

ROBESON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGUAR MEETING MINUTES
August 18th, 2020

Chairman Smith called the Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting to order at 7:00PM. The meeting was held via ZOOM due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice-Chairman Love, Supervisors Brown, Steve and Graham were in attendance. Also, in attendance were Solicitor Christopher J. Hartman, Chief Dennis W. Cassel Jr., Engineer Gary Kraft and Township Manager Colleen Easterday.

Chairman Smith turned the meeting over to Solicitor Hartman.

Allentown SMSA, LP Conditional Use Hearing

Solicitor Hartman opened the hearing.

Representative for Allentown SMSA, LP: Catherine E.N. Durso, Esquire, Fitzpatrick Lentz & Bubba, P.C. Christopher Garey of 2540 Plow Road was present for the hearing. Also, present Melissa Krishock, Esquire, Bingaman Hess Representing the interest of Robert L. Deeds Jr., 1217 White Bear Road. Ms. Durso requested a continuance until the regular BOS meeting September 15, 2020. Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Chairman Smith to continue the conditional hearing until the September meeting, motion carried. The hearing recessed at 7:05P.M. Solicitor Hartman turned the meeting over to Chairman Smith.

Southern Berks Joint Comp Plan

Hearing held at 6:30 PM this date. Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Chairman Smith to adopt the S.B.J.C.P, motion carried.

Citizen Concerns

Jeff Ney, Briarwood Dr.: Mr. Ney inquired when the shoulder work on Briarwood Drive would be completed. The Board advised they are looking at other avenues to complete the project.

Roads, Codes, Public Property

Manager Easterday reported Martins Paving will begin sweeping of the tar & chipped roadways on August 19, 2020. A meeting with Allen Myers will take place on August 19 to review the paving project on Golf Course Road. Paving scheduled to start on August 20. Manager Easterday also reported a saving of \$676.40 on the Golf Course mill and patch work. Golf Acres paving project saw a savings of \$2,686.52.

Police

Chief Cassel requested approval to release Officer Zeiber from his full time probationary status and hire as a full time officer. Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham to hire Kevin Zeiber as full time Chief Cassel requested approval to purchase Body Worn Cameras and required Server from WatchGuard. Chief Cassel informed the board of the monies received from resident donations and \$5,950.00 was received in the form of a grant from the Kyle Pagerly Memorial fund of Berks County Community Foundation. Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham to have Chief Cassel continue to draft a policy with review by the Solicitors Office, motion carried. There will be a yearly license/maintenance fee of \$1,170.00, along with an IT support cost for approximately three hours during installation. Motion by Supervisor Graham second by Supervisor Brown to purchase body worn cameras and server with IT support and yearly license / maintenance fee, motion carried. The Chief also reported the department received a grant towards the purchase of Part-Time Officer O'Conner's vest also receiving funds from Caernarvon Township for half of the cost that was not covered by the grant. Officer Zieber has completed his training and certified for Child Safety Seat Inspections. Chief Cassel will apply for a grant that will reimburse the \$90.00 certification class fee.

Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Chairman Smith to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2020, motion carried.

Bills

Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham to pay the bills from June 22, 2020 thru August 17, 2020, motion carried.

Reports

Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham to accept the June 2020 Reports, motion carried.

Supervisor Steve reported the RTMA Board has received a grant of \$50,000.00 to upgrade Pump Station #2 on Schuylkill Road.

Planning & Engineering

Engineer Kraft reviewed the bids for the Whispering Pines Culvert Replacement recommending awarding the project to the H&K Group. Motion by Supervisor Steve second by Supervisor Graham to award the H&K Group the Whispering Pines Culvert Replacement project for \$78,689.27, motion carried.

Solicitor

Solicitor Hartman advised the township could move forward with the Zoning Amendment Ordinance now that the S.B.J.C.P. was adopted. By months end a draft ordinance will be ready for review by the BOS.

Finance / Other

Host fees received from Republic Services, Inc. for \$11,455.44. Manager Easterday relayed a conversation held with the Solicitors office relative to the purchase of a used trailer estimated value of \$7,200.00 to haul the paver; however, the owner is only seeking approximately \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00. Supervisor Graham offered the use of a trailer her father made. Also discussed was the sale of the 1989 John Deere tractor as its appraisal was \$1,000.00 and that would be usable for parts. Solicitor Hartman suggested that the Crew Leader view Ms. Grahams trailer for serviceability.

Executive Session

The BOS recessed to Executive Session @7:48PM to discuss personnel and litigation.

The BOS reconvened at 8:41 PM. Motion by Chairman Smith second by Supervisor Brown to hire Jon B. Readinger Jr. on September 1, 2020 as a full-time road crewmember waiving the ninety-day probation period for previous full time service, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM upon a motion by Supervisor Graham second by Supervisor Love.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Easterday,
Township Manager