by Vice Chairman Shay and seconded by Supervisor Detrick and carried.

A motion to hold a monthly workshop meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at 1PM, if needed, was made by Vice Chairman Shay and seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried.

The Ross Township Reorganization Meeting was concluded at 6:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Brown
Secretary/Treasurer