

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING

April 7, 2025

The Ross Township Supervisors Meeting was called to order on April 7, 2025 at 5:59PM. The meeting was held at the Township Municipal Building.

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

Prior to opening the floor to the public, Supervisor Randy Detrick addressed the meeting about the Blue Ridge Hook and Ladder Fire Department with a story called "Sometimes Heroes Need To Be Saved". Supervisor Randy Detrick shared a story from current Chief Warnick and former Chief Clapper of a house fire call the Fire Department had responded to resulting in Mr. Clapper entering the burning home and saving an eight-year-old from inside and explaining that is the reason they continue to volunteer their time to do what they do.

After this, Supervisor Randy Detrick shared the Fire Department is fighting a new battle in terms of additional funds needed to maintain and replace aging equipment. Chief Warnick had been present at the previous Board of Supervisors Meeting in March to share the current financial situation prior to having to leave to respond to a call that came in.

Supervisor Detrick also shared if no more funding comes into the all volunteer department, they may be forced to shut down in three years. He further explained how funds come in through the state to be passed along to the Fire Department along with there not being any additional taxes in place to go towards the Fire Department. In order to avoid a forced tax, Supervisor Randy Detrick shared in the hope that the community will rally and continue to support Blue Ridge Hook & Ladder with additional donations.

Donations can be done online at BRHL.org at the bottom of the webpage or checks can be mailed to 2191 Rimrock Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. It was also stated, donation checks can be brought into the Township Building to be mailed out from there

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

The Judge of Elections shared that voting for the Primary Election on Tuesday May 20, 2025 will be open 7:00AM-8:00PM and will remain open until all those in line have voted. He also stated the last day to register to vote for this election is May 5th and the last day to request a Mail In Ballot would be May 12th.

Attorney Joe Wiesmeth addressed Supervisor Randy Detrick about the information shared on the ask for donations for Blue Ridge Hook & Ladder as he had come into the meeting a little later. He shared his amazement that with all of the effort the Fire Department puts into various fundraising events that there is still a such a need and wanted to ask if there was something more he would be able to help in spearheading to help bring more funds in. Supervisor Randy Detrick agreed in meeting with him and adding options to the agenda for the May Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Martha Rezeli from The Ross Township Historical Society shared they have a date of September 7, 2025 scheduled for the Reenactment of the French Indian War at the park from 12:00PM-4:00PM and asked for approval to bring in a food truck for the day. She also asked about being able to display the Time

Capsule they are accepting contributions for in the lobby of the Township Building for more to see. They are accepting various items that can fit in an envelope or folder for the capsule to be opened in 50 years time. Ms. Rezeli also let it be known that the Museum will be open Saturday 4/12 from 11:00AM-3:00PM with Marsha Beers being present to help any residents with German translations they may have. Lastly, she shared her support of the Blue Ridge Hook & Ladder Department and her willingness to pay an additional tax to allow for their continued efforts.

Gary Embich introduced himself as a local artist in Ross Township who has submitted a design for Ross Township in the America 250 PA Celebration's Keystone Project. He shared the deadline for submissions had been extended as some Townships were still searching for artist submissions, but that he had Ross Township taken care of. When reviewing copies of Mr. Embich's submission, Vice Chairman David Shay had inquired on who would keep the final art piece to which Mr. Embich shared the piece would be presented to the Township for display at the Township Building.

Greg Gill introduced himself as a candidate who will be running for the opening position on the Board of Supervisors in the upcoming election. He shared his main points as wanting better communication, organization, leadership and results for the residents of Ross Township with 30 years of leadership experience and having been a Ross Township resident for over 20 years. Mr. Gill is on the Republican ballot, but stated he still supports Democrats and Independents who can write his name in for the election.

Roger Christman, Planning Commission Chairman, came forward wanting to make some clarifications on notes he had seen in regards to the Catherine Andrews Plan that was set to be discussed. He stated his plan was for there to be Major Subdivision, Land Development as per what definitions under the SALDO would call for. He stated that changing interpretations of the listed definitions to move forward with an approval would not be looking forward to the future of Ross Township as it could lead to others coming forward and looking for the same approvals on other parcels in the area, comparing possible future situations to those of Vista Estates and Hawk Road, or for future owners coming to the Township for work to be done on a road not upkept by the Township.

Attorney Weismeth then asked about when the last time any complaints had come in from residents of Elmer Drive as all current residents signed showing approval for his client's application. Mr. Christman stated there was no set timeframe of when a complaint may come in as the situation can change with future owners. Chairman James Zahoroiko called for order to move on to the next item on the agenda.

MINUTES REVIEW:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025 meeting as written by Supervisor Randy Detrick and seconded by Vice Chairman David Shay. 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 Extension – Expires 5/5/2025

Attorney Joe Weismeth & Daniel Saunders were in Attendance. The Plan currently had an extension for approval through May 5, 2025. They were requesting an additional 90 day extension.

Supervisor Randy Detrick made a motion to grant the extension through August 5, 2025.

Vice Chairman David Shay asked about the reasoning behind the extra time for the extension to which it was discussed time was need for there to have time for approval before going back before the Planning Commission.

Vice Chairman David Shay made a motion to deny the plan based on recommendation of the Planning Commission. There was no second.

Supervisor Randy Detrick made a motion to grant the extension through August 5, 2025. The motion was seconded by Chairman James Zahoroiko and carried 2-1.

Supervisor Randy Detrick shared that the Board of Supervisors had met with the Township Engineer and Applicant's Engineer at the property leading to his motion to modify SALDO Section 1004.A.3 for 140 Elmer Drive Land Development Plan being that the Applicant's Engineer dug test pits at different locations along Elmer Drive to expose existing stone base. These pits there are twelve or more inches of compacted shale throughout. Elmer Drive is variable in width with an approximate average of 14 feet in width. It is of the Ross Township Engineer's opinion the existing aggregate section with existing width is adequate and would be credited to the minimum compacted depth of stone. The applicant would expand the depth and width where necessary to meet a minimum depth of 8 inches and consistent width of 18 feet using PennDOT #2 modified stone compacted to a minimum depth of 8 inches. The widening would extend from Kunkletown Road to the furthest point along the applicant's property. A crown with 2% slope would be along the center of the road would be included where possible during other required improvements for stormwater drainage. With this, the applicant would be referred back before the Planning Commission for finalization of Land Development.

Chairman James Zahoroiko seconded the motion and the motion carried 2-1.

Vice Chairman David Shay shared his reason for opposing the motion as the plan does not follow the SALDO.

Attorney Joe Weismeth shared that he applauds the foresightedness of the Board of Supervisors for the approval with conditions that will allow for improvements to be made to Elmer Drive which would not otherwise take place with denial of the plan.

When it was asked/discussed if Elmer Drive was a private road or driveway, Planning Commission Chairman Roger Christman stated it is a Private Road, but that this approval would not be making a better situation for the future by not having the plan be made to move forward as a Major Subdivision which would make the road be up to date by Township specifications for future developments. Under the SALDO, a private street can only service three lots with one house on each lot. Currently there are four lots with five homes which can lead to future issues when other owners take over the properties in the future and want the Township to make improvements to the road. It was also stated that there are other larger parcels on the same road which may wish to do similar plans in the future based off of the approval of the Andrews Plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman James Zahoroiko moved onto the New Business item of appointing Kayla Heckman as it was missed for the Old Business item of the decision on the Pine Cone Court Dangerous Structure. It was discussed to circle back after the appointment.

Appointment of Kayla Heckman for Part Time Office Position

A motion was made by Chairman James Zahoroiko to appoint Kayla Heckman for a part time office position of no more than 20 hours per week at a starting rate of \$16/hr during a probationary period to them be raised to a rate of \$18/hr after. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman David Shay and carried 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pine Cone Court Dangerous Structure Decision

Vice Chairman David Shay stated that Solicitor Attorney Eric Filer had obtained applications from the County for funding to which he will fill out and speak with appropriate persons at the County. They will find out who the correct point of contact is and have the applications submitted within the week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Liens to be places against 241 Vista Circle and 315 Ramblewood Drive

Attorney Eric Filer looked into placing the liens and confirmed Judgements had been transferred from the Magistrate's Office within Monroe County Cases 49-26 and 49-24 of 2024 which led to there being liens on the properties since July 29, 2024 which will remain as a priority lien for five years before needing to be renewed.

Vice Chairman David Shay confirmed new enforcement action can be brought again for additional liens to be brought against the property that the Zoning Office should continue with.

Appointment of Secretary/Treasurer and Bond Approval

It was stated the Board of Supervisors is waiting on a decision until further discussion can take place. There was no appointment at this time and was tabled until a next meeting.

The Township website is back up and all the information is updated

EVENTS:

Free Permit Yard Sales for Ross Residents – Saturday May 3rd and Sunday May 4th – No permits are necessary for Ross Township Residents wanting to hold a Yard Sale over the Free Permit Weekend. Residents are welcome to still come in and register with the Township to be listed on the website.

Spring Clean Up Dates – Friday May 9th and Saturday May 10th from 6:30AM – 2:00PM – Residents are able to bring larger appliances to the Clean Up, but will have an additional fee. Items with freon such as refrigerators, freezers and AC units will have a \$20 fee. Tires will also be accepted for a fee.

May Planning Commission Meeting – Moved from May 20th to May 13th at 7:00PM due to elections being held at the Township Building on May 20th.

Good Friday and Easter Observance – The Township Office will be closed Friday April 19th and Monday April 21st. Zoning/Building will be operating under normal hours.

Thursday May 1st and Friday May 2nd - The Township Office will be closed. Tax Office and Zoning/Building will be operating under normal hours.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT:

Road Project Bids

As all bids were completed digitally, there were no bid packets to present. Road Foreman Ethan Brewer had printed the tabulation sheets and presented them for the Board of Supervisors. There were seven bidders for the blacktop and two bidders for the tar and chip. Bids came in by road instead of itemized by

tonnage, but there are the initial reference materials to confirm with when bids are awarded. The bids were then reviewed by the Board of Supervisors. It was noted that one item listed was for Hamilton Township and would need to be removed from the total.

Of the seven bidders for Rolling Hills from Dogwood to Meixsell Valley Road, Vice Chairman David Shay shared the lowest bidder to be Morrissey at a total of \$233,467 for approximately 563 tons of superpave and scratch and leveling coarse along with 1690 tons of top wearing coarse. For the tar and chip of Bonser Road, Brick Church Road and Young Road, the lowest bid was \$74,977.20 from Pocono Spray Patch Inc. This would be for approximately 12244 square yards on Bonser Road, 2229 square yards on Brick Church and 6767 square yards on Young Road.

Vice Chairman David Shay made a motion to award bids to the two lowest bidders for the roads listed from PennBid. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried 3-0.

Vice Chairman David Shay also stated that the Township was receiving approximately \$247,000 from a Grant from the State along with some remaining funds from the state from last year to be put towards the projects to cover approximately 2.5 miles of road in Ross Township.

Mt. Eaton Road Culvert

Vice Chairman David Shay stated there had been approval of a LSA Grant for the culvert project. The culvert has been purchased and delivered. A bid needs to be put out for the installation of the culvert. The bid packet has been put together by the Engineer and needed a motion to advertise as open for next month.

Vice Chairman David Shay made a motion to advertise the bid packet for the labor portion of the Mount Eaton Road Culvert Project after assembly of the culvert by Ross Township. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried 3-0.

Sale of Old Mower/Tractor

The mower had been previously advertised at \$18,000.

It was shared that April 26th the Pocono Old Time Equipment sale would be taken place at the West End Fair Grounds and that they have a website that sales can be listed on.

Road Foreman Eathan Brewer is to list the sale again with a reserve of \$18,00 and the auction to end on the date of the next meeting for approvals.

Shop Welder

Vice Chairman David Shay stated he had heard about that morning and only briefly had time to look at pricing for so asked to hold off for another month to allow for more research time for a better cost.

Playground Mulch

Road Foreman Ethan Brewer asked about adding another six inches of mulch to the playground at the Township Building as needed per insurance. The mulch would be delivered 90yards at a time.

Chairman James Zahoroiko made a motion to purchase mulch for the playground for approximately \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Randy Detrick and carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board of Supervisors had reviewed the provided 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 Supervisor Randy Detrick and seconded by Vice Chairman David Shay. The motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53PM. The motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Randy Detrick, seconded by Vice Chairman David Shay and carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lizzy Stortz

Temporary Recording Secretary