

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Monday, December 4, 2017 in the Wheatfield 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, Sue Flickinger, Dave Linville, Charlotte Weldon, Kurt Hepschmidt, David Mills, Luke Roman (Perry County Times), Loraine Vogel and Kraig Nace.

Barry Schrope led the pledge to the American flag followed by a brief moment of silence.

The minutes of the November 6, 2017 meeting were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the Wheatfield Township Building prior to the December 4, 2017 regular meeting for public viewing. Jim Fuller made a motion to approve the minutes as presented by the secretary, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Sue Flickinger stated she would like to thank the residents for writing her in for township auditor and appreciated the support. Barry Schrope thanked Sue for being willing to fill the position.

Charlotte Weldon stated she has several concerns about 1581 New Bloomfield Road, New Bloomfield. Charlotte stated the homeowner has someone living in the wood shed again, the person has a red hummer and a motorcycle; and the wood shed has no facilities in it or running water. Charlotte stated it's a disgrace to the township of how the front yard and porch looks and that he burns his trash down back beyond the pond and the neighbor on the other side stated they have had a rat problem for several years, but there are no rats on their property. Charlotte stated he hasn't mowed the grass since about July. Barry Schrope stated he does know that Lester Nace, Zoning Officer, has spoken to these people last year about the same things and advised them of recycling and spring cleanup. Lester Nace stated he has been out there a number of times maybe a year or so ago about the vehicles and the vehicles according to the townships zoning ordinance must be licensed or inspected and those that were there at the time were licensed or inspected and at this point the vehicles are going. Lester stated then he was out there for someone living in the wood shed and he was invited to go into the wood shed and there was no bedroom in there, there was a couch and a chair in there, not a home as such. Lester stated he was asked how it could be made as part of their home and he told them it could be made part of the home with a physical attachment from the existing home to the shed, an attachment that would be heated and used as a stairwell as a connecting room or hallway. Lester stated if they were to do that they would be required to go through a septic inspection to make sure there was no problem with the system so that it could handle the additional people using it. Lester stated just because there is a wood stove in the shed with smoke coming out of the chimney doesn't mean someone is living in there. Charlotte advised the man comes in at night and leaves in the morning and is there all weekend. Charlotte stated she thought because there were no facilities and no running water in the building no one could live in there. Lester stated it's like a garage that someone has a stove in to keep warm while working in there; it is not a living place as such. Lester stated he agrees with Charlotte he did not observe any running water in the building while he was there, but he did not see any beds or bathrooms either while he was there. Charlotte indicated there is a 2nd floor to the shed and Lester advised he was not on the 2nd floor. Lester asked Charlotte what is expected of the township in a case like this and if she has read the townships nuisance ordinance. Charlotte indicated that is why she is here tonight. Lester stated there is really nothing in the townships ordinance that talks about having a shed and working in it as a wood shop, however there is something in the ordinance that talks about junk vehicles and he has at least on 2 occasions spoke to them about spring cleanup when they can take what they have down to Wagner Park and unload it as part of the spring cleanup and also told them about recycling each month. Lester stated he does not have the authority to make someone take advantage of the spring cleanup and recycling. Charlotte asked how does the township go about getting an ordinance for people to keep their yard looking decent and Lester advised that would come from the direction of the supervisors to the planning commission to come up with an ordinance and if that happens he does not want to be the person that decides whose yard is a mess and whose yard is not. Lester asked who makes that decision; beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Charlotte stated she just wants the people to clean up their junk and make it presentable and would like the township to create an ordinance. Lester stated he believes this may be a family issue and Charlotte stated it is not, it is about taking pride in your home. Lester asked if the neighbor is related and Charlotte indicated it is her husband's son. Lester stated he has informed them and provided them with the information on recycling and spring cleanup. Jim Fuller stated the township has an issue as well on McNaughton Drive. Lester advised he has been there before several times and 2 properties on Dellville Road as well. Jim advised there is nothing in the ordinance with teeth and they just expect people to take pride in their property and to keep it cleaned up and unfortunately you have a few bad apples and he hesitates to put everyone into the same category and create an ordinance just for several residents in the township. Jim stated he wishes the township could do something but at this point he doesn't know what, other than keep communicating with the property owner. Barry Schrope stated he does not know what the township could do at this point as well. The supervisors asked Lester to speak to the resident again.

David Mills thanked the supervisors for continuing to supporting recreation in Wheatfield Township. Barry Schrope thanked the recreation board as well for all the work they do at Wagner Park.

Loraine Vogel thanked the supervisors for the opportunity to serve the township as an auditor, she really enjoyed it.

Kraig Nace of the Duncannon EMS advised the generator and propane tank has been installed, not all is hooked up at this point but they are hoping by the end of the week. Kraig stated they are on track to have their busiest year ever on record. Kraig stated the Duncannon EMS appreciates the townships ongoing support and Merry Christmas.

Jeff Smith presented the road master report for last month. Jeff stated the road crew has serviced the blue dump truck and put the spreader and plow on it, cleared 2 trees on Dark Hollow Road, put the spreader on the F550, got the brown dump truck ready for winter, trimmed trees on Sulphur Springs Road and cleaned up the scrap metal behind the township building.

There was no representative from the Duncannon Fire Co. at tonight's meeting.

Barry Schrope made a motion to adopt the 2018 budget as presented, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Jim asked if Vicki would call the fire companies to see where there monthly call report is.

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 7:00 p.m. with the exception for the months of January and September this year, January's meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 and September's meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2018, 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., the Zoning Hearing Board will hold their organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. and the Auditors will hold their organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. (tentatively the following week January 9, 2018), Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Meetings will be advertised as required by law.

The supervisors discussed the recycling dates for 2018. The December 2018 recycling will be moved to November 24, 2018 due to deer season and lack of volunteers.

Jim Fuller 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), Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope stated they have received a letter of resignation from Loraine Vogel for her position as a township auditor. Loraine was elected as the new tax collector for the township. Barry Schrope made a motion to accept the resignation from Loraine Vogel, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope stated a new Tax Collector Fee Resolution has been drafted with the new fee rates Loraine Vogel has requested (copy on file). Loraine Vogel gave an overview of the fee charges she is requesting. Barry Schrope made a motion to adoption Resolution #02-2017, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope advised Olivia Ferguson has expressed her interest in filling the vacant position for Township Auditor since Loraine Vogel was voted in as Tax Collector. Barry Schrope made a motion to appoint Olivia Ferguson to the open position of Township Auditor, Jeff Smith second the motion, Jim Fuller abstained. Olivia's term will be till the next municipal election.

The township has received correspondence regarding satellite casinos. Barry Schrope advised if the township is not in favor of having satellite casinos in Wheatfield Township the supervisors will have to pass a resolution prohibiting satellite casinos. Jim Fuller stated correspondence has also been received from Pennsylvania Family Council explaining the impact a casino has in your neighborhoods. Barry Schrope made a motion to adopt Resolution #04-2017 prohibiting satellite casinos in Wheatfield Township, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope stated Perry County EMA would like for the township to pass a new NIMS resolution updating the current resolution they have on file from 2006. Barry advised nothing has changed with it, they just need it updated. Kurt Hepschmidt stated the NIMS (National Incident Management System) is something that was designed for emergency management and Homeland Security. Jim Fuller made a motion to adopt Resolution #03-2017 regarding NIMS, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Kurt Hepschmidt stated as township EMC he has the basic advanced and professional certification and the deputy EMC Tony Mull has met the Article 35 requirements and passed basic and advanced certification. Kurt stated he spoke with Rich Fultz and Wheatfield Township is the 1st one to have a coordinator and deputy that has met the baseline mark of Article 35 certification. Kurt stated in Article 35 there is baseline training for supervisors and staff that would be 3 courses and asked the supervisors to consider taking the courses. Courses can be taken online and Kurt believes this would be an advantage to the residents and coordinators if a major disaster would happen. Barry Schrope indicated he believes he has 2 of the courses already completed. Barry thanked Kurt and Tony for getting all their certifications completed.

Barry Schrope advised the township planning commission has referred the revised SALDO book to the supervisors for their review. Barry advised the supervisors will act on it in February.

Barry Schrope stated at last month's meeting there was a discussion with the fire companies and EMS regarding poor radio coverage in the area. Barry advised a letter was sent to Rich Fultz and the commissioners. Rich Fultz responded stating they have anywhere between 85% - 90% coverage in the township and that there is a tower in Newport causing some interference which is being worked on and additional training may be needed by the dispatchers. Barry indicated he has not heard back from any of the commissioners at this point.

Barry Schrope advised the pavilion at Wagner Park has been reserved 63 times this year.

December 4, 2017

454

BIU has invited the township to a holiday luncheon on December 15th at Zeiderelli's in Newport. Barry Schrope stated if anyone is interested in going to let Vicki know so she may reply. Replies are due by December 7th.

Jim Fuller thanked all of the volunteers who come out and help with recycling.

David Mills stated the planning commission is looking for someone to serve on the commission due to the vacancy left by Wayne Russell.

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

3911 – 3947, 10-2017, 010-2017, 110617A and 110617B

Barry Schrope second the motion to approve the checks, with all in favor.

There being no further business Jeff Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary