

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Monday, June 5, 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, Sue Flickinger, Marty Smith, Paul Krieger, Phil Vogel, Holly Potter, Dave Jenkins, Elijah Barrick, David Mills, Kurt Hepschmidt, Tim Myers and Cody Weaver. Barry Schrope led the pledge to the American flag followed by an invocation given by Elijah Barrick.

The minutes of the May 1, 2023 regular meeting were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the Township Building prior to the June 5, 2023 regular meeting for public viewing. Jeff Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as presented by the secretary, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

Dave Jenkins thanked all of the volunteers.

David Mills gave the recreation board report: spread topsoil and plant grass along the blacktop, finished cleaning the rain spouts, Duncannon Sportsmen's Association had their trout derby, got the valve for the kitchen sink, need to work on field #2 fence where it is bent, need to get more grass seed and straw, received bird houses from the Game Commission. Dave thanked the supervisors for their support.

Jeff Smith presented the road report for last month as follows: put the mower on the tractor, serviced the mower and tractor, changed the oil & fuel filter in the F250, did the break in service on the new Dodge, graded on Hunkey Hollow, hauled 4 loads of topsoil from the cemetery to the park, sprayed and weed wacked guardrails around the township, mowed the covered bridge, township building, Montebello cemetery and the park as needed and tomorrow Dexter Potter should be done with the first round of mowing. Jeff advised over Memorial Day weekend someone dumped a truck load of trash on Linton Hill; Jim Fuller advised someone also dumped trash on Roseglen Road.

Cody Weaver of the Duncannon Fire Co. and treasurer Tim Myers gave the general ledger report and profit loss report to the supervisors as requested at last months meeting. Tim stated the reports will be given each month from now on.

Agenda item #7 – Blue Ridge Communications – Franchise Agreement – tabled.

Agenda item #8 – Recreation Board – Donation Release – tabled.

Jeff Smith gave a report on the spring clean up total: total income from scrap metal was \$4,931.75 and tires were \$346.15 totaling \$5,277.90, total expenses for dumpsters, advertising, water, soda and ice totaling \$5,875.96. Total cost to township \$598.06. Vicki Jenkins stated there were a total of 443 loads. Jeff also stated a gentleman gave Vicki \$20 at spring cleanup to be used towards food for the volunteers. Jeff suggested since Holly Potter and Cathleen Womer were the only ones who brought food the money should be divided among them. Jeff Smith made a motion to give Holly and Cathleen \$10/ea. for the food they made, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

The Perry County Convention will be held September 9, 2023 at the Newport Fairgrounds. Barry Schrope made the motion for Vicki Jenkins to send out the invite and information to the supervisors, secretary, auditors, tax collector, EMC and deputies, zoning officer, zoning hearing board and planning commission, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Agenda item #11 – Wagner Park Ball Fields – Name Signs – tabled.

Correspondence has been received by Upward Broadband regarding plans to submit a Broadband Development Project proposal for our area (copy on file). They are asking the township to confirm receipt of the notification. The supervisors asked Vicki Jenkins to contact the County to see if they have received any kind of notification as they believe this is more of a County issue.

Jeff Smith stated a thank you letter from a resident (copy on file) on Roseglen Road has been received regarding the great job of mowing along her property.

Jim Fuller advised an email (copy on file) has been received from Kristie Smith from the Conservation District announcing she is leaving her position as Watershed Specialist for Perry County.

Jim Fuller stated a letter has been received from Randy Waggoner of the Tax Assessment Office regarding the Countywide Reassessment project under way. Randy stated he could attend a public meeting to give an overview of the project. The supervisors asked Vicki Jenkins to contact Randy and let him know he could attend a supervisors meeting of his choice anytime.

Jeff Smith stated he believes the supervisors should bring the solicitor back to the township meetings. Jeff said if we had the solicitor here before it would've avoided the issues with the whole John Weldon thing; there was a lot of confusion, back and forth conversations and hard feelings and could've been avoided if we still had the solicitor here. Barry Schrope agreed and stated we would have to call Cunningham's and see if they could start to attend. Barry asked Vicki Jenkins to contact the solicitor. Jim Fuller stated he was not going to comment on it.

Jeff Smith asked Jim Fuller how he is making out with the ag security that he has been working on since May 2014. Jim stated he will have to get to that.

Jeff Smith stated he had a phone call about the alternate assistant treasurer. Jeff thinks the township should look for another alternate assistant treasurer instead of Jim Fuller since he was okay with what the contractor did on the Wagner Park project. Barry Schrope stated that would be fine, he would not be able to do it with him being done at the end of the year.

Jeff Smith stated he has done a lot of thinking and the way things are going he's not happy with a lot of things in the township so as of tonight he officially gives his 2-week notice (copy on file) as a township employee and road master. Jeff stated he is not happy with the corruption and Jim Fuller's intentions and the way things are going and the things he has said over the last few months. Jeff stated he will continue as supervisor to serve the people who voted him in. Jim Fuller read a portion of the letter aloud stating Jeff's reason for leaving is because of supervisor James L. Fuller corrupt ways and intentions. Jeff stated it was not an easy decision. Barry Schrope stated Jeff has done excellent job on the road crew. Barry Schrope made a motion to accept Jeff Smith's resignation, Jeff Smith second the motion, Jim Fuller abstained sighting conflict of interest.

Jeff Smith stated he makes a motion to appoint Dexter Potter as the new road master with a 90-day probationary period, and his reasoning for it is that he has worked with Dexter for a little over 10 years now and after working with Dexter a few months they became really good at working together and taught him a lot over the last 10 years and said Dexter has come a long way. Jeff advised he has taken vacations over the years and Dexter handled things very well and that he didn't have to worry about things. Jeff said he feels Dexter has the townships best interest in mind and feels he can handle the job, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor. The 90-day probationary period starts immediately.

Jeff Smith asked the other supervisors if the township should advertise to hire someone as an employee. Barry Schrope stated the township could advertise for an employee. Barry Schrope made a motion to advertise to hire a full-time road worker, Jeff Smith second the motion, Jim Fuller opposed stating he is not sure the township needs a full-time employee, it may be better to have a part time employee to see how things go.

Lester Nace advised there was a tree down on the road and he called the office and about 10 minutes later Dexter Potter was there and took it off the road.

Jim Fuller thanked the volunteers for coming out to recycling on Saturday.

Jim Fuller advised he has been attending the HATS meetings via Zoom.

David Mills encouraged the supervisors to get through the rec board situation. David stated this is the 2nd month the rec board donation has been tabled.

Marty Smith stated a local Perry County business just got a great employee.

Dave Jenkins thanked Jeff Smith for his service and wished him good luck.

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

6237 – 6270, 050423, 04-2023, 004-2023 and 051023

Jim Fuller second the motion, 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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary