

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Monday, August 7, 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, Lester Nace, Vicki Jenkins, Dexter Potter, Marty Smith, Mary Smith, Randy Waggoner, Sue Flickinger, Dave Jenkins, Holly Potter, Ann Clapper, Phyllis Krieger, Paul Krieger, Phil Vogel, Elijah Barrick, Darla McNaughton, Candi Schrope, Bob Cash, Tom Berry, Kurt Hepschmidt, David Mills, Paul Wyatt (Perry County Times), Roxanne Harpster and Dan Welliver.

Jeff Smith led the pledge to the American flag followed by an invocation given by Elijah Barrick.

The minutes of the June 5, 2023 and July 3, 2023 meetings were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the Township Building prior to the August 7, 2023 regular meeting for public viewing. Jeff Smith made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023 as presented by the secretary, Barry Schrope second the motion, Jim Fuller opposed. Jim Fuller made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2023 as presented by the secretary, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Phyllis Krieger stated she would like it noted that Barry Schrope said at the last meeting that he spoke with her on Thursday night that she called him and wanted to talk that it was Paul Krieger who called him and wanted to talk and both of them met with Barry Thursday night. Barry Schrope stated that is correct.

David Mills gave the recreation board report: removed 5 large bees nest, checked the communication wiring from Paradise Road to the main building and they have one bad wire and one semi good, stated the rec board is not going with the internet package, got the fan motor for the restroom, football has started practicing at the park and placed the bleachers and benches on the multi-purpose field.

Roxanne Harpster spoke about the mega warehouse's being proposed in Watts Township and her objection to this project.

Tom Berry stated the amount of light pollution from the Watts Township project will be seen the entire length of this township.

Dexter Potter presented the Road Master report for the month of July: Martin Paving vacuumed up the roads that were seal coated and took the extra stones from that and spread in the recycling parking lot, Fulkroad black topped Linton Hill, placed 5 scoops of modified stones and placed at mailboxes after paving, cleaned up 2 trees on Dark Hollow and 1 on Linton Hill and mowed about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the roads around the township. Dexter stated he has received a quote for line painting which would consist of 14.6 miles at \$.10/ft. totaling \$7,708.80, Linton Hill from Dellville to Dave's World, Pine Hill, Creek Road, Montebello, Montebello Farm, Narrows Road, Hunkey Hollow, Sulphur Springs, Glutts Hole, Shermans Drive and Dellville Dam. Jeff Smith made a motion to accept the quote from Alpha Space for the 14.6 miles of line painting, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Dexter stated he is in need of a 55 gallon drum of 15w/40 oil which will be over his \$500 limit. Barry Schrope made a motion to purchase the 55 gallon drum of oil, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor. Dexter gave an update on the bucket truck stating it is torn apart and the cylinder is leaking and they are in the process of putting it back together. Dexter stated he received another quote from M & J Paving for the black top patching that needs to be done. The quote was not exactly the same as the quote received from N.J. Stanley Paving and the quote from M & J Paving was over the threshold for the requirement of needing 3 phone quotes. The issue was tabled until another quote is received. Dexter advised the tar buggy has been ordered. Dexter stated Stephenson Equipment stopped by and they are having a Public Works Equipment Show on September 7<sup>th</sup> and stated it may be worth going to. Vicki Jenkins stated the township still has some ARPA monies to use as well. Jeff Smith stated he has been around to quite a few of the roads and Linton Hill with the paving and feels Dexter is doing good and managing well to keep up with everything and knows it's difficult being by himself. Barry Schrope stated the paving company did a nice job going into the driveways.

Jeff Smith stated he spoke with Hoover Bros. regarding the 1996 red dump truck. Jeff stated the truck has multiple issues and they gave him a rough quote for just fixing what would be necessary for inspection; cab corners need patched, king pins are rusted, steering drag link, muffler and the turn signals all would have to be done at an estimated price between \$3,000 and \$5,000 and then the issue with the motor; possibly a cracked head gasket or a cracked cylinder wall would be an estimated \$10,000 and \$20,000. Jeff said it would be between \$13,000 and \$25,000 to do everything and the frame is starting to rot and they said we would be lucky to make it 2 more years with the truck passing because of that. Jim

Fuller made the motion to only do the bare minimum work that is needed to pass inspection, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

Duncannon Fire Co. has requested Wheatfield Township send \$50,000 to Community Leasing for the annual apparatus payment. Barry Schrope made the motion to release \$50,000 from the capital reserve account for the Duncannon Fire Co. to Community Leasing, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Randy Waggoner Chief Assessor from the Perry County Assessment Office discussed and answered questions regarding the county wide reassessment currently going on.

Vick Jenkins advised Burget and Associates submitted another time extension request for the Sharon Swartz Land Development Plan till the November 2023 supervisors meeting. Jim Fuller made the motion to approve the time extension request until the November 2023 supervisors meeting, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Vicki Jenkins advised Burget and Associates asked if the township would sign the sewage module plan for the Dunn Subdivision. Barry Schrope signed the sewage module plan as requested.

The supervisors went into an executive session to discuss the application received from Jason Krzykowski for the full time open position on the road crew. Barry Schrope made the motion to hire Jason Krzykowski, pending all preemployment CDL testing being passed, at a rate of \$15.75/hr. until his 180 day probation period is over then his hourly rate will increase to \$16.13/hr., Jeff Smith second the motion, Jim Fuller opposed, stating he suggested only hiring part time help until the end of the year and that he thought the new incoming supervisor should have more of a say in it.

The renewal franchise agreement from Blue Ridge Cable for the Township and the addition of Wagner Park was discussed. Bob Miller from Blue Ridge sent an email that they will cover the cost (\$5,200) of building to the park but the township would have to pay for the internet service (\$54.95/mth.) and any cost of extending wifi throughout the park, the township will keep the free phone/tv/internet service we currently have. Tom Berry asked the supervisors to consider going with Blue Ridge Cable, they have been censoring conservative stations off of their lineup and any kind of censoring he doesn't appreciate. Jim Fuller stated \$54.95/mth. adds up over time and not sure what would be needed down at the park. There was some discussion about the poor cell coverage at the park and the possibility of trying a repeater, wifi booster, etc. before committing to the monthly charge for internet service; all there looking for is cell phone service and not internet. Jim stated he thinks there should be more research done on this and maybe contact PSATS to see if they have any information. Jim Fuller made a motion to renew the 5 year franchise agreement with Blue Ridge Cable for the township and not with the park internet service, Jeff Smith second the motion, with all in favor.

Barry Schrope stated the supervisors at last month's meeting tabled a draft resolution for the pension plan changing the vested years from 5 years to 10 years because the secretary was not here to attest the resolution. Barry stated it will help reduce the MMO paid each year by the township. Jeff Smith made a motion to change the pension vested years from 5 years to 10 years, Barry Schrope second the motion, Jim Fuller opposed, stated he is not against the resolution but feels with Barry Schrope only having 4 meetings left the new supervisors would have a decision in something this drastic. Vicki Jenkins will print a copy of the resolution without the draft mark for the supervisors to sign. Marty Smith stated he has a question asking if the supervisors are being paid to be a supervisor; Barry advised yes, Marty asked if they were elected; Barry advised yes, Marty stated the supervisors have 5 months to serve the people and he has never heard something so ludicrous and guesses he should tell the commissioners and the DA tomorrow that there out and there should be no more meetings the rest of the year.

Barry Schrope stated there was a heated discussion regarding the Wagner Park Bridge project at last months meeting and he was asked why it was even looked into. Barry stated the whole thing started when Dave Mills stated they were paving the whole parking lot and it went on from there. Barry said since John Weldon is not at tonight's meeting, he will go to the next rec board meeting and discuss everything that he has found. David Mills asked what needs to be rehashed about this; the project is done, everyone has signed off, what still needs to be brought up that hasn't already been taken care of. Barry said the discrepancy is with what he is being told, he waited 9 months for someone to come to him and explain what happened with this whole project with the monies and nobody has; there has to be a reason why this happened. David asked if money vanished, Barry said no but the contractor was paid twice to do the job. Barry said he will go over everything with them and they can disagree with him if they

want, he has everything on paper and tape. David asked how much more are they going to be penalized; you've taken every thing we have; you've taken our budget; what else can we give. Barry said things were asked at last month's meeting so he was just answering. Jeff Smith stated he has a couple comments from last month's minutes that he would like to bring up. Jeff said one of the things is when Jim Fuller was saying about him not doing the inspections on the bridge; after the contract was awarded John Weldon came up to the table and refused to have him down there for whatever reasons and stated he wanted Jim and Barry to do the inspections. Jeff said fine, Jim and Barry agreed they would take care of it and now he's getting the blame for not doing any of the inspections; nothing was done correctly. Jeff said he was not in charge of it and he is not taking the blame for it not doing inspections. Jeff said the other thing is that Jim Fuller said there is absolutely no creditability to any kind of accusations made against John Weldon; Jeff said he has a packet of information if anyone wants to sit down with anyone who wants to talk about it; minutes and numbers and things in writing. Jeff said he was elected to watch over tax payer money and that is what he has done and he has got nothing but blasted for it. Jeff said he had questions about the project and he brought it to Barry and Jim's attention and because of the individual it was against he has been blasted that he is out for revenge because John ran against him 2 years ago for supervisor election and that is not the case. Phyllis Krieger asked what has changed from last month's meeting to this meeting so they can be prepared for the rec board meeting. Barry said he never went over all of his findings with anybody mostly because he was waiting to see if someone could explain and John tried to explain but he doesn't understand his explanation with the paving. Barry said he needs to ask John that question.

The appreciation picnic for all current volunteers, officials and children will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Vicki Jenkins will send out the invites to everyone.

Vicki Jenkins advised correspondence has been received stating the estimated arrival date for the AED ordered is August 8, 2023.

Jeff Smith advised he has contacted every township around us and every township and borough has a solicitor come to their meetings and they do not award any bids without solicitor approval. Jeff said not having a solicitor is a lawsuit waiting to happen and a lot of things would have been prevented if they had a solicitor look over things and feels we should have a solicitor coming to our meetings; but since we have a new board coming in in January it won't be done until then.

Dexter Potter advised a stop sign has been stolen from Pine Hill and Dellville Road over the weekend. Dexter said he contacted the State Police and made a report.

Vicki Jenkins advised there is a public meeting at Penn Township regarding the 22/322 project. Vicki said she has not heard back from Don Jacobs office regarding the insurance renewal quote as of yet; renewal is September 8<sup>th</sup>. Vicki advised she met with a gentleman from EMC Insurance Risk Improvement Department to assist in minimizing the likelihood of loss within our business. Mr. Peightal advised the township has had 3 years with no claims, his only concern were the steps in the garage needs fixed and we should not be using them.

Jim Fuller stated recycling was busy on Saturday and thanked the volunteers who came out.

Jim Fuller stated as far as a lawyer, he certainly is in favor of using a lawyer anytime we need one, he's just not in favor of paying one to sit here in a meeting trying to drum up business or just be here for the money. Jim said things could change depending on the new year.

Jim Fuller advised the glass crusher is not working. Jim stated it possibly needs a new motor or needs cleaned out again. Jim said he will come over and him and Dexter will look at it and blow it out again.

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

6300 – 6325, 161, 162, 070323, 071023, 006-2023, 06-2023, 0002-2023, 071723 and 071823  
Jeff Smith, second the motion to approve the checks, with all in favor.

There being no further business Jim Fuller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins  
Twp. Secretary