

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Monday, October 6, 2014 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, Rick Schaar, Jeff Smith, Dexter Potter, Martha Kauffman, Stephen Kauffman, Dave Jenkins, Byron Worner, Kraig Nace, Kurt Hepschmidt, David Mills, Holly Potter, Luke Roman (Perry Co. Times), Justin Kretzing, Dave Hoch and Chad Tressler.

Johanna Rehkamp led the pledge to the American flag followed by a brief moment of silence.

The minutes of the September 2, 2014 regular meeting and the September 9, 2014 special meeting were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the township building prior to the October 6, 2014 regular meeting for public viewing. Jim Fuller made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2014 regular meeting and the September 9, 2014 special meeting as presented by the secretary, Annette Mullen second the motion, with all in favor.

Byron Worner of the Duncannon Fire Co. stated they dropped off their 990 report for the supervisors. Byron stated it is budget time and they are hoping to keep moving towards their financial goal as they have discussed with the supervisors in previous years with financial contributions. Byron also stated Duncannon Fire Co. deals with multiple municipalities and he is interested in establishing a Public Safety Committee to discuss issues that would arise and keep municipalities informed with their happenings. Byron stated he would like to have a representative from each municipality. Byron stated they have major purchases that are going to be made in the next 5 or so years and there are not enough donations coming in and fundraisers to replace the fire house and tower truck. Byron stated he has not worked out the details but he just wanted to inform the supervisors with what he would like to do.

Kraig Nace of the Duncannon EMS gave the supervisors their updated call numbers report as of the end of September. Kraig also thanked the supervisors for their ongoing support.

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

Justin Kretzing of the New Bloomfield Fire Co. stated they dropped off their audit report and is here to answer any questions the supervisors may have. Justin stated he would like to talk about support for the future and stated the New Bloomfield Fire Co. has really tried to set their budget these last couple of years as to where they need to be for future needs. Justin stated they have not replaced fire apparatus for some time and there average piece of equipment is 20 years old. Justin stated they can get by with what they have, but when they start looking at their future expenses they are trying to plan ahead without creating too much debt they can't continue to provide service. Justin stated they are working on numbers so they can present them hopefully by next spring and stated he would encourage the supervisors to look at the numbers that were presented to them a couple years ago and consider an equivalent donation to a fire tax millage.

Dave Hoch stated he would like to know why there is never any work signs put up when digging across the road warning people. Dave would also like to know why at his sister's property at the corner of Windy Hill and Roseglen Road they guys mowed 36 feet from the center of the road, Dave stated the guys indicated it was because of sight distance. Dave stated it is a 4 way stop sign and he doesn't want the tractor running back that far.

Chad Tressler of the New Bloomfield EMS presented the supervisors with a copy of their yearly audit and thanked the supervisors for their continued support.

Jeff Smith presented the road master report for last month. Jeff stated the road crew has cut down trees and brush on Sulphur Springs Road by the bridge for sight distance, filled in the shoulders on Sawmill Road, installed lights and power out to the shed, hauled shot rock to a resident on Linton Hill, took care of a trees that came down during a storm on Linton Hill and Dellville Dam, replaced the light on the license plate on the F250, graded Pine Hill, finished the last round of mowing for the year, changed the oil and fuel filters in the F250, moved Vicki to the EMS building, McNaughton Services fixed the hump on Narrows Road, got black top repairs done on Windy Hill, Linton Hill, Dugans Mill and Pine Hill Road, demo work done for the office addition and took the backhoe tire to be patched at Deimler's. Jeff stated they got the tractor back from Messick's today and they said the shuttle shifter switch was bad and at this point they have not given him a total price for the repair, they were thinking it would be around \$1,000. Jeff stated Deimler's will no longer be accepting TV's and electronics so they will have to find another place to take them for spring cleanup. Jeff also asked the supervisors about the possibility of moving the date for the December recycling due to being shorthanded because of deer season.

At last month's meeting the supervisors discussed a letter and bill Martha Kauffman received from Fire Recovery USA who represents the Duncannon Fire Co. Mrs. Kauffman received another letter (copy on file) indicating it was a final notice and the payment of the invoice for \$8,300 is her responsibility and due immediately. Mrs. Kauffman gave statement as to the events that had happened with the fire and her conversations with Fire Recovery. Mrs. Kauffman indicated she was told by Fire Recovery to disregard the bill and then in September she received a final notice letter. Mrs. Kauffman indicated she was told this was her fault that this is happening; she should have just submitted the bill to her insurance company to pay. Mrs. Kauffman indicated if the fire company would have contacted them for a donation they would have done that. Annette Mullen asked Mrs. Kauffman if she would have sent the bill to her insurance company does she think they would have negotiated the bill and asked why she did not submit it to her insurance company. Mrs. Kauffman stated because the bill is not accurate. Barry Schrope stated the fire company sent the bill to Mrs. Kauffman's insurance company, not Mrs. Kauffman and they cannot do that because the fire

company is not the contract holder. Byron Worner indicated that he did speak with the insurance adjuster and he did speak with Barry and when the letter indicated the insurance company rejected the claim that was partially true and untrue, the reason it was rejected is because the claim came from Fire Recovery and they are not the insured. Byron stated when Fire Recovery gets a rejection from the insurance company they send the bill to the home owner; and then all the home owner has to do is submit the bill to their insurance company. Byron stated this bill happened because there was equipment damage so all they do is fill out a form on the computer for Fire Recovery, they do not put in any amounts they just put when they were there, who was there and what equipment was there. Barry asked Byron if they bill everyone who has a fire. Byron stated no, they were only billed because there was damage to equipment. Byron stated they have changed their policy and they will now just submit bills to their insurance company and they will handle it. Barry stated the issue he has with it is when he spoke with Mrs. Kauffman's insurance company they referred to a resolution that allows the fire company to bill our residents and Wheatfield Township does not have a resolution. Barry stated the resolution the fire company is billing under is a Duncannon Borough resolution that was passed and they are forwarding this to Wheatfield Twp. residents and possibly Penn Twp. residents. Byron stated the way it used to be is that you used to have a resolution from every municipality they dealt with to bill for services, but he was under the assumption that Fire Recovery would not bill if they did not have an ordinance, but his understanding is where the headquarters are based if they have a resolution there that the fire company can bill and that is all they need. Byron stated if that is not the case then they would have to work something out with Wheatfield Twp. Byron stated he assumed that once they had the resolution with the Borough that it would cover them for everywhere they go because that is there headquarters. Mrs. Kauffman asked how the fire company picks and chooses who gets a bill. Byron stated they submit them all. Barry indicated he has spoken with other fire companies and most of them only submit bills for auto accidents. Byron stated this bill was only submitted is because there was damage to equipment and homeowners insurance has a provision for reimbursement for damage to emergency equipment. Annette stated then the bill should have only been for \$700 for the hoses. Byron stated he has no idea what was billed for. Annette stated she was also billed for 4 trucks. Byron stated if Mrs. Kauffman submits it to her insurance then it's out of her hands. Annette stated from what she is hearing is since Mrs. Kauffman has not submitted the bill to her insurance company is why she received a final notice letter. Mrs. Kauffman stated she was told to disregard the bill from Fire Recovery so why would she pay it. Annette asked Mrs. Kauffman if the trucks were not on the bill and it would have only been for the hoses would she have submitted it to her insurance company, Mrs. Kauffman stated yes but she would still question why the hoses were damaged. Jim Fuller stated he would tell her to throw the bill away, he would tell everyone to throw away the bill. Jim stated Wheatfield Twp. does not have an ordinance or resolution with Duncannon Fire Co. allowing them to bill and as long as he is on the board we never will. Jim stated the township gives the fire company \$46,000 from the residents yearly, plus the fire relief money and the workers comp insurance and to bill additionally when someone has a catastrophe of a fire is not realistic. Barry asked Justin Kretzing of the New Bloomfield Fire Co. if they bill for fires. Justin indicated they did it one time years back for auto accidents but have not since and they do not bill for fires. Annette asked if a bill was sent to the resident on Linton Hill who had a fire. Byron stated no equipment was damaged there. Byron stated the billing officer is the one who submitted the bill; they just submit the information to her. Annette asked if the bill could be corrected. Byron stated it could and that they have already changed their policy. Kurt Hepschmidt stated as a township resident and in defense of Mrs. Kauffman she has the right to question a bill before she turns it over to her insurance company. Lester Nace stated he believes Mr. Worner needs to assure Wheatfield Twp. that they will not be using something from Duncannon Borough in Wheatfield Twp. again to try and collect monies from people in our municipality and he has not said that. Byron stated he did say they were going to clarify and that they have changed their procedure in not submitting to Fire Recovery and it will go to their insurance company. Lester stated that does not mean they are not going to do it again or try it again in Wheatfield Twp. Byron stated so if we go out to your property and damage equipment they should not submit a bill to have their stuff replaced. Lester told Byron they are using something from Duncannon Borough in Wheatfield Twp. Byron stated then you don't want the fire trucks to come to Wheatfield Twp. Byron stated he cannot say it will not happen again. Lester stated it is fraud using a Duncannon Borough resolution in Wheatfield Twp. Byron stated if the Duncannon Borough resolution covers them billing wherever they go because there headquarters are in the Borough then they can. Johanna Rehkamp stated she does not think they can use there resolution for Wheatfield Twp. Byron stated the fire company contracts with Wheatfield Twp. to provide a service and there headquarters are in Duncannon Borough. Jim stated there is no contract, the township gives a donation. Johanna stated she will look into the situation for clarification. Annette stated any resident would be upset about this and we need to do our best to make this right. Byron stated it will be corrected. Mrs. Kauffman asked if she will receive a letter indicating she does not owe the money. Byron stated he cannot do that, he will call them and explain the situation and talk to her insurance company again and call Fire Recovery. Byron stated he will call Fire Recovery and tell them to submit the bill to their insurance company and go about it the right way.

At last month's meeting the supervisors discussed an illegal highway occupancy permit applied for and received on Paradise Road. Johanna Rehkamp advised a letter has been sent to PennDOT on September 26th and she has not heard anything back yet. Johanna advised she will follow up with PennDOT.

At last month's meeting Jim Fuller stated Carroll Twp. asked if Wheatfield Twp. would be interested in snow plowing their section of Pine Hill Road in Rye Twp. Jim indicated he and Jeff Smith met with Dan Kirk and spoke to him about trading off Shermans Drive (5/10 mile) and Dellville Dam Road (2/10 mile) for plowing Pine Hill Road (5/10 mile). Jeff Smith indicated he will go to Carroll Twp.'s meeting tomorrow night and speak to them about it.

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 2014 received is \$19,946.48. Barry Schrope advised Byron Worner when they submit their yearly financial reports the fire relief money is not shown and if it is not shown next year he will not vote to release their money. Barry also indicated the Reed Twp. grant money they received did not show on their in house report either. Barry stated he wants to see all money received in their yearly report. Byron advised they never received the grant money, it never went through the fire company, it went straight from Dauphin County to their lien holder for the new fire apparatus. Jim Fuller stated they want to know what their bottom line is and in order for them to figure that out they need to see how much of the grant was applied to the lien. Annette Mullen made a motion to release \$14,959.86 (3/4) to the Duncannon Fire Co. and \$4,986.62 (1/4) to the New Bloomfield Fire Co., Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Jim Fuller made a motion to send Carl Hancock and Jason Gary of Dellville Road each a check for \$20.00 and a letter of appreciation for mowing the cemetery on Dellville Road, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion for Trick or Treat night to be held on Friday, October 31, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to schedule a workshop to work on the preliminary 2015 budget on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope gave an update on the Conrad zoning variance hearing. Barry stated the zoning board granted the variance. Jim Fuller stated he wished all planning committee members would have been there for future reference. Annette Mullen stated she thinks what she learned out of it was; we were trying to work with them and because we left things go she heard some of the members of the zoning hearing board state the supervisors did not do their job, so now it makes her think they need to be tougher. Annette stated this would set precedence and create a problem for the township in future years. Lester Nace asked what he did not do. Annette stated it was meant towards the supervisors and why they let things go. Annette stated there was no hardship proved at the hearing.

Johanna Rehkamp advised a certified letter and pictures has been sent to Bryce Wysocki advising the work has been completed for the damage done to Pine Hill Road by his motorcycle. Johanna stated she was not sure if the letter had been picked up yet by Mr. Wysocki.

Barry Schrope stated the footer has been dug for the new building addition. Jim Fuller advised the insulation between the walls will need to come out and the wood under the windows and the header over the front door are rotted and will need replaced. The supervisors asked Jeff to fix the rotten wood under the window and door. Annette Mullen stated she would like Jeff Smith to have Scott from WSL, Inc. number in case anything would come up.

Barry Schrope stated a request has been made to the township regarding requiring a Peddler's Permit in Wheatfield Twp. The supervisors stated they would need more information and that there are pro's and con's to requiring a permit. No action taken.

Barry Schrope stated he received a letter in the mail from the COG about not having a quorum at their meetings. Jim Fuller stated he forgot about it, but will attend the next meeting.

Annette Mullen asked for an update on the bridge at Wagner Park. Jim Fuller stated he needs to speak to John Madden about how long the permit is good for and if they need to apply for an extension. Jim advised there is too much water to do anything at this point.

Lester Nace stated there is an individual on Paradise Road have a zoning problem. Lester stated the individual has 3 tracts of land 2 of them being Industrial and 1 being Ag/Residential. Lester indicated he spoke to Jason at the County and he indicated if the individual petitions the township planning commission to change it all to one tract, they could either yes or no it and make a recommendation to the supervisors and they can either yes it or no it and then a small hearing could be held prior to a supervisors meeting, it would not require a variance with a stenographer. Lester stated he has received a letter from the realtor stating no mortgage lenders would lend money unless all tracts were in one. Lester stated he would go to the planning commission and speak to them about it.

Lester Nace spoke of the Conrad variance and indicated about their surveyor Mr. Lyons. Lester stated the work Mr. Lyons did would have required a land development plan because he changed the use of the land. Lester stated he put a right-of-way across 2 parcels that wasn't there before. Lester stated he can be taken to task at the registration board that he did not comply with the township's ordinance in doing so. Lester asked the supervisors if they would like to follow up with the registration board. Annette Mullen stated she is frustrated that people feel they can go outside the county to do this and he didn't follow the rules and the ordinance is on line. The supervisors indicated they would need to think about it. Lester stated it is a time consuming process but what he did was a very strong violation as far as the township's ordinance is concerned.

Jim Fuller thanked those who help at the monthly recycling. Jim said the Krieger family comes out each month and helps and it is greatly appreciated.

Jim Fuller asked about the support for the New Bloomfield Library. Barry Schrope stated they could talk about it at the budget workshop.

Jim Fuller spoke of a problem with bushes and trees on Cook Road. Jim indicated the resident gave the road crew a hard time about mowing. Jim stated they have removed the bushes and trees there before and the new resident has planted new bushes where the old was taken out. Jim stated he would like to address the problem now before the bushes become a safety issue again. Jim stated when LTAP was out they indicated the road crew could be certified for sight distance to deal with issues such as this.

Jim Fuller stated the dog barking issue on Hunkey Hollow Road has hopefully been taken care of. Jim stated he had going down a couple of times and then he and Lester went down and spoke to the resident and they indicated they would get a bark collar and move the kennel to take care of the problem.

Jim Fuller stated he would like to suggest that he thinks the Duncannon Fire Co. should have an independent audit done rather than an in house audit.

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

2364 – 2406, 0008-2014, 08-2014, 090514A and 090514B

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, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary