

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Monday, December 2, 2013 in the Township Building. Barry Schrope called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Barry Schrope, Jim Fuller, Annette Mullen, Johanna Rehkamp, Lester Nace, Vicki Jenkins, Bob Rhoades, Rick Schaar, Herb Field, Dave Jenkins, Paul Krieger, Jeff Smith, Kraig Nace, Dianne Dahlin, Luke Roman (Perry County Times), Mary Smith and Marty Smith.

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

The minutes of the November 4, 2013 meeting were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the township building prior to the December 2, 2013 regular meeting for public viewing. Barry Schrope made the motion to approve the minutes as presented by the secretary, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Bob Rhoades wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Herb Field suggested consolidating the ordinance book and the ordinance amendment book on the website so that it is easier to navigate. Herb asked for clarification on the communications tower amendment and also stated residents that are affected by the tower should be compensated if their property values go down because of the tower.

Kraig Nace of the Duncannon EMS wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked the supervisors and residents for their ongoing support.

Dianne Dahlin asked if there has been any decision made yet on the cellular tower. The supervisors advised nothing has been presented to the township and no permits have been applied for.

Jeff Smith presented the road master report for last month. Jeff stated the road crew has graded off the banks along Hunkey Hollow, cleaned out the inlet boxes in Wheatfield Estates, replaced stop signs and street signs on various roads, put up the no parking signs for winter maintenance in developments, repaired the bolts on the Ford F550, worked on the blue dump truck bed, looked at the damage done by a motorcycle fire on Pine Hill Road, cleaned up debris from a wind storm, replaced the one lane bridge signs at Montebello and Loshes Run bridge, did grading and trimming on Loshes Run, repaired Sulphur Springs Bridge as advised by Pennoni after the bridge inspection, put the plow and salt spreader on the Ford F450 & F550, had their first nuisance snow storm to take care of and cleaned up the trucks after using. Jeff also asked about a donation to Carl Hancock for mowing the cemetery on Dellville Road.

Jim Fuller made a motion to release \$15,000 budgeted as a donation to the New Bloomfield Fire Co., Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

The supervisors have received a letter of resignation from Barry Schrope for his position as Emergency Management Coordinator for the township. Annette Mullen made a motion to accept Barry Schrope's resignation, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Bob Rhoades of the township planning commission asked the supervisors if they could sit down with John Madden and the supervisors to discuss some changes to the AOR's that are requested on subdivisions. The supervisors advise they will come to the planning commissions January meeting. Bob also stated they did quickly review the cellular tower ordinance and advised there has been no application to the township and there is nothing the township can do at this point.

PSATS has completed the annual Disclosure Statement required by Chapter 7-A of Act 44 of 2009, the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (copy on file). PSATS has asked the supervisors to review the disclosure statement and if it is adequate adopt the Disclosure Statement and place it in the township's pension file. Barry Schrope made a motion to adopt the Disclosure Statement, Jim Fuller second the motion, Annette Mullen opposed.

The supervisors advised there was damage done to Pine Hill Road by a motorcycle that caught fire. Jeff Smith advised he had contacted the state police regarding the damage and possibly knowing who caused the damage by residents letting him know. Jeff advised the state police went to the person believed that caused the damage and the man acknowledged it was him. Jeff will put together an estimate for the road crew to repair the damage and Vicki will send it to the solicitor so that she can prepare a letter to send requesting payment for the damages. If payment is not made the township will file charges through the District Justice.

At last month's meeting the supervisor's discussed making a change to the employee handbook regarding vacation leave and changing the wording from calendar date to employee hire date. Barry Schrope stated he is in favor of just leaving it as calendar year for budget purposes, Annette Mullen

stated she would like to change it to employee hire date and Jim Fuller stated he would like to leave it as calendar year. The employee handbook will remain the same, no change will be made.

Annette Mullen made a motion to adopt the 2014 budget, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor. Barry stated the budget has been reduced by a little over \$200,000 from last year's budget.

Barry Schrope made a motion for the days and time for township meetings to be as follows: monthly Board of Supervisors meetings will be held the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. with the exception of holidays that fall on Monday, they will be held the Tuesday immediately following the holiday, the Planning Commission will meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., the Recreation Board will meet the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. and the Auditors will hold their organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., Annette Mullen second the motion, with all in favor. Meetings will be advertised as required by law.

Annette Mullen made a motion for taxes to remain at .199 on all real estate assessments, 1% on real estate transfer tax (.5% township, .5% school), and 1.8% on earned income tax (.5% township, 1.3% school), Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

The Perry County Convention is Saturday, February 22, 2014. Annette Mullen made a motion to extend the invitation to the supervisors, planning commission, Zoning Officer, Tax Collector and Auditors, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor. The registration fee will be paid for those who wish to attend. Mileage reimbursement and the attendance fee of \$50.00 will be paid to the supervisors, tax collector and auditors.

Annette Mullen made a motion to send Carl Hancock of Dellville Road a check for \$30.00 and a letter of appreciation for his continued service of mowing the cemetery on Dellville Road, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

At last month's meeting the supervisors asked Johanna to look over the letter received from Darrel Jones regarding the dog barking issue and give recommendation if anything can be done. Johanna Rehkamp advised she has reviewed the letter and the ordinance and there is nothing the township can do to help out without anything on the ordinance books. Johanna advised Mr. Jones will have to file a private nuisance action against his neighbor.

The supervisors scheduled a workshop for Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the proposed sketches for the office addition. Workshop will be advertised as required.

Dianne Dahlin asked for clarification on Annette Mullen's motion. Dianne asked when Annette said I, did she mean she was for it or against it. Annette stated she was for it, she didn't say nay. Dianne also stated at meetings you are not allowed to speak out and she wondered why Herb Field has not been told about speaking out at meetings.

Jeff Smith stated he forgot to bring up earlier about a problem on Narrow's Road. Jeff stated there is a hump on Narrows Road that is pretty bad. Jeff stated he thinks the best way to fix it would be to mill it out 20 feet each way and then taper into the road to get rid of the hump.

Annette Mullen asked about the papers Barry Schrope put into the supervisors folder regarding employee evaluations. Annette stated she would rather the employee's do self-evaluations. Barry Schrope stated the handbook states performance appraisals should be done, so however it is done can be discussed. Annette stated she would like to develop a tool to use for future. Annette stated she can do these forms for this year, but she would like to work on a more formal process. Annette asked how this year will work. Barry stated each supervisor can fill out a form for each full time employee.

Vicki Jenkins stated the supervisors have to appoint a delegate and an alternate for the Perry County Tax Collection Committee. Barry Schrope made a motion to appoint Vicki Jenkins as delegate and Annette Mullen as alternate, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Annette Mullen asked with Barry Schrope resigning as Emergency Management Coordinator what the plan would be. Barry Schrope stated the supervisors need to find someone to fill the position. Annette stated she will contact Tom Bell to find out what the position would require.

Barry Schrope stated a thank you letter has been received from the New Bloomfield EMS thanking the township for their generous donation.

Vicki Jenkins stated correspondence has been received from the Department of Agriculture in regards to the Annual Public Officials Day on Thursday, January 9, 2014. Vicki asked if anyone was interested in attending to let her know, reservations are due by December 20th.

Vicki Jenkins asked the supervisors if they read the letter regarding the gentleman who backed his low-boy into the recycling container. Lester Nace took the information from the truck driver and advised he opened the door and it works fine and that it will just need painted where the dent is to protect from rusting.

Barry Schrope stated a letter (copy on file) has been received from the New Bloomfield EMS indicating they will be merging with Ickesburg EMS on April 1, 2014.

Lester Nace advised he has spoken to Mr. Palumbo regarding the cellular tower being proposed on his property on Montebello Road. Lester advised Mr. Palumbo advised he had signed an agreement and the agreement was for a specific site and that site is being revisited and that they are currently looking at another site on his property. Lester stated no permits have been applied for yet.

Dianne Dahlin asked why the township doesn't look at putting the cellular tower at Wagner Park instead of a private resident. Dianne stated if the homeowner ever has to take the tower down he will never have the money to do it and will get out of it any way possible, he knows how to work the system. Dianne asked if the township could go to them and ask, they don't come to us and ask. Lester Nace stated Verizon went to a number of people looking for a site that would accommodate the need in the area, not necessarily just Wheatfield Township.

Herb Field stated Wagner Park is excluded by the township's ordinance book. Herb stated he would like to ask the supervisors to direct the attorney to make a determination of the law as to Section 21R in the township's ordinance book. Johanna Rehkamp stated her interpretation does not include dwellings; it just includes structures within a municipal park or school. Herb stated that is bizarre and all the more reason why the township planning commission needs to come up with a revised ordinance to address the issue of residences.

Annette Mullen asked if there has been any feedback on the health insurance. Vicki Jenkins stated she spoke with Hartman Employee Benefits on November 26th and Glenda advised Geisinger still has not released January's renewal rates and the township is a February renewal. Glenda advised she was expecting them hopefully the second week of December.

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

1967 – 2002, 0010-2013, 10-2013, 110613A and 110613B

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

There being no further business Barry Schrope made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Annette Mullen second the motion, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary