

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Monday, October 7, 2013 in the Township Building. Barry Schroepe called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Barry Schroepe, Jim Fuller, Annette Mullen, Johanna Rehkamp, Lester Nace, Vicki Jenkins, Jeff Smith, Loraine Vogel, Bob Rhoades, Marty Smith, Tom Burd, John Weldon, Dexter Potter, David Mills, Rickie Henry, Dave Jenkins, Byron Worner and Kraig Nace.

Jim Fuller led the pledge to the American flag followed by a brief moment of silence.

The minutes of the September 3, 2013 regular meeting and the September 23, 2013 budget workshop were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the township building prior to the October 7, 2013 regular meeting for public viewing. Annette Mullen made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2013 regular meeting as presented by the secretary, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Jim Fuller made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2013 budget workshop as presented by the secretary, Barry Schroepe second the motion, with all in favor.

Tom Burd of the New Bloomfield Fire Co. presented a letter (copy on file) to the supervisors regarding fire protection support of New Bloomfield Fire Co. and Duncannon Fire Co. and establishing a multi-year funding plan based on or funded by a millage rate. Tom advised the audit for the New Bloomfield Fire Co. will be forthcoming. Byron Worner of the Duncannon Fire Co. stated they are not asking for a tax. Tom thanked the township for their donations to the fire companies.

John Weldon, Chairman of the Recreation Board, stated he caught a young man riding a 4-wheeler at Wagner Park and approached him to let him know that was not permitted. John stated the man took off and he was able to track the person to his home. John stated the man would not come out and speak with him. John stated he spoke with the other members of the rec board and they would like the supervisors to send a letter to the man stating if he gets caught again on the park ground with the 4-wheeler they will press charges. Annette Mullen asked why the police were not called then and stated he is putting himself into jeopardy by following the person to their house. John will give the solicitor the person's name and address and she will send a letter to him and also send a copy of the letter to the State Police so they have record of the incident.

David Mills would like to thank the supervisors for continuing to support recreation in the township.

Byron Worner of the Duncannon Fire Co. stated when he was here in April there was a question asked about the loans the fire company has. Byron stated he has furnished that information to Annette Mullen and was wondering if there were any more questions on the information given. Annette stated she had asked the question about the interest rates on their loans. Barry Schroepe stated he has not seen the information. Byron stated the one concern he has with the kind of questions that were asked and that kind of information given he would feel more comfortable if a representative from the township would go to the firehouse and look at their books there. Byron stated once the information is brought here to the township it would be a public record. Byron stated there was concern at the last meeting they attended with the fire company's debt load and stated if there is a concern they would like one of the board members to come to fire house and they could show them everything regarding income and debt. Jim Fuller stated he did not see what interest rates were being paid. Byron gave Jim the interest rates being paid on the loans they have. Jim stated if the township owed over \$930,000 there would be some upset citizens and he just worries about the fire company's debt increasing \$100,000 each year, two years ago it was \$820,000 and last year was \$930,000. Jim stated he thought it would be wiser for the fire company to put the money received from the grant towards the debt instead of purchasing the Tahoe. Byron stated they did put \$113,000 towards the debt from the grant received and also used it for the Tahoe, currently their debt is at \$801,500. Byron stated the technology has changed on fire apparatus and their lives and other lives depend on it. Byron stated the offer stands if the supervisors would like to come in and look at their books. Byron asked if the supervisors received the information for the dry hydrant at the new Sulphur Springs Bridge. Barry advised they have received the information and it has been forwarded to Wilson Consulting.

Jeff Smith presented the road master report for last month. Jeff stated they have finished mowing for the season, G&R Charles has finished the Creek Road culvert, the pole saw broke – had to buy a new one, fixed a water problem on Ankajam Drive, put new batteries in the backhoe, weed wacked around the guard rails on all township roads, replaced a 4' tile on Dugans Mill and took the scrap tile to Deimler's, had the F250 & F550 trucks inspected, took the mower off the tractor for the year and put the wood chipper on, trimming on various roads, changed oil in F550, filled in the shoulders on Montebello and Pine Hill with shot rock, hauled 4 loads of shot rock for stock, delivered mulch to Wagner Park and finished up the month with renting a roller from Best Line and repairing the areas on Hunkey Hollow and Dugans Mill where the tiles were replaced.

Rickie Henry of Henry's Towing Service spoke to the supervisors about towing/impound service. Mr. Henry advised he has spoken to the State Police and they advised him that all he would need is a signed letter from the supervisors stating why he is towing the vehicle and the license plate number of the vehicle he is to tow. Mr. Henry advised he is a salvor and has an impound yard and would handle all the towing and impound charges to the vehicle owner. Mr. Henry advised he charges \$225.00 for towing and would be willing to provide the towing/impound service to Wheatfield Township if needed.

Barry Schroepe advised the supervisors and township solicitor had a meeting with Valerie Leach and her attorney. Barry stated Ms. Leach produced tax returns and proof of income for all but 2 years, which will be forthcoming. Barry

stated they advised Ms. Leach that when people buy houses in that area they do not know there is a salvage yard next door and the use of jake brakes late at night. Ms. Leach stated she will put up a business sign indicating a salvage yard and let her drivers know about not using there jake brakes at late hours. The supervisors asked about limiting the hours of operation as well. Ms. Leach stated she will limit hours of operation for her business from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Barry stated basically the business is grandfathered in with the paper work she has provided and to try and prove otherwise it would cost a lot of money. Johanna Rehkamp stated that is her legal opinion as well.

The supervisors stated JC Smith, SEO for the township has submitted a bill to the township for a site inspection he had done on Roseglen Road for an anonymous complaint received that there were unauthorized repairs being done to the septic system. JC investigated the complaint and found no violations, the homeowner installed horseshoe pits. The question is when an anonymous complaint is received who will pay the SEO fee and can JC force the person to disclose their name to avoid bogus claims being made. Annette Mullen asked why JC didn't call the township first before going out. Annette stated she feels he should call the office first. The secretary stated she believes JC is regulated by DEP and is obligated to go and look at all complaints. Barry Schroepe stated he will call JC and speak to him about the situation and see if he can require a name if a complaint is made. Annette stated the supervisors could go out first and see if there is a problem before sending JC out. Issue tabled until more information is found out.

The supervisors have received a letter of resignation (copy on file) from Jeremy Potter for his volunteer position on the Township Park and Recreation Board due to his work schedule. Barry Schroepe made a motion to accept the resignation as requested, Annette Mullen stated she would let Jim Fuller second it, Jim Fuller stated he is on the board and doesn't know if he should. Annette stated it goes back to the beginning of it being a conflict of interest and Jim said it wasn't a conflict of interest, so go ahead and second it. Barry stated the only way a board member cannot vote on an issue is if it directly monetarily affects them and then they would have to put in writing to put with the minutes why they are abstaining. There being no second to the motion the motion failed.

Barry Schroepe advised Jeff Smith's 180-day probationary period has been completed. Barry stated he will receive vacation/sick/personal days per the employee manual. Annette Mullen stated in the future when someone's probationary period is completed the supervisors should go into an executive session and discuss how things have gone instead of just saying the employees probation is over without having a discussion. Barry stated per the employee manual the supervisors are supposed to do employee appraisals each year. Annette stated there is no system set up. Barry advised he has worked with Jeff quite a bit and he feels he is doing a great job and has asked Jeff if there are any concerns he has. Barry asked Jeff if he would like to continue to work for the township and Jeff indicated yes. Barry stated both Jeff and Dexter Potter are doing a great job. Jim Fuller stated he is also pleased with Jeff's and Dexter's work.

Jim Fuller made a motion to release \$500 budgeted as a donation to Perry County Crime Stoppers, Annette Mullen second the motion, with all in favor.

The township has received notice from the Commonwealth of PA that the amount of Volunteer Fire Relief for 2013 to be received is \$21,118.13. Barry Schroepe made a motion for the monies to be released when received with \$15,838.60 (3/4) going to the Duncannon Fire Co. and \$5,279.53 (1/4) going to the New Bloomfield Fire Co., Annette Mullen second the motion, with all in favor.

Annette Mullen made a motion for Trick or Treat night to be held on Thursday, October 31, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Barry Schroepe second the motion, with all in favor.

The supervisors scheduled a workshop to work on the preliminary 2014 budget on Friday, October 18, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Correspondence has been received from Wilson Consulting Group and PennDOT regarding the Sulphur Springs Bridge detour. The detour when working on the bridge will be Rt. 849 to Paradise Road to Rt. 274 to Montebello Farm Road.

Barry Schroepe indicated the supervisors were made aware of the property owned by Hoveter that borders the land acquired by the land acquisition grant on Paradise Road has been sold and is currently being logged off. Barry stated there is a dedicated right-of-way to get to the property and that has been opened up and a gate has been installed at the bottom. Barry stated there was concern of the trees that are on the Township's property so he and Jim went out and looked at the situation. Jim Fuller stated they asked the land owner for keys to the gate so that the township could access township property if need be. Barry stated there were no live trees taken out; just the trees that were down were pushed off the logging road.

Barry Schroepe stated all payments have been made by the individual who damaged the guard rails on Narrows Road.

Barry Schroepe stated correspondence has been received from PACART (animal response team) asking for a donation of \$100.00. Barry stated in the past the township has given a donation but hasn't the last couple of years. The supervisors will look over the information received.

Annette Mullen stated she would like to get away from having full time employees being elected officials and being their own boss as supervisors. Annette stated if the township had a 5 person board it might be okay, but with a 3 person board it makes it hard when you have one of those people who's a full time employee with pension and health insurance and then they have to be one of those votes to vote it in. Annette stated she thinks overall it is good to

have an objective person on the board and an employee cannot be totally objective when voting. Annette stated that has not been the practice with previous employee/supervisors and she would like to get away from that. Annette stated she would like to make that an ordinance in Wheatfield Township. Jim Fuller stated he did not feel he was biased throughout his years and feels that having a supervisor/employee is an asset to the township. Jim stated he is happy with a 3 person board. Barry Schroepe stated it goes back to what he said earlier is that a person should not be voting toward monetary decisions. Annette asked what happens when there is a tie vote. Jim stated the auditors set the wages for full time employees who are also supervisors; they do not set their own wages. Barry stated he is not in favor of making an ordinance against it. Annette stated she believes in term limits as well and will probably be bringing this issue up each month. Barry stated if an employee was on the board he would be in favor of working with the auditors on health insurance benefits.

Vicki Jenkins advised the supervisors they have not responded to the correspondence received from PennDOT on Sept. 11 regarding if there are any utilities located at the proposed bridge replacement on Paradise Road. Barry Schroepe stated he will look for his paperwork and come into the office and take care of it.

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has sent a letter requesting the township nominate one member to represent the Perry Southeast Plan Development Section. Bob Rhoades is the current representative. Annette Mullen asked Bob Rhoades if he is still interested. Bob indicated he will do it, but if there is someone else interested in the position that would be fine. Annette Mullen made a motion to nominate Bob Rhoades as the representative, Barry Schroepe second the motion, with all in favor.

Vicki Jenkins asked if the supervisors have looked over the information for the tax collector commission. Vicki advised a resolution would have to be done if there were to be any changes.

The signs for winter maintenance were discussed for parking on the right-of-way. Jeff advised the signs say "No Parking on Township Right-of-Way, towed at owner's expense". Jeff will order the signs.

Kraig Nace presented the year to date call numbers report to the supervisors. Kraig stated they had an injector problem with the one ambulance and had to take it to Hoover Bros. for repair. The repair cost \$6,000. Kraig stated they appreciate the ongoing support.

Barry Schroepe made a motion to approve the checks from the General Fund for the month of September. They were as follows:

1884 – 1927, 0008-2013, 08-2013, 090613A and 090613B.

Jim Fuller second the motion to approve the checks, with all in favor.

There being no further business Jim Fuller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Annette Mullen second the motion, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary