

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING  
August 5, 2024

The Ross Township Supervisors Meeting was called to order on August 5, 2024, at 6:00pm.

In attendance were Chairman James Zahorokio, Vice Chairman David Shay, and Supervisor Randy Detrick. Solicitor Rich Campbell was also in attendance. The meeting was held at the Ross Township Municipal Building.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

A representative from the Aquashicola Watershed Conservancy stated the Conservancy has been working on a mapping project to create a story map of the watershed. The Conservancy would like a copy of the map to be purchased by and posted in each Municipality. The representative stated he would provide pricing for the map to the Township.

Following public questions, the Board provided an update on the search for a new Township Secretary, noting no applications had been received and the application window remained open.

A resident provided an article in the Times News regarding a County imposed fee on foreclosure sales that could be used to combat blight.

The Ross Township Historical Society provided an update on its activities and noted the Society was attempting to partner with other local historical societies on certain initiatives.

**MINUTES REVIEW**

Vice Chairman David Shay made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the July 1, 2024 meeting, seconded by Chairman James Zahorokio and carried 3-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

No Treasurer's Report was prepared.

**PLANS:**

Consideration of Catherine Andrew/Daniel Saunders Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan SALDO waiver request

Attorney Joseph S. Wiesmeth appeared on behalf of Applicant. Attorney Wiesmeth argued the proposed development should not fall under the purview of the SALDO. Addressing the issue of the private access road, Attorney Wiesmeth noted a third party owns the road, the Applicant does not have the ability to expand the access road, and that the right of access is granted by an access easement.

Vice Chairman Shay made a motion to deny the request for SALDO modification, waiver or exception based on the following findings: The Board finds that the Applicant failed to prove the request meets any of the six conditions contained at SALDO Section 107.B. In addition, the Board finds the request is not justified and overbroad because it seeks to fully exempt a land development from all the requirements of the SALDO. The exception and modification provision is intended to seek specific exceptions or modifications of specific sections of the SALDO. It is not intended to exempt a land

development from the entire SALDO. As such, the request is also procedurally defective in that it seeks a remedy not available under the SALDO. Motion seconded by Chairman Zahorokio and carried 3-0.

Extension Request Catherine Andrew/Daniel Saunders Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan

Extension request submitted to Board of Supervisors for the Catherine Andrew/Daniel Saunders Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan. Supervisor Detrick made a motion to approve the extension request until January 2025, seconded by Chairman Zahorokio and carried 2-1, with Vice Chairman Shay opposed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Township Dangerous Structures Ordinance No. 2024-01

The Ordinance was duly advertised and available for public inspection in accord with the Second Class Township Code. Vice Chairman Shay made a motion to enact the Ordinance, seconded by Chairman Zahorokio and carried 3-0.

Township Fire Insurance Escrow Ordinance No. 2024-02

The Ordinance was duly advertised and available for public inspection in accord with the Second Class Township Code. Vice Chairman Shay made a motion to enact the Ordinance, seconded by Chairman Zahorokio and carried 3-0.

Blue Ridge Hook and Ladder Letter

Blue Ridge Hook and Ladder requested \$50,000 in funding for a fire truck. The Township already budgeted certain amounts provided for radios. Any additional amount would be considered as part of next years budget. No action taken.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Audit for Jan 2024 to current

Vice Chairman Shay made a motion to authorize Kirk, Summa & Co, LLP to conduct an audit from January 1, 2024 through the current date. Motion seconded by Chairman Zahorokio and carried 3-0.

CJERP

Matt Neeb, the Planning Director and Zoning Officer for Chestnuthill Township, appeared on behalf of CJERP to discuss the region updating the CJERP Regional Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Neeb noted the other four CJERP municipalities have already authorized moving forward with completing the Regional Comprehensive Plan update. Mr. Neeb also noted the other four municipalities adopted a Resolution authorizing application for certain grant funds.

Motion by Vice Chairman Shay to move forward with the Chestnuthill, Jackson, Eldred, Ross and Polk Townships (CJERP) Regional Comprehensive Plan update as well as the hiring of Strategic Solutions, LLC as the consultant to complete the update, subject to the condition that the Ross Township authorized contribution under this Motion shall be an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 and subject to the condition that any additional approvals would be contingent on getting the matching 50% grant approval. Motion seconded by Chairman Zahorokio, and carried 3-0.

Motion by Vice Chairman Shay to have Chestnuthill Township apply for a grant to Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (Municipal Assistance Program – MAP) requesting 50% of the funding for the CJERP Regional Comprehensive Plan update. Motion seconded by Chairman Zahorokio, and carried 3-0.

Motion by Vice Chairman Shay to approve Resolution No. 2024-03 authorizing the submission of an application for the Municipal Assistance Program (MAP grant), seconded by Chairman Zahorokio, and carried 3-0.

Additional Compensation for Township Receptionist

Supervisor Detrick made a Motion to increase the compensation of the Township Receptionist Melissa Frantz-Monaco by seven (7) dollars an hour. Motion seconded by Chairman Zahorokio, and carried 2-1. Vice Chairman Shay opposed.

Township Mower

Motion by Vice Chairman Shay to put the Township mower out to bid for \$15,000, seconded by Chairman Zahorokio, and carried 3-0.

AMS Payment – Road Project

No action.

**ROAD FOREMAN REPORT:**

None.

**EVENTS:**

None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Board of Supervisors reviewed the list of Correspondence items.

**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 Vice Chairman Shay, seconded by Chairman Zahorokio, and carried 3-0.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Campbell, Jr., Esq.  
Township Solicitor/Temporary Recording Secretary