

The organizational meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, January 3, 2023 in the Township Building. Barry Schrope called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Barry Schrope, Jim Fuller, Jeff Smith, Vicki Jenkins, Lester Nace, Dexter Potter, Dave Jenkins, Rhoda Barrick, Elijah Barrick, Sue Flickinger, David Mills, Kurt Hepschmidt, Phyllis Krieger, Candi Schrope, Amanda Tolbert-Smith, Craig Nace and Holly Potter.

Barry Schrope led the pledge to the American flag followed by an invocation given by Kurt Hepschmidt.

The first order of business was to reorganize. Barry Schrope made a motion to appoint Jim Fuller as Temporary Chairman to start the organizational meeting, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to appoint Sue Flickinger as Temporary Secretary, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Jeff Smith made a motion to reappoint Barry Schrope as Chairman, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Barry Schrope took over the organizational meeting as Chairman.

Barry Schrope made a motion to reappoint Jim Fuller as Vice-Chairman, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to retain Vicki Jenkins as Secretary/Treasurer, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to increase the Secretary/Treasurer Vicki Jenkins hourly rate of \$18.59 by 3%, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to increase the Treasurer bond for Vicki Jenkins and Assistant Treasurer bond for Jim Fuller to \$300,000, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to retain Jim Fuller as Assistant Treasurer, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to keep the Treasurer bond for the Recreation Board at \$65,000, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Jeff Smith made a motion to retain Midpenn Bank (formerly Marysville Bank) as the depository for township funds, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Jeff Smith made a motion to retain Kurt Hepschmidt as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Wheatfield Township, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

Jeff Smith made a motion to retain Bob Mull as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for Wheatfield Township, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to retain Jeff Smith as Roadmaster, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. The auditors will set Jeff's hourly rate at their organizational meeting.

Jeff Smith made a motion to reappoint Dave Jenkins as Township Vacancy Board Chairman, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to retain Bruce Warshawsky of Cunningham, Chernicoff and Warshawsky as Township Solicitor on an on call basis, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor. The rate for 2023 will be \$200 per hour (copy of fee schedule on file).

Jeff Smith made a motion to reappoint Jerry Spease as Township Engineer, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. The 2023 meeting fee will remain the same at \$100 per meeting.

Barry Schrope made a motion to reappoint J.C. Smith as Township SEO, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor. There is an increase in the 2023 fee schedule (copy of fee schedule on file).

Currently there is no Alternate SEO appointed.

Jeff Smith made a motion to reappoint Lester Nace as Zoning Officer, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Jeff Smith made a motion to increase Lester Nace's hourly rate of \$18.93 by 3%, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to reappoint Ed Womer as Assistant Zoning Officer, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to increase Ed Womer's hourly rate of \$18.93 by 3%, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Jeff Smith made a motion for Dexter Potter to remain full time laborer, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

Jeff Smith made a motion to increase Dexter Potter's hourly rate of \$17.33 by 3%, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion for Jim Fuller and Barry Schrope to be called first if a part time laborer would be needed, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor. The auditors will set Barry and Jim's hourly pay rate as part time employees at their organizational meeting.

Barry Schrope made a motion to retain Corey Stone as part time laborer if needed, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Jeff Smith made a motion for the hourly rate to remain at \$13.00 per hour for outside part time laborers without a CDL, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to increase the outside part time laborers with a CDL pay rate of \$15.66 per hour by 3%, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion for the mileage rate to be 65.5 cents per mile per the 2023 IRS standard mileage rate, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to retain Capital Tax Collection Bureau to collect the local earned income taxes, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to reappoint Vicki Jenkins as Capital Tax Delegate, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to reappoint Jeff Smith as Capital Tax Alternate, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to reappoint Vicki Jenkins as the Chief Executive Officer for the township pension fund, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Jeff Smith made a motion to reappoint Vicki Jenkins as the CDL testing contact person, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Jeff Smith made the motion to have all random CDL tests conducted on site when available, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to reappoint Travis Clapper to a 4-year term on the Planning Commission, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Jeff Smith made a motion to reappoint Rick Boyer to a 5-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope made a motion to reappoint Jim Fuller to a 5-year term on the Recreation Board, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Jim Fuller made a motion to reappoint Vicki Jenkins as Zoning Hearing Board secretary, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor. Jim Fuller made a motion to increase Vicki Jenkins hourly rate of \$18.59 by 3% per hour for the Zoning Hearing Board secretary, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

This concludes the organizational meeting. The supervisors continued with their regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

The minutes of the December 5, 2022 regular meeting were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the Township Building prior to the January 3, 2023 regular meeting for public viewing. Barry Schrope stated he found a typo error in the minutes, Vicki Jenkins will correct it. Jeff Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with the correction of the error; there was no second to the motion; motion failed. Jim Fuller stated he has some questions that in the minutes it states Vicki asked Jim "so double dipping is good to you and Jim stated that's alright with him". Jim stated he would have to listen to the tape because he is not in favor of anyone double dipping as it's probably against the law and cheating. Jim said he would like to listen to the tape again to see whether he actually said that and clarify if he somehow said that's alright with him then he needs to make that right because double dipping is not alright with him. Barry Schrope asked if the other supervisors wanted to table the minutes until next month or approve them pending Jim reviewing the tape. Jim said he will come in and listen to the tape and as long as things are clarified in the minutes next month. Jim Fuller stated also in the minutes Barry Schrope says "when he sits back and looks at it, it either looks like the scenario Vicki said or it looks like the recreation board could have got their heads together and wanted John to get the bid and said okay we are going to pay for this and that after the fact". Jim said he wants to ensure the public that the rec board never spoke any words about trying to get John the bid, that would be crooked and he would hate to see the rec board's leadership in jeopardy. Jim said Barry said that but he just wants to clarify in next month's minutes that the rec board did not get their heads together and had no idea how many bidders there were going to be and didn't do anything malicious. Barry Schrope made a motion to conditionally approve the regular meeting minutes as presented by the secretary pending the typo error correction and review of the tape recording by Jim Fuller, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor. Jim Fuller listened to the recording of the December 5, 2022 supervisors meeting and the minutes presented by the secretary will stand correct as presented.

David Mills asked if the rec board would be on the agenda each month since the supervisors want a monthly update from them. Barry Schrope advised the guidelines that were discussed have not been approved yet so probably next month. Barry said he would like to elaborate on the suggested guidelines and advised he did not realize the rec board was thinking about black topping the parking lot at the park until he heard it at another meeting and that's one thing he feels would be a great addition to the park and if he had known this maybe a year or so ago they maybe could've worked forward to getting this done faster. Barry said if there would be more communication the supervisors would know what projects the rec board is considering.

Kurt Hepschmidt advised on December 22nd there was a snow event and on December 23rd in the area of Towpath Road, Pennells Church and Aqueduct there were about 100 homes without electricity for about 8 hours. Kurt said he did not know about it until a resident from that area contacted him and then the County did contact as well and as cold as it was on the 23rd he opened the Emergency Operations Center and started making some phone calls how to pursue contacting those residents if they need a warming center or not. Kurt stated Logania Church had power and they were willing to open up the Church for a warming center. Kurt said he coordinated with the Duncannon Fire Co. and they willingly supplied guys to go out there with red lights and there pa system to see if anyone needed a warming center. Kurt advised the warming center was open till 12:30 a.m. and to the best of his knowledge no one used the warming center. Kurt thanked Dexter Potter and the Duncannon Fire Co. for what they did.

Kraig Nace of the Duncannon EMS presented the end of the year numbers stating 2022 was their 3rd busiest year ever with 1407 total dispatched calls. Kraig advised they had their breakfast with Santa in December, they had a movie night in October and there next Sunday dinner is January 15th. Kraig stated they have an office employee leaving so they are starting the search for a replacement. Kraig thanked the supervisors and the residents for their ongoing support.

Jeff Smith presented the road master report for last month. Jeff stated the road crew has taken care of 3 nuisance storms, they took care of some downed trees and limbs from a wind storm, fixed several street signs that are being vandalized or run over, fixed the bucket on the backhoe that was broke, got new tires on the Ford F250, cut down 8 dead trees on Montebello Road, did grading on Roseglan Road and replaced a light bulb in the meeting room. Jeff said with this last storm and cold temperatures they observed a lot of ice on the road coming from driveways, one individual has already been contacted by Lester Nace advising they need to fix the problem. Jeff asked if the supervisors want Lester to send letters to all the places

they observed a problem or do the supervisors want to write the letters or do they just want him to go in and fix it. Lester stated he could draft a generic letter to send to those residents with a problem driveway for the supervisors to review.

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

There was 1 bid received for the 2010 Ford F550; \$29,000 from Derick Garman. Jim Fuller made a motion to accept the bid from Mr. Garman for \$29,000, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor. Vicki Jenkins will contact him to let him know his bid was accepted and to set up the appointment to take care of the paper work.

Paper work has been received from One Digital Health and Benefits regarding the health, vision and dental insurance renewal rates. The rate increase to remain with current plan with Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield for the health insurance would be 8.8%; 5 other quotes were received from other carriers, Highmark BCBS option 2, Geisinger, Highmark BCBS option 4, United Health Care and Capital Blue Cross. Highmark BCBS option 2 would be a 5.2% increase. Jim Fuller made a motion to switch to Highmark BCBS option 2, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor. There is no increase for the dental insurance premium through United Concordia. Barry Schrope made a motion to remain with United Concordia for the dental insurance, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. The rates for vision insurance through Highmark have increased slightly under 3.5%. Barry Schrope made a motion to remain with Highmark for the vision insurance, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Agenda item #10 – Wagner Park Bridge project – Supervisors still have some questions and will schedule a meeting with John Weldon– tabled until next month's meeting.

Agenda item #11 – Recreation Board guidelines – Barry Schrope stated he would like to re-do the guidelines since talking with the recreation board – tabled until next month's meeting.

Vicki Jenkins advised CD rates at Pennian Bank have increased and suggested reinvesting the current municipal easy access CD's to the new rate of 4.3% APY, currently the interest rate is 1% APY. Jeff Smith made a motion to reinvest 3 General Fund CD's and 1 State Fund CD to the new rate of 4.3%, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Will reinvest the other CD's at another time to stagger the renewal dates.

The State Convention in Hershey will be held April 23 – 26, 2023. The supervisors and secretary advised there is no interest in attending the convention this year.

Vicki Jenkins advised the pavilions at Wagner Park have been reserved 62 times in 2022.

Jeff Smith advised the new Dodge 5500 will be going to the garage for a recall for an emission sensor.

Jeff Smith stated the grass at Wagner Park along Narrows Road where it is tore up was done by Miller Township; they advised him they will fix it up in the spring.

Jeff Smith stated the comp plan with the County he mentioned at the rec board meeting he didn't know if the other supervisors would want to discuss that at the February meeting or not.

Lester Nace stated the proposed storage units at the Meck's Corner property has gone by the wayside, but the planning commission is going to get a sketch plan at their meeting next week for another proposed project at Meck's Corner.

Jim Fuller advised recycling is this Saturday.

Jeff Smith made a motion to approve the checks from the general fund for the month of December. They were as follows: 6079 – 6117, 150, 151, 11-2022, 011-2022, 120522 and 120622

Barry Schrope 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, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary