

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING
February 5, 2024

The Ross Township Supervisors Meeting was called to order on February 5, 2024.

In attendance were Chairman James Zahorokio, Vice Chairman David Shay. Supervisor Randy Detrick joined by phone. Also present was Solicitor Rich Campbell. The meeting was held at the Ross Township Municipal Building.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Resident Howard Beers asked about complaint regarding use outside of approved used car lot. Zoning officer had information on report but Supervisor Shay would email for more information. Also asked about property off RT 115 on Meixsell Valley Road with camper/trailer with insulation underneath it. Sewage is an issue. Supervisor Shay will follow up with Zoning Official

Resident Roger Christman asked about barn on Mountain Road – Ervin Miller given permit. The property is pending Stormwater and DEP permits. This is now an accessory building without a primary building on site. Pending conservation district response.

Also noted a travel trailer on Meixsell Valley Road and Ross Road.
Supervisor Shay will email zoning and also identify trailer on Ross Road.

Roger also asked how long after a plan is conditionally approved is allowed before the conditions must be met. The Solicitor will investigate and respond at next meeting and if action is recommended the Board will move.

Martha Rizeli commented the Historical Society will be closed this Saturday to update displays. They will be hosting an event with a guest speaker on March 9th that is open to the public. Also considering use of the park for reenactments.

Martha also asked if the Board had a chance to review her request to write a grant that requires matching funds. The Grant will require a match in funds and minimal help. Will also need approval of matching funds. Vice Chairman Shay will email Martha to discuss next steps. Will use budgeted maintenance amounts for the match.

A representative from Pocono Wildlife – the agency is nonprofit and supports the rescue, rehabilitation and release of certain animals in the Township – they are requesting small donations from townships they support to continue the efforts of the non-profit organization. Small yearly contribution is requested and Supervisor Shay indicated that consideration will be given in the 2025 budget.

Debra Orner asked for status of the request made last year to deal with traffic on Cindy Lane. Asking for speed control on Cindy Lane. Vice Chairman Shay indicated this was in the budget and will have something in place in spring.

Resident asked about outcome of Zoning Hearing Board. He asked if the Board of Supervisors would be appealing the decision. The Supervisors have not yet received information from the ZHB at this time. Vice Chairman Shay stated he would not generally support appealing a decision of the Zoning Hearing Board because the Board of Supervisors appoints the Zoning Hearing Board as a quasi-judicial body and believes it should be granted discretion in making decisions. Supervisor Detrick agreed with the opinion of Vice Chairman Shay.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Dave Shay to approve the minutes with requested corrections being made from the January 2, 2024 Re-organization meeting and regular meeting held on January 2, 2024, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Shay to approve the February 2, 2024 Treasurer's report, seconded by Supervisor Detrick and carried.

PLANS:

Kirk Estate Plan (2/5/2024)

Attorney Dave Berger representing the applicant was present and requested the Board of Supervisors approve the Kirk Estate Property, Minor Subdivision Plan. Julian Kirk also present. A conservation easement will be established per Berger and the property will go through the county for the easement. Planning Commission Chairman indicated that the property will not be eligible for the County Agricultural Conservation easement until it is part of the Ross Township Agricultural Security. A motion to approve the plans subject to the following conditions agreed to by the Applicant: (1) Applicant satisfactorily address the Township Engineer's January 18, 2024 review letter; and (2) Applicant satisfactorily address the Township Solicitor's January 31, 2024 Review Letter comments, including payment of all unpaid fees due to the Township to be reflected on an Invoice issued in this matter, was made by Vice Chairman Shay, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick, and carried 3-0. A second motion to approve the DEP Request for Planning Module Waiver and Non-Building Declaration and authorizing the Chairman or Vice-Chairman to execute same was made by Vice Chairman Dave Shay, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried 3-0.

Beltzville Enterprises – Faulstick Road-Minor Subdivision

The plan needs to be signed after the meeting following the meeting. The plan will not be released until all fees are paid.

Gionio Lot Line Adjustment (Submitted 1/10/2024)

Gioino through Brian Courtright, Surveyor, submitted a SALDO Section 704 Lot Line Adjustment Application to the Township. Therein, a plan map was included where certain lots are combined and subdivided into new tax parcels. Solicitor Rich Campbell advised that a lot line adjustment does need to go to the planning commission. A joinder is the simplest form of erasing a lot line – the plan presented is drawling new lot lines and is creating 10 lots and does not meet the definitions of a lot joinder. The simple joinder process was not intended to accommodate the plan submitted, nor was the plan submitted in compliance with SALDO Section 705 addressing lot joinder. No joinder application or documentation was submitted. The application submitted was under 704. The applicant did not submit an electronic copy of the plan submitted with the application. After additional discussion it was decided that it is a legal issue and the Township does not provide legal counsel. The Solicitor did agree to review the quiet title and recommend next steps.

The Supervisors could not provide a timeline, all requirements of the SALDO must be met in order for any action to be taken by the Board of Supervisors.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 206 -2024 Fee Schedule – Vice Chairman Dave Shay made a motion to adopt resolution 206 2024 fee schedule, seconded by Supervisor Detrick and Carried.

Boyle Hold Harmless Agreement - no action moved to next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chairman Dave Shay indicated this 2024 Blue Ridge Hook and Ladder contribution budget is \$124,800.00. Leon Clapper emailed Vice Chairman Shay and asked for the \$75,000.00 to pay for the radios. Supervisor Detrick asked if the \$75,000.00 was for the radios and Vice Chairman Shay indicated it was. A motion to pay \$75,000.00 from the ARP fund was made by Vice Chairman Shay, seconded by Supervisor Detrick and carried.

EVENTS:

The 2024 calendar was submitted as follows,

- a. Easter Egg Hunt March 2, 2024 10-12pm
- b. Clean up Days April 12 & 13th September date to follow
- c. Permit Free Yard Sale Weekends may 18th and 19th
- d. Concerts in the Park - Last Sunday of June, July and August.
- e. Summer Playground days - will be announced – activities during the week during normal business hours we will hold fun playground activities.
- f. Octoberfest - (Replace Community Day) October 12, 2024 – Dave has entertainment for the event and will send it to Secretary.
- g. Tree Lighting December 1, 2024

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT:

Vice Chairman Shay asked Ethan to review roads and asked for bid dates from 2024. Ethan asked about expected dollars to be spent. Vice Chairman Shay asked when bids were completed last year. Ethan asked for dollars to be spent but would not commit to extra without looking at budget.

The truck listed for sale ended with bid of \$9,200.00 bid set at \$12,500.00. Vice Chairman Shay indicated that we are in no hurry and to run another month and also advertise in paper and request sealed bid at the same time with township has the right to reject any bid. The bids will be due by the day of the next meeting.

Chairman Zahorokio asked how the part-time plow new hire worked out. Ethan mentioned we could use a few more on call employees to use as needed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The list of Correspondence items were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

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 Vice Chairman Dave Shay, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Dave Shay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm, and the motion was seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Brown
Secretary/Treasurer