

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGUAR MEETING MINUTES
September 15th, 2020

Chairman Smith called the Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting to order at 7:09PM. The meeting held via ZOOM due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice-Chairman Love, Supervisors Steve, and Graham attended. Supervisor Brown joined the meeting at 7:33 PM. Also, in attendance were Solicitor Christopher J. Hartman, Chief Dennis W. Cassel Jr., Engineer Gary Kraft and Township Manager Colleen Easterday.

Citizen Concerns:

Roger Feeg of Whispering Pines asked about the cell tower. Solicitor Hartman advised the applicant has withdrawn the application; however they can re-enter the application in the future.

Correspondence:

Chairman Smith read a letter of thank you from Robert Deeds Jr. to Chief Cassel and Officer Zeiber for their assistance and consideration during their family challenges. Chairman Smith read a letter of concern from Tom Licht relative to the cell tower. Chairman Smith reiterated the application has been withdrawn.

Roads, Codes, Public Property

Supervisor Steve stated, "He still sees the crew members cutting bamboo. Also being noted, letters of violation of the weed ordinance were sent to the property owners. Motion by Supervisor Graham second by Supervisor Steve to have the Zoning Officer cite the property owners, motion carried. Supervisor Brown was not present for this motion.

Police

Request to send Officer Brad Brenner to Taser Instructor School, November 16, 2020, Morgantown: Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham to send Officer Brenner to the Taser Instructor School, motion carried. PA Trick or Treat Night, Saturday October 31, 2020 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.: Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham to celebrate Trick or Treat Night Saturday October 31, 6 PM to 9PM, motion carried.

Body-Worn Camera Update: Chief Cassel Jr. briefed the board on the body cameras.

Minutes: Motion by Supervisor Graham second by Supervisor Steve to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2020, motion carried. Supervisor Brown was not present for this motion.

Bills: Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham to pay the bills from June 22, 2020 thru August 18, 2020, motion carried. Supervisor Brown was not present for this motion.

Reports:

Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham to accept the August 2020 Reports, motion carried. Supervisor Brown was not present for this motion.

Planning & Engineering:

Hathaway Subdivision – Preliminary / Final – waivers / consider conditional approval: Motion by Supervisor Graham second by Supervisor Steve to approve the two waiver request relative to plan scale and steep slope delineation on the annexation parcels, motion carried. Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham to approve the plan contingent upon Engineer Kraft's outstanding items in his review letter dated September 1, 2020, plus the addition of a deed plot representation of an out sale from the original Tazik tract which adjoins the tract, motion carried. Supervisor Brown was not present for this motion.

Bowman-Deeds Subdivision (P/F) & Variance – Motion by Supervisor Graham second by Supervisor Steve to approve variance based upon the ZHB decision, motion carried. Supervisor Brown was not present for this motion.

Scoupe deVille Variance: The Planning Commission has recommended denial of the variance request, however gave consideration to allow time for the occupant to vacate. Motion by Supervisor Graham second by Supervisor Steve to deny the variance and allow time for the occupant to vacate, motion carried. Solicitor Hartman advised if the application is denied by the ZHB the applicant should meet with the BOS for said time line to vacate the occupant.

Plan Time Extensions:

Peiffer / Trettin (P/F) & Cedar Hill Estates Ph 1 (F), Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Chairman Smith to approve the time extension, motion carried.

Park View Estates Sub (P) & Parkside Subdivision (P): Motion by Supervisor Graham second by Chairman Smith to deny the time extension and rejection of the plan. The vote is as follows: Chairman Smith, yes – Vice chair Love- yes, Supervisor Brown- no, Supervisor Steve, yes - Supervisor Graham- yes, motion carried.

2020 Roadwork Contracts: Engineer Kraft gave an update to the projects. Supervisor Steve was opposed to paying an extra \$45,000.00 do to an excess of materials used. Solicitor Hartman advised the material was used therefore the township should pay the invoice. There will be a pre-construction meeting this coming Friday for the Whispering Pines project.

Solicitor:

Solicitor Hartman advised he sent the draft zoning amendment to the engineer and manager for review. The board should also review, and then same should be reviewed by the township planning commission for comment. After receiving comments it should then be sent to the County Planning Commission for comment and a hearing scheduled to consider enactment in November.

Finance / Other

Gibraltar Park – BSE Tournament Baseball: The board reaffirms its position to keep the parks closed.

Berks Conservation District – Contribution request: information only

Berks Co. Assoc. of Township Officials Conference: Saturday, October 10th, 2020: Manager Easterday asked the board to notify her of their intent to attend.

Supervisor Brown inquired about the center line to be added in the next contract for oil and chip. Engineer Kraft explained line painting is not typically included in the bid. To the Crew Leader, has line painting been scheduled for the roads that were oil and chipped? Supervisor Steve inquired if the township received any feedback from the contractor that used a newly oil and chipped road during their paving project. None were received. Manager Easterday will speak with Martin Paving for their assessment of the situation. Supervisor Steve discussed the transition at Putter Lane and Golf Course Road. Engineer Kraft suggested asking the Crew Leader if he felt there will be an issue with the plows.

Executive Session

The BOS recessed to Executive Session at 8:03PM to discuss personnel.

The BOS reconvened at 9:04 PM. Motion by Supervisor Graham second by Supervisor Steve to promote Matthew J. Smith to Sargent starting September 28, 2020, to include a probationary period of one year, Supervisor Love abstained due poor audio connection, motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Steve to authorize the investigation into the cost to repair the road issues of St. Johns Road at the corner of Old River Road and the corner at Golf Course Road, also investigate the transition of Golf Course at Putter Lane and give the cost of the repairs to the Solicitor, to include withholding the payment to Allen Myers modifying the previous motion to pay, second by Charmain Smith, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM upon a motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Easterday,
Township Manager