

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING

February 3, 2025

The Ross Township Supervisors Meeting was called to order on February 3, 2025 at 6:01pm. The meeting was held at the Township Municipal Building.

In attendance were Chairman James Zahoroiko and Vice Chairman David Shay. Supervisor Randy Detrick called in for the meeting. Solicitor Attorney Eric Filer was also in attendance.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Tony Veeky, with Clothes Bins, addressed the Board of Supervisors to inquire about interest in having a used clothing donation bin for the Township as he has had success with them in other townships, recycling centers and schools in the area. He explained that they pay a certain amount per pound of clothing received towards various community initiatives. Vice Chairman David Shay recommended he reach out to the Blue Ridge Fire Company about placement and that Secretary Melissa could provide contact information.

Martha Rezeli from The Ross Township Historical Society let it be known that the Museum will be open Saturday 2/8 from 11:00am-3:00pm. She also explained the Monroe County Historical Society has been very active in working towards the 250 PA Initiative to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Ross Township Historical Society is looking into how they can participate more in the initiative within the various committees available. Ms. Rezeli also explained the "Bells Across America" event where local artists can submit prototypes towards various artistic renditions of the Liberty Bell. Anyone who would be interested may reach out to the Monroe County Historical Society for more information.

Ms. Rezeli went on to state she had followed up on Historic Preservation Grants available through the state. While the Township would not be eligible for the first Construction Grant, there may be the possibility for another that would require a 50/50 match she had looked at the application for which would be due March 3rd. She asked if it may be something that Matthew, who had been previously approved to look for grants for the Township, could look further into to be able to have the Schoolhouse moved.

The Historical Society has been moving forward with the reenactment and has a tentative September date that needs to be voted on by the reenactment volunteers. Once approved, the Historical Society will be prepared to send out save the dates and contact surrounding Historical Societies for their participation.

Lastly, Ms. Rezeli wanted to thank Dorris and Ed Curry, previous residents of Ross Township, for their donation of five display cases to the Historical Society.

MINUTES REVIEW:

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2025 meeting as written was by Vice Chairman David Shay and seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick. The motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Vice Chairman David Shay made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried 3-0.

PLANS:

Catherine Andrews/Dan Saunders Land Development Request for Extension

Representatives were not present at the meeting. It was explained that, at this time, they were looking for an extension to be granted through May 5th after being tabled at the previous meeting.

Supervisor Randy Detrick made the motion to grant the extension through the May 5th meeting. The motion was seconded by Chairman James Zahoroiko and carried 2-1.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pine Cone Court Dangerous Structure Decision

Vice Chairman David Shay asked Attorney Eric Filer if the previous Solicitor, Attorney Rich Campbell, had brought him up to date in regards to the dangerous structure at Pine Cone Court. He then explained that Attorney Campbell had asked they investigate and determine a cost of the demolition of the structure prior to speaking to a contact at the county in regards to if any funding could be available. Upon researching, Vice Chairman David Shay returned with a number of just under \$15,000 to demolish and haul away the structure. This would only include the structure that was deemed dangerous and not any of the remaining vehicles on the property.

Chairman James Zahoroiko asked if the demolition would include the basement to which Vice Chairman David Shay stated the basement would remain intact. It was then explained that a safety fencing would be installed around the remaining basement. Vice Chairman David Shay then asked Attorney Filer to find out who they would need to be in contact with at the county for funding and to return with more information about the available options.

At this time, Chairman James Zahoroiko introduced Attorney Eric Filer as the new Solicitor for the Township Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors was asked what would become of the property after the structure had been removed in terms of ownership and legality. Chairman James Zahoroiko stated it would need to be discussed with the institution who held the Mortgage. Attorney Filer explained he would need to further look over the information and that there may be different priorities of ownership of the property depending on the liens of who would have control over the property.

Vice Chairman David Shay asked about if there would be any potential repercussions against the Township after demolition of the structure in terms of the property owner or lien holder wanting to sue the Township. Attorney Filer state that, with the route that has been taken so far, there should not be grounds for action to be taken against the Township and that there would be time for notice to be given to involved parties prior to demolition to be able to object.

Attorney Filer explained there are still ways to effect service even if the owner has been unable to be found previously. He will gather further information to be brought to the next meeting.

Adoption of AG Security Resolution Agreement – Kirk

Vice Chairman David Shay made a motion to accept Resolution 1 of 2025 to add three parcels into the AG Security Act with the parcels being those of Jody Kirk at 10.006 acres, Andrew Kirk at 53.052 acres and Andrew Kirk at 26.812 acres. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to Purchase Culvert Structure for Mt Eaton Road

Vice Chairman David Shay explained the Township had received the grant that was applied for through the LAS process to install a culvert like that which was installed on Ross Road on Mt Eaton Road. Due to the size of the stream at Mt Eaton Road, the installation would be more involved for the Ross Township Road Crew leading to the grant that will allow the Township to bid out the work to be done.

Vice Chairman David Shay continued to explain that the purchase of the culvert structure would be through Costar State Program so no bidding would be required for the 27ft long by 8ft span aluminum box culvert for \$44,715 covered under the grant that was received for approximately \$170,000.

A motion was made to purchase the structure for \$44,715. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried 3-0.

EVENTS:

President’s Day – Monday, February 17, 2025 – Township Office will be closed

Spring Clean Up Dates – Road Foreman Ethan Brewer explained that the clean up dates will be held in April again, but will have dates to be set for the next meeting.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT:

Vice Chairman David Shay asked Road Foreman Ethan Brewer to make a list of roads in the area in need of paving so that bids could be made within review of the budget for the year.

Motion to Upfit New Truck

Road Foreman Ethan Brewer explained two months ago he was approved to purchase a new truck for the Township and now needed approval to purchase the upfit package which would include the stainless body, plow, spreader, lights and hydraulics for the truck.

Two quotes were received, one in the amount of approximately \$98,000 and the other at approximately \$116,000.

Vice Chairman David Shay made a motion to approve the purchase of the upfit package from EM Kutz for approximately \$98,000, Road Foreman Ethan Brewer will receive a final quote. The motion was seconded by Chairman James Zahoroiko and carried 3-0.

Vice Chairman David Shay shared with Road Foreman Ethan Brewer they had received a price on the three doors requested by Mr. Brewer, but that another quote would be needed as the price that came in was too high at around \$9,000.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board of Supervisors had reviewed the list of Correspondence items and there were no further questions.

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 David Shay and seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick. The motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:24pm. The motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman David Shay, seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lizzy Stortz
Temporary Recording Secretary