

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 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. All Supervisors were present. Also in attendance were 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

Bicycle Crossing Sign – follow up from Workshop; Chief Phillips contacted Bob Folwell who is the Head of the Schuylkill River Greenway Assn. and asked if they would be interested in paying for the signs. Engineer Kraft noted there was an arrangement with the SRGA for the signs. Mr. Folwell stated to Chief Phillips he would give the Township \$500.00 toward placement of the signs. Chief Phillips stated he & Road Master Lanza viewed sites in Cumru Township. For 2 signs the cost would be \$317.00; Chief stated he would prefer to have 4 signs (2 East / 2 West) to warn motorists of a trail crossing, will call Bob Folwell tomorrow and ask him to pay the \$634.00. Robeson Township will be responsible for the study conducted by Engineer Kraft; Solicitor Hartman asked if the signs will be on a state road and are to be a warning only, no Engineering study would be required. Mr. Hartman continued that if there would be enforcement with penalty for violation and reviewed examples. Recommendations for location will be necessary. Chief will follow up with Bob Folwell.

Supervisor Graham moved to authorize purchase of the signs. Discussion. Supervisor Love seconded the motion if SRGA is going to pay for them. The motion passed unanimously.

ROADS DEPARTMENT

Pipe Permits – Road Master Lanza requested a motion to authorize the permitting process by Engineer Kraft as discussed at the Workshop. Supervisor Steve moved to authorize Engineer Kraft to acquire the permits; Supervisor Love seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3 Christy Court – RM reported he received a call from Sylvia Engle regarding water issues at her driveway (Mr. Lanza explained in detail the issue). The driveway has a hole in it and it was explained to her that driveways are not the responsibility of the Township. Mr. Lanza stated there is an issue with the way her driveway is curved. Manager Easterday stated Ms. Engle feels that the deterioration (pot holes) in her driveway is caused by water due to construction therefore the Township is responsible to fix her driveway; she did not accept that response. Discussion followed. Supervisor Graham stated the Township cannot begin maintaining driveways for residents. Mr. Lanza stated the Road Crew dug a swale back out and put new stone in to help and the water is flowing.

RM Lanza stated there is a Storm Water seminar in King of Prussia on January 10th; it is free and wants to attend with Crew Leader Matz. As long as it is not snowing that day, Supervisor Love stated he will make the motion to authorize attendance. Following a second by Supervisor Graham, the motion passed unanimously.

Also, RM Lanza stated Crew Leader Matz gets a lot of parts from the internet that are cheaper than places around here. Can some type of account (ie, pay pal) be started so that he can place an order and have it paid directly? Solicitor Hartman stated a Resolution should be done that would spell out the procedure and the amount. An amount was discussed. Supervisor Steve moved to authorize Solicitor Hartman to create a Resolution to acquire a prepaid VISA card or MasterCard, whichever works, which can be “recharged” to order parts from the internet for the Road Crew. Supervisor Love seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

CITIZENS CONCERNS

PA Eastern District Camp re shooting of buckshot from Cacoosing Gun Club onto property as reported by caretaker, John Medaglia – Constance Jones introduced herself & Matthew Kay, Board Members for PA Eastern District Conference Camping Foundation located @ 1409 Green Hills Road with 98 acres which has been there since 1963. Ms. Jones stated the concern is the neighbor, John Medaglia, reported that he was on the north side of the property along with a Robeson Township Police Officer and got buckshot from the Cacoosing Gun Club that came over on the land while they were there. She stated she did not know how long this has happened or has been a concern with other properties in the area and the concern is to determine if anyone has reported problems like this and if there is anything the Township can do around this.

Chief Phillips stated the PD responded to that complaint and there were several people there that the Officer spoke with. He stated he has not seen it himself and questioned if CGC moved the ranges. Officer Elliott responded they were not aware and that when the trail came thru there they lowered the line of allowable “fire” very low from where it was before so if it was buckshot or something like that it possibly came from where the “clays” are shot. Discussion. Officer Elliott stated that buckshot is not allowed at CGC; in the distance to where the campground is, which is pretty far, it’s possible it was someone else. Ms. Jones stated it sounded like there was a tournament that day or something because there was a lot of firing; have there been any problems with people’s property being contaminated with any of this? Officer Elliott stated not to our knowledge. Discussion followed. Chief Phillips told Ms. Jones if there are further issues to have Mr. Medaglia call the office; Officer Elliott is the Range Master and he knows the area and will investigate. Ms. Jones thanked everyone.

Robert Horst of 1339 Old River Road gave an update on his neighbor, Mr. White’s property at 1341 Old River Road. Mr. Horst stated he has spoken to Code Official Joe Boulanger about the situation and reviewed photographs since then. Mr. White has cleaned up the rubbish & refuse on the side porch of his property and Mr. Horst has mowed & weed wacked his property. There are still concerns re conditions inside structural integrity; Mr. Horst stated he believes Code Enforcement should be granted a search warrant to inspect the inside structure. The household water filter is directly above the 60AMP fuse box. Recent photos of Mr. White’s property between 9/30/2017 & 12/18/2017; picture 14 shows the porch cleaned of rubbish but the decay & rot is clearly seen. Pictures 15 & 16 show severe rot compromising the structural integrity of the porch; 17A & 17B show how much the side porch has deteriorated from 9/30/2017 to 12/18/2017; 18 shows an exposed junction box and wires from the house to the well; 19 shows a 5 gallon pail of roofing cement and charcoal grill that was on the porch which has now been transferred to the weeds on the river bank; 20 shows a rat trail leading from the basement of his home to Mr. Horst’s residence. Additional photos were shown. Mr. Horst continued reviewing his findings. Discussion followed re the structural integrity, Mr. White’s health & wellbeing as well as possible family. Chairman Smith stated he has a telephone number he will provide to Mr. Horst to contact the Berks Office of Aging and they will come and evaluate some of the concerns (ie, Mr. White’s safety). Discussion followed regarding the situation.

Elizabeth Castetter re Lot 8 of Chestnut Hill; currently the zoning is General Industrial but is asking the BOS to revise the zoning requirement within that zoning district to allow for the optional sewer utility. Engineer Kraft addressed the issue and how proposed uses have been handled.

Robert Deeds of 1217 White Bear Road – discussion re advertisement signs in the Township.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The minutes from the November 9, 13, 14 & 29 Budget Meetings, the November 16, 2017 Workshop & the November 21, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes were reviewed & approved upon a motion by Supervisor Graham; seconded by Supervisor Steve the motion passed unanimously.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

The BOS unanimously approved the revised bills for the period of November 17, 2017 thru December 18, 2017 upon a motion by Supervisor Steve that was seconded by Supervisor Graham.

NOVEMBER 2017 REPORTS FOR APPROVAL

The November Treasurer’s Summary (P&L) Report, Sewer Aging Report, SEO Permit Report, Road Report, Building Permit Report, Gibraltar FC Report and Friendship FC Report including their September & October Report & the Miller Sewer Report were reviewed & approved upon a motion by Supervisor Steve that was seconded by Supervisor Graham.

PLANNING & ENGINEERING

Plan Time Extensions (thru 3/31/18) – Supervisor Steve moved to grant the following time extensions. Following a second by Supervisor Graham, the motion passed unanimously.

Park View Estates Sub (P)
Beaver Run Sub (P)

Parkside Subdivision (P)
Cedar Hill Estates Ph 1 (F)

Red Hill Road Subdivision – reaffirm plan approval – Supervisor Steve moved to reaffirm the plan; following a second by Supervisor Love, the motion passed unanimously.

River Run Meadows – escrow release – Supervisor Steve moved to authorize Solicitor Hartman to handle the bond release in the amount of \$697,123.74 & retaining the balance of \$282,191.17 for the 18-month maintenance period. Following a second by Supervisor Graham, the motion passed unanimously.

SOLICITOR

Joint Comp Plan meeting will be Monday, January 8th @ 6:00PM at the Union Township Municipal Bldg. Supervisor Love moved to authorize 2 BOS members, 3 PC members and Manager Easterday to attend the JCP meeting. Following a second by Supervisor Steve, the motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE / OTHER

Adopt Resolution #17-28 Changing Line Item #429-302 from Miscellaneous to Contracted Services – Supervisor Graham moved to adopt the Resolution, Supervisor Steve seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Adopt Resolution #17-29 Opposition to HB1620 Entitled “Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Bill” - Supervisor Steve moved to adopt the Resolution, Supervisor Graham seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Adopt Resolutions #17-31 & #17-32 Fixing the Various Tax Rates for 2018 (Same as 2017) - Supervisor Steve moved to adopt the Resolutions, Supervisor Graham seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Accept Letter from Mr. Wolfe seeking Reappointment to Vacancy Board – Supervisor Graham moved to accept the letter; following a second by Supervisor Love, the motion passed unanimously.

Accept Letter from Tom Licht seeking Appointment of Auditor (2 or 4 year appointment) – Supervisor Steve moved to accept the letter; Supervisor Love seconded the motion for a 2 year term.

Authorize Reimbursement - Tax Collector Elect, Carrie Mountz, for Certification Course – Supervisor Steve moved to authorize the reimbursement; following a second by Supervisor Graham, the motion passed unanimously.

Reimbursement from Exelon Received \$438.05 - FYI

Letter from Friendship FC Requesting Additional Release of Funding from Township.

The BOS recessed to Executive Session @ 8:06PM; reconvened @ 9:07PM.

Supervisor Steve moved to have the Fire Companies provide an itemized list of expenses and truck payments; following a second by Chairman Smith, the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Steve moved to require the Fire Companies to submit a request for projects and events to be paid in 2018 upon receipt of bills. Following a second by Supervisor Graham, the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Steve moved to allow the Township to update both Fire Companies computers to QuickBooks software comparable with the Township. Following a second by Supervisor Graham, the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Graham moved to authorize 1 paid holiday (Christmas) for the Township’s part-time assistant; following a second by Supervisor Steve, the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Graham moved to increase budget line for FC raised from \$45,000.00 to \$90,000.00; following a second by Supervisor Steve, the motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Resolution #17-30 Adopting 2018 Budget with FC change – Supervisor Graham moved to adopt Resolution #17-30. Following a second by Supervisor Steve, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business before the BOS Chairman Smith moved to adjourn @ 9:18PM; Supervisor Graham seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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