

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Monday, November 6, 2017 in the Township Building. Barry Schrope called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Barry Schrope, Jim Fuller, Jeff Smith, Johanna Rehkamp, Lester Nace, Vicki Jenkins, Dexter Potter, Rick Schaar, Rick Boyer, Sue Flickinger, Dave Jenkins, Nathan Bragunjer, Luke Roman – Perry Cty. Times, Dave Linville, David Mills, Kurt Hepschmidt, Mitch Robb, Byron Worner and Kraig Nace.

Jeff Smith led the pledge to the American flag followed by a brief moment of silence for those who have been affected by the tragic shooting in Texas.

The minutes of the October 2, 2017 regular meeting and the October 19, 2017 budget workshop were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the Township Building prior to the November 6, 2017 regular meeting for public viewing. Jeff Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting and budget workshop as presented by the secretary, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

David Mills thanked the township for continuing to support recreation.

Kurt Hepschmidt stated he would like to apologize for the way he was quoted in the newspaper. Kurt stated he did not intend to imply the township assets were not properly insured and that he was only making a suggestion based on the coverage on the existing salt shed versus the cost of the new salt shed. Kurt also stated when he spoke he was speaking on behalf of himself and not as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Barry Schrope advised the insurance was checked into and the township does have replacement cost on all items.

Kraig Nace of the Duncannon EMS presented the supervisors with an updated call report. Kraig stated there is no current update on the generator installation and also thanked the supervisors and residents for their continued support. Barry Schrope congratulated Kraig on his appointment to the Fire and EMS Commission. Kraig stated he has been appointed to the Commission by the House and there responsibility is to recommend improvements to fire and emergency services in the Commonwealth.

Jeff Smith presented the road master report for last month. Jeff stated the road crew has hauled rip rap for Hemlock Drive, cut off 3 stumps at the park, serviced the red dump truck and put the spreader and plow on and also replaced the cutting edge on the plow, finished filling in the shoulders on Montebello Road and Montebello Farm Road with shot rock, cleaned up the house on the property the township just purchased, got the snow plows back from Larry Noss that needed some attention, painted the plow for the brown dump truck, mowed and trimmed the park for the last time this year, hauled a load of shot rock to fill in the shoulders on Linton Hill Road, replaced the serpentine belt and tensioner pulley on the F250, cleaned out the old salt shed and braced it, cleaned up 2 trees that came down from a wind storm on Montebello Farm, purchased 4 new tires for the F550, had the F250 inspected, replaced the cutting edge on the red dump truck. Jeff also advised Wilson Paving came and patched a spot on Montebello Road where a piece of their equipment's mud flap came off and got in the blacktop.

Byron Worner of the Duncannon Fire Co. advised he has dropped off their call reports as requested. Jim Fuller stated the supervisors have asked Duncannon and New Bloomfield Fire Companies to give the supervisors monthly reports on their activities/calls in Wheatfield Township. Jim Fuller stated New Bloomfield has 17 calls to Wheatfield Township for the year and Duncannon has 40 some calls for the year to Wheatfield Township. Byron also stated there is concern with their new radio system stating there are several areas where there is no signal. Byron asked if the supervisors could send a letter to the Perry County Emergency Management and Commissioners regarding the concern with the radios. Kraig Nace stated they have also encountered some problems with the radios. Barry Schrope advised they would send a letter. Byron stated he would like to reiterate the urgency with funding increase from the township stating the money is needed and will go into their Capital Reserve account. Byron stated the donation amount given in 2016 was what they were looking for in 2014 by the projection sheet presented to the supervisors a couple years ago and in 2017 there was no increase and by the proposed 2018 budget there will be no increase. Byron stated the funding is the key issue and how it is achieved is up to the township whether it be a donation increase or a fire tax. Jim stated he thinks the residents should know what the township is currently giving to the fire companies. Vicki Jenkins stated Duncannon Fire Co. has received \$75,512.42 in 2017 for their annual donation, fire relief monies and workers comp insurance and New Bloomfield Fire Co. has received \$28,114.66 in 2017 for their annual donation, fire relief monies and workers comp insurance for a total of \$103,627.08. Rick Boyer asked how many fundraisers the Duncannon Fire Co. does each year. Byron advised they do chicken bbqs, a gun raffle and some

catering of the chicken bbq. Rick advised street fairs, carnivals and sub sales used to be done and it seems now the fire companies feel a sense of entitlement to the money instead of working for it. Byron advised there is a lack of volunteers and people only have so much time to volunteer, it takes a lot of time and that's the challenge. Rick Schaar asked where Wheatfield Township stands in comparison to what other townships give. Byron stated Penn Township gives over \$150,000 and Wheatfield is basically the same as Penn just with fewer businesses and not as many tax exempt properties. Mitch Robb stated in 2014 when they presented a power point presentation regarding their budget, apparatus replacement, new building and what their capital improvements consisted of they were requesting .10% mill fire tax, and currently they are asking the township to adopt a .30% mill fire tax which would come to \$38 a year for the average home owner in Wheatfield Township which is based off of 1/10th of \$100,000 assessed property. Jim stated the fire tax would be in excess of what the township currently pays. Rick Schaar stated it's not all about the money; the fire company needs to work within their means. Jim stated with the current donation each household pays \$50 a year (township donation, fire relief and workers comp) and with the request of \$38 more from each home owner a year that would bring it up to \$88 a year per household/property based on \$125,000 assessment. Bob Hines asked Byron what their current debt is at Duncannon Fire Co. Vicki advised as of December 31, 2016 by their report it is \$512,604.92. Byron stated the majority of that is the building on Rt. 274 and the apparatus debt will be satisfied when they receive their state grant money at the beginning of the year, so there debt will go down over \$100,000 from that figure. Vicki advised their debt from December 31, 2015 was \$739,466. Bob asked when they expect to have their debt paid off. Byron advised they have 8 more years on the building, the apparatus loans will be paid off next year; so the debt figure at the end of 2018 will be whatever is left on the building loan. Bob stated he heard they are buying another fire truck and Byron indicated yes they are.

Jim Fuller made a motion to send Carl Hancock of Dellville Road a check for \$25.00 and a letter of appreciation for mowing the cemetery on Dellville Road and also send Mutt Neumayer of Montebello Farm Road a letter of appreciation for mowing the cemetery on Montebello Farm Road (Mr. Neumayer indicated he did not want any money), Jeff Smith 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 2017 received is \$18,193.43. Barry Schrope made a motion to release \$13,645.08 (3/4) to the Duncannon Fire Co. and \$4,548.35 (1/4) to the New Bloomfield Fire Co., Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope advised the budget has been worked on at a couple of workshops and should be ready for adoption at the December meeting. The supervisors adjusted the amount for the storm sewer and drains category from \$12,500 to \$15,000 due to extra pipe being needed to fix Dugans Mill Road from where the State worked on Dellville Road. Barry asked the other supervisors if there was any interest in raising the annual donation to the fire companies or the 3/10th of a mill fire tax. Dave Jenkins stated he would like to make a comment on the fire companies. Dave said thanks for all they do and what they do is important and greatly needed, but the township has been finishing in the red for a couple of years now and now were thinking of proposing a fire tax; what will the township do when the township needs to raise taxes to fund the townships needs. Dave said he doesn't see a problem with raising the donation but the fire companies need to live within their means too and maybe not buy a new truck or build a new building at this time. The supervisors adjusted the amount for the fire company's donation for 2018 from \$75,000 to \$80,000 instead of imposing a fire tax. Barry advised a motion had been made to advertise the budget adoption at the October 19, 2017 budget workshop so that the 20 day timeline could be met for the supervisors December meeting.

Johanna Rehkamp stated she has reviewed the document from William Bunt regarding the Title Insurance on the Frances Baker property the township purchased. Johanna stated all is order with the Title Insurance.

The township has received correspondence from the Perry County Bicentennial Committee regarding purchasing historical markers. Dave Mills stated Carl Fox of the Duncannon Sportsmens Association came to the recreation board meeting asking permission to possibly place a historical marker at Wagner Park for Montebello Park which is down towards the sawmill. Dave stated the committee is also interested in placing a marker commemorating the Perry County Railroad which goes through Wagner Park. Dave stated the sportsmen's club would sponsor the sign for Montebello Park and the recreation board would

sponsor the sign for the Perry County Railroad. Dave stated they are looking for permission to place both signs together at Wagner Park with an arrow showing where each are located. The supervisors state they have no problem with the recreation board pursuing the markers and placing them at Wagner Park.

Barry Schrope stated there will be a question on the election ballot about the expansion of the homestead exclusion act. Barry passed around the correspondence received that explains the question.

Lester Nace stated he has issued 64 zoning permits so far this year.

Jim Fuller thanked all of those who came out and helped with recycling on Saturday.

Barry Schrope reminded those in attendance of the date change for December recycling. The date has been moved to November 25, 2017.

Mitch Robb of the New Bloomfield Fire Co. sent a volunteer sheet around the meeting room for anyone to sign up if they are interested in helping with their fundraisers or volunteering. Mitch states he hopes the supervisors reconsider the amount there proposing to give.

Jeff Smith made a motion to approve the checks from the General Fund for the month of October. They were as follows:

3870 – 3910, 110, 111, 09-2017, 009-2017, 100617A, 100617B, 0003-2017, 101317A and 101317B
Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

There being no further business Jeff Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary