

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

Chairman Smith called the Regular Meeting of the Robeson Township Board of Supervisors to order 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. Supervisors present: Love, Graham & Steve. Supervisor Brown joined the meeting at 7:04PM. Also in attendance: Engineer Gary D. Kraft, Solicitor Christopher J. Hartman, Road Master Bill Lanza, Chief of Police Mark T. Phillips & Manager Colleen A. Easterday.

Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence

POLICE

Chief Phillips reported child abuse cases are up this year; just got another one and are working on 3 cases currently. Supervisor Steve commented about Sgt. Cassel going to a class; it was stated the class was full and Chief Phillips plans to have him attend a class next year and requested the BOS approve it because the class fills up very quickly. Sgt. Cassel is working with the District Attorney's Office Accident Reconstruction Team & they requested he become a member of their unit which is being worked on. Chief asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.

Chief Phillips stated he was not present at the Workshop on Thursday evening and it is his understanding that Bob Deeds was sitting in the back and made a comment about not allowing the Police Department to come on his property; clarification of the comment was requested from Mr. Deeds by Chief Phillips.

Mr. Deeds stated he did not say the Police Department, only the Chief is not allowed on his property. Chief Phillips questioned what is to be done if he is the only Officer on duty. A loud discussion followed (which is not entirely audible on the recording). Chief asked Solicitor Hartman what the liability is if he is the only Officer on duty since Mr. Deeds seems to have a problem with him. Supervisor Graham stated it's a personal problem. Solicitor Hartman stated the Chief has a duty to be the Police Officer for the Township and to perform the normal services and responsibilities of the position. Chief asked if he has justification related to a Police issue...Solicitor Hartman stated the Chief should do what he needs to do, what he would normally do with any other situation in the Township. Chief Phillips said ok and asked Mr. Deeds if he understood that; Mr. Deeds stated he understands.

Chief Phillips continued that earlier this year Mr. Deeds gave him letters asking him to arrest people that were trespassing on his property. Mr. Deeds interrupted and said he gave the letters to the Sergeant; Chief Phillips responded the "Sergeant gave them to me because I am the Chief." Chief reiterated to Mr. Deeds that he is not going to allow him to pick & choose and intimidate him and that Mr. Deeds is intimidating his Police Department. If a "call" comes in or the Chief has reason to believe that it's a Police issue he will come and asked if Mr. Deeds understood. Mr. Deeds stated he told Chief Phillips the reason he does not want him on his property because he was running all over it without a warrant and didn't give Mr. Deeds a courtesy telephone call. Argumentative.

Following Chairman Smith banging the gavel, Chief Phillips explained the issue Mr. Deeds was referring to, the Police Department did have a warrant for somebody's arrest and there was information the person was on his property and stated to Mr. Deeds he does not need his permission to go on his property with a warrant as was told to Mr. Deeds in the Chief's office and with legal justification to be on the property Mr. Deeds will not get a phone call that the Police are entering his property with a warrant; if he thinks it's going to jeopardize Mr. Deeds safety, he will receive a phone call.

Mr. Deeds said, "I also told you that if you are walking around on my property without a call, you will be shot, plain and simple, because I know where you live and I don't know if you will be stealing stuff from my property." Chairman Smith banged the gavel.

Supervisor Graham directed to Mr. Deeds that she finds it rather ironic that he's the one who wanted to get rid of the Police Department yet his sister put on Facebook that it was Tom Keim so he has an issue with the Police that was picked 3 years ago before she was elected to the BOS. Further Chief Phillips has an obligation to the citizens of this community and if Mr. Deeds shoots the Chief when he has a warrant she hopes he goes to jail.

Mr. Deeds said something about his sister...Chairman Smith banged the gavel. Supervisor Love said to the Chief, "if you get a 911 call you need to what you have to."

ROADS DEPARTMENT

RM Lanza stated Lewis Tree Service will be removing a tree on Golf Course Road near Joy Lane. Supervisor Graham stated it is posted on Facebook.

CITIZENS CONCERNS

Joy Graham, as a citizen not Supervisor, complained about information being discussed during Executive Sessions being discussed outside with the public. Also, e-mails sent by any Board member, other than Chairman Smith & Manager Easterday, to Solicitor Hartman that is personal or outside of Township business, the Township should not pay the cost; the fee incurred should be paid by that person. Mrs. Graham made a formal request to agree that the member that sends a request is responsible, not the community.

Mrs. Graham requested a motion be made that no Board member should be sending e-mails to Mr. Hartman individually. Solicitor Hartman stated he prefers his communication come through the Manager because it makes things easier; that should be the normal protocol unless it is something related to the Manager then it should come from the Chairman.

Supervisor Graham made a motion that all emails that are related to anything legal, if they are not addressed at a BOS meeting, must go through Manager Easterday and she will determine what to do with it; no Board member as an individual other than Chairman Smith, have any right to be communicating with Solicitor Hartman other than Manager Easterday. Chairman Smith seconded the motion which passed on the following roll call vote:

Smith	- Yes	Love	- Yes	Brown	- Yes
Graham	- Yes	Steve	- No		

CORRESPONDENCE

PSATS Boot Camp for Township Officials - FYI

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The BOS unanimously approved the minutes from the October 12, 2017 Workshop and the October 17, 2017 Regular Meeting upon a motion by Supervisor Steve that was seconded by Supervisor Graham.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

The BOS unanimously approved the revised bills for the period of October 13, 2017 through November 16, 2017 upon a motion by Supervisor Steve that was seconded by Supervisor Graham.

OCTOBER 2017 REPORTS FOR APPROVAL

The following reports for October: Treasurer's Summary Report, Miller Sewer Report, SEO Permit Report, Road Report, Building Permit Report, Gibraltar FC Report including September and Friendship FC Reports for July & August (September & October Reports not available) were approved upon a motion by Supervisor Steve that was seconded by Supervisor Graham.

PLANNING & ENGINEERING

Stampede BBQ Waiver Request – Supervisor Steve moved to grant the waiver request for land development planning pending requirements related to parking are met. Following a second by Supervisor Graham, the motion passed unanimously.

Red Hill Road Subdivision - DEP Planning Module approval – Supervisor Graham moved to adopt Resolution #17-27 to send the Modules to DEP. Following a second by Supervisor Love, the motion passed unanimously.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Hartman presented a draft Ordinance (#17-05) regarding closure of roads. Supervisor Graham moved to advertise; there being no second the motion died. The BOS will review.

Solicitor Hartman presented a Resolution to opt-out of Casino's. Supervisor Graham moved to not opt-out of the category 4 Casino; following a second by Supervisor Love, the motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Smith	- No	Love	- Yes	Brown	- Yes
Graham	- Yes	Steve	- Yes		

PLRB Petition – Supervisor Love moved to authorize Chairman Smith & Manager Easterday to execute the petition; following a second by Supervisor Steve, the motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Smith	- Yes	Love	- Yes	Brown	- Yes
Graham	- Yes	Steve	- No		

FINANCE / OTHER

Authorize Advertisement of 2017 CPA Resolution – Supervisor Graham moved to authorize the advertisement; following a second by Supervisor Steve, the motion passed.

Morgantown Area Business Assn. Basic Renewal \$75.00 – The BOS unanimously agreed to not renew.

Elverson-Honey Brook Area EMS Request for Donation – The BOS unanimously agreed to deny the request because Robeson Township provides their radios.

Friendship FC Request for release of ½ of the Township’s Annual Contribution – Supervisor Steve moved to release funds in the amount of \$22,500.00 ; following a by Supervisor Graham, the motion passed.

Gibraltar FC Request for release of Township’s Annual Contribution – Following discussion, Manager Easterday will review what was paid to Gibraltar FC for period 2014 through 2016.

The BOS recessed to Executive Session @ 7:57PM; reconvened @ 9:03PM. Supervisor Graham moved to appoint Clarence “Butch” Matz to Crew Leader; following a second by Supervisor Love, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business before the BOS Supervisor Steve moved to adjourn @ 9:05PM; Supervisor Graham seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Galen L. Brown, Secretary
Board of Supervisors