

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Robeson Township was called to order by Chairman Feeg at 7:02PM prevailing time. The meeting took place in the Robeson Township Public Meeting Room located in the Police Department at 2689 Main Street, Birdsboro, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The following members of the Board were present: Supervisors Brown, Smith & Deeds; Supervisor Love was absent. Also in attendance were Solicitor Christopher J. Hartman, Township Engineer Gary D. Kraft, Chief of Police Mark T. Phillips, Acting Road Master Billy Lanza, SEO Allen Madeira & Manager Thomas C. Keim.

Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence

ALLEN MADEIRA OF BERKS ENVIROTECH, INC.

Mr. Madeira discussed reimbursement of sewage fees and explained Berks Envirotech's 2014 Fee Schedule.

The meeting was taken out of order to address Agenda items 11 B&C. Supervisor Deeds moved adopt Resolution #'s 14-03 & 14-04 implementing the fee schedules for Berks Envirotech and Technicon Enterprises. Following a second by Supervisor Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

ROADS, CODES PUBLIC PROPERTY

Authorization for Road Master & Crew Leader to (PSATS) Attend Symposium @ \$65.00 p/p –

Supervisor Deeds moved to authorize attendance; following a second by Chairman Feeg, the motion passed unanimously.

Discuss Salt Issue - Manager Keim & Acting Road Master Lanza discussed salt usage, storage, etc., over the winter season thus far. Supervisor Brown presented information from his son regarding the use of "beet juice" on the roads for snow/ice.

Thank You to Fire Companies for Help during Recent Snow Storms – Mr. Lanza thanked the Fire Companies for their help during the recent storms and plans to send a letter. Chief Phillips stated he sent a letters to both Fire Companies already. Discussion followed regarding fire hydrants.

POLICE

Chief Phillips stated he began getting calls during the ice storm beginning at 6:00AM and lasting thru 7:00PM or 8:00PM. Geigertown Fire Company had 3 crews out and Gibraltar Fire Company had 2 or 3 crews out throughout the day. If it wouldn't have been for the assistance the Fire Companies provided, the Township would have had a very difficult time in keeping up, clearing trees and branches off the roadways. Chief Phillips stated he wrote both Fire Companies a thank you letter on behalf of the Township and Police Department throughout the ice storm.

Chief Phillips stated during the latter part of last year, the Police Department had an incident where Officer Matthew Smith and he assisted Berks County Adult Probation Department on a wanted felon who was considered dangerous and a serious risk. Information was received that he may be found inside a home located along Killian Drive.

Both Chief Phillips and Officer Smith accompanied by Berks County Adult Probation responded to the home, although no one would answer the door. It was decided rather than risk injury or possibly being shot, we requested a K-9 be dispatched to our location. We found the nearest K-9 unit would be responding from the Fleetwood area, although unfortunately, they had an extended estimated time of arrival (ETA). Because of very limited time, we were like "sitting ducks", therefore it was decided we would enter the home in search of the suspect. The suspect ran, although was taken into custody in a second floor hallway.

Following the incident, Officer Smith approached Chief Phillips asking whether he would consider a K-9 Unit in Robeson Township. Informed a K-9 Unit would not fit into the 2014 Police budget, Officer Smith then asked whether he would consider a K-9 unit that would be funded through donations. Chief Phillips informed Officer Smith he would consider a K-9 Unit be established if there is no expense to the Township, although the BOS would have the final say.

Chief Phillips informed the BOS unofficially, Officer Smith has been in communication with several of the businesses, asking their thoughts about donating monies towards the creation of a K-9 Unit in Robeson Township. So far, Officer Smith has received favorable response. He would be the care taker and has already received a commitment from a civilian for a year's worth of dog food.

Resident Joy Graham stated that there are a lot of places to get things (ie, food, etc.) for a K-9 Unit at no cost to the Township.

CITIZENS CONCERNS

David Belz complained about the recycling bin at the Police Department; and the possibility of having additional recycling bins placed throughout the Township. Manager Keim explained the snow and ice was removed and last Friday he cleaned up all the stuff that was not in the bin. Further discussion regarding the harms benefit the Township receives was held as well as authorizing Manager Keim to check with other companies.

Mr. Belz then complained about bamboo as well as a tree leaning over the road that has a red ribbon tied around it (he had marked with an orange colored "X" last year) and that it is in the Township's right-of-way and should be cut back or removed. Mr. Lanza stated he would check on it. He then thanked the Road Crew for doing a good job with all the snow storms.

Discuss Mailbox Complaints – Manager Keim asked the BOS to review the information supplied in their packet for further discussion. Solicitor Hartman stated the law is clear that the Township is not responsible for mailboxes by the property owner however; it is up to the BOS to enforce it. Supervisor Brown moved to authorize Manager Keim to send a letter stating the Township is not at fault for damages to mailboxes on private property or in the Township right-of-way. Following a second by Supervisor Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

PA Land Use Institute Conference scheduled for March 1, 2014 – FYI only.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Supervisor Smith moved to pay bills for the period of January 15, 2013 thru February 15, 2013. Following a second by Supervisor Deeds, the motion passed on a roll call.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Workshop of January 16, 2014 & Regular Meeting of January 28, 2014 were reviewed and approved to correct the date on the Workshop Minutes upon a motion by Supervisor Smith. Supervisor Deeds seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The Treasurer's Summary, Sewer, SEO Permit, Road & Building, Police and Fire Company Reports for January 2014 were reviewed and unanimously approved upon a motion by Supervisor Deeds that was seconded by Supervisor Smith.

PLANNING & ENGINEERING

Feinsot Land Development – Preliminary / Final Plan – Engineer Kraft stated the PC and he recommend conditional approval of the plan subject to completion of the items noted in the most recent Kraft Engineering review. Supervisor Deeds moved to conditionally approve the plan per Engineer Kraft's recommendation. Following a second by Supervisor Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

Green Hills Preserve Land Development – Preliminary / Final Plan – Engineer Kraft reviewed the proposal for a 10 space parking lot along the northern section of Gunhart Road. The Applicant is not proposing sanitary facilities however Engineer Kraft stated that a "porta potty" should be provided; the Applicant disagrees.

Evergreen Road Bridge – Engineer Kraft presented the updated proposal summary from the consultants and recommended the BOS make a determination as to which alternative to pursue by the March meeting.

TAP Program Update – Supervisor Smith moved to authorize Manager Keim & Engineer Kraft to secure fees for the stream bank stabilization near Gunhart Road Bridge TAP project as well as tree pruning as needed. Following a second by Supervisor Deeds, the motion passed unanimously.

SOLICITOR

Enact Ordinance #14-01 Codes of Ordinances (ie, Codification of Ordinances, including Weed & Grass Ordinance & Special Collection Ordinance) - Supervisor Smith moved to enact Ordinance #14-01. Following a second by Chairman Feeg, the motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE / OTHER

Motion to adopt Resolution #14-02 to appoint a certified or competent public accountant or a firm of certified or competent public accountants, which shall be registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to make an examination of all accounts of the Township for the fiscal year stated in the Resolution, and determine the compensation of the appointed accountant for 2013 - Supervisor Smith moved to adopt Resolution #14-02. Following a second by Supervisor Deeds, the motion passed unanimously.

Review & Approve Mowing Specs for Advertisement (Award Contract in March) – Supervisor Deeds moved to authorize the advertisement; following a second by Supervisor Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

FIRE

Workers Compensation Premium – Manager Keim reviewed the information.

The BOS recessed to Executive Session at 8:44PM.

The BOS reconvened at 9:18PM & unanimously adjourned at 9:19PM upon a motion by Chairman Feeg that was seconded by Supervisor Brown.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen C. Farrell,
Recording Secretary