

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2017

The Robeson Township Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Smith at 7:00pm prevailing time. The meeting took place in the Robeson Township Public Meeting Room located at 2689 Main Street, (Route 724) in Gibraltar, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The following members of the Board were present: Supervisors Love, Graham and Steve. Supervisor Brown was not in attendance. Also in attendance were Chief of Police, Mark T. Phillips, Road Master, Billy Lanza, and Township Manager, Colleen Easterday.

Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence

ROADS DEPARTMENT

Road Master, Bill Lanza, again, presented the final details on the 2018 Mack Dump Truck Lease Quote. A discussion ensued between Supervisor Brown, Manager Easterday, and Solicitor Hartman regarding the lease purchase for the 2018 Mack Dump truck. Supervisor Brown mentioned the State DCED, Department of Community Economic Development, program which prompted Solicitor Hartman to explain the parameters of utilizing the DCED to purchase the truck and questioning the outstanding monies owed to establish if we are within the necessary parameters to ascertain a benefit from using the DCED. The program has a \$125,000 cap on outstanding leases and once the application is put forward the approval takes 45 days. Manager Easterday explained that she had spoken to the bank regarding this specific issue and did not believe that it would be necessary for this purchase. Supervisor Joy Graham made a motion to have Solicitor Hartman apply to the DCED for the Mack truck, Supervisor Love seconded the motion and roll call was unanimously yes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Phillips informed the BOS that the individual involved in a local burglary, on Cocalico Road, was recently apprehended in Lehigh County.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Resident Tim Wloczewski, 1098 Golf Course Road, discussed his frustration over the mowing down of his Russian olive trees by the road crew last year and wants restitution by having them replaced, specifically with 6' shrubs, because of his loss of privacy. He had previously submitted a letter saying he was quoted approximately \$400 for 6' plants and Supervisor Graham suggested that our road crew do the work to save the additional cost of labor. Supervisor Steve made a motion to have Township Manager get prices, not to exceed \$1400.00; Supervisor Love seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Resident Bob Deeds was denied his appeal regarding the cell tower and wanted to know why he was unable to see the permit information. Solicitor Chris Hartman said the Township should follow the "Right to Know" law and not to handle these types of requests on a case by case basis. Solicitor Hartman further elaborated on the issue, stating that according to the RTK law the township does not have to show the permit.

Mr. Deeds then inquired about the illegal use of the Opperman's lot on Rt. 724, Seyfert parking lot, he was told the owner was cited and is now seeking a use change through the Zoning Hearing Board after which a land development plan would be required. The covered use as a lot for a paving contractor was done with no permits. He wanted to know what was being done about it and Township Manager, Colleen Easterday, again informed him, that the owner was cited and filed a variance.

Mr. Deeds again complained about the denied cell tower application then began quoting a letter, allegedly from Verizon on his property that was denied and asked what would happen if there was an accident in the area that does not have phone coverage along White Bear Road. Mr. Deeds was walking out as Chief Phillips explained that the police, as well as the Eshelman school buses, do not use cell phones so the denial of the tower would not endanger our residents if there was an emergency in that area.

CORRESPONDENCE

Greg Eshelman provided a letter with his permit application stating his intention to bore under the road for irrigation lines. Road Master, Bill Lanza, asked him to clearly mark it and Mr. Eshelman agreed. Supervisor Graham made a motion to approve, with Gary Kraft's conditions, Supervisor Steve seconded the motion, and roll call was unanimously yes.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

Supervisor Steve made a motion to approve the 1.13.17 thru 2.16.17 bills, Supervisor Graham seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Supervisor Steve made a motion to approve the minutes for 1.12.17, BOS Workshop Meeting, and 1.17.17, BOS Regular Meeting, Supervisor Graham seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

JANUARY 2017 REPORTS FOR REVIEW

Supervisor Steve made a motion to approve the January 2017 reports, Supervisor Smith seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

PLANNING & ENGINEERING

Rock Hollow Woods project was reaffirmed and signed, motion made by Supervisor Steve, seconded by Supervisor Graham, and roll call was unanimously yes.

Red Hill Road Subdivision was approved, motion by Supervisor Steve, seconded by Supervisor Love, and roll call all yes.

Birdsboro Power Subdivision, land development, waiver request was withdrawn in regard to the cul-de-sac on the Boonetown Road extension. Solicitor Hartman and Mark Koch had spent an hour clarifying agreement letter. Supervisor Steve made a motion to accept the withdrawal, Supervisor Love seconded the motion, and the motion was passed on a yes roll call.)) Brian Boyer of Birdsboro LLC addressed the board regarding the proposed route plan. A discussion ensued between Mr. Boyer, Mr. Bitler, the BOS, and the Road Master whether it should be a tear drop or cul-de-sac and Mr. Bitler voiced his concerns about maintenance of it.

In regard to the 2017 roadwork authorization, Supervisor Steve made a motion to have Engineer, Gary Kraft, and Road Master, Billy Lanza, get together and evaluate those roads on the five year road work project for resurfacing and/or reclaiming, Supervisor Graham seconded the motion, and the roll call was unanimously yes.

SOLICITOR

Manager Easterday informed the board that the notification letter was mailed to the adjoining property owners regarding the Agricultural Conservation Easement purchase by Weaver's Orchard on Fruit Lane of 105.2 acres.

Solicitor Hartman will send out copies of an updated Employee Policy Handbook to the BOS.

Supervisor Steve moved to reaffirm current Act 537 plan, Supervisor Graham seconded, roll call unanimously yes.

FINANCE/OTHER

Manager Easterday addressed the board regarding the Township Auditor vacancy to clarify replacement policy and to discuss Mr. Thomas Licht's letter of interest in the position. Supervisor Steve appointed Mr. Licht and Supervisor Love seconded with an unanimous roll call of yes. Manager Easterday will handle the necessary Oath of Office and Ethics forms.

Manager Easterday reported the Service Electric cablevision Inc.'s annual franchise fee payment of \$73,404.61.

Manager Easterday addressed The Lehigh Valley Business Subscription renewal and expressed that it is an unnecessary expense to which the BOS unanimously agreed and the Township will not renew the subscription.

Manager Easterday informed the BOS of the upcoming PSATS conference and all of the BOS plan to attend.

Manager Easterday discussed that the PLGIT's was offering their services and at this time no action was taken.

Manager Easterday mentioned the CELG, Albright College yearly donation, is due and will need signatures, Supervisor Graham made a motion to donate \$300.00, Supervisor Steve seconded the motion, and roll call was unanimously yes.

Manager Easterday presented the board with Resolution 17.03 to add line code 405.10, Supervisor Graham made a motion to approve, Supervisor Love seconded the motion, and the roll call was unanimously yes.

Representatives from Gibraltar Fire Company came to the meeting to apprise the BOS of their upcoming events.

FINANCE/OTHER (continued)

The BOS went into executive session at 8:43pm. The BOS returned from executive session at 9:43.

There being no further business before the BOS, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:47pm, upon a motion by Supervisor Graham that was seconded by Chairman Smith and a roll call was unanimously yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
By Sheila McCune