

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING**  
**MAY 23, 2017**

The monthly meeting of the Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Longswamp Township Municipal Building, 1112 State Street, Longswamp Township, Mertztown, Pennsylvania, 7:00 p.m., prevailing time as previously advertised and posted.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG/ROLL CALL**

Officials Present: Steve Wyka, Chairman; Michael Sacks, Vice Chairman; Randy Sicher, Supervisor; Jill Smith, representing the Engineer; Jill Nagy, representing the Solicitor; John Yoder, representing the Sewage Enforcement Officer; Pete Eisenberg, representing the Sewage Project Engineer; David Fatzinger, Treasurer; and Jennifer Wassell-Bonser, Secretary.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Steve Wyka called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 11, 2017 would not take place. Draft copies of the minutes were available in the Meeting Hall.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mike Sacks made a **motion** approving the Minutes of the regular meeting April 11, 2017 as presented; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Township Treasurer reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of April, 2017 as presented for the Board of Supervisor's further review. The Treasurer's Report for the month of April, 2017 indicated \$769,104.62 total Township General Funds for the period; \$735,673.92 total Township Additional Funds for the period; for a total of \$1,504,778.54 in Total Account Funds for the period.

Mike Sacks made a **motion** accepting the Treasurer's Report for the month of April, 2017 subject to further audit; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Approve Letter of Understanding for Audit Services of Township Tax Collector for Year Ending 2016**

Mike Sacks made a **motion** approving the Letter of Understanding for audit services to be performed of the Township Tax Collector for year ending 2016; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Wyka announced that the Board of Supervisors would be giving the opportunity for public comments during the Board Meeting relative to sewage planning within certain portions of the Township in response to the Board of Supervisors letter dated May 9, 2017 which was specifically sent to property owners within the high needs area of the Township.

Chairman Wyka announced that the Township Office will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2017 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday.

Chairman Wyka informed the audience in attendance that the Berks County Conservation District will be conducting mosquito surveillance and West Nile Virus monitoring in the Township through October 1, 2017.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A member of the audience residing at the Country View Mobile Home Park addressed the Board relative to a drainage problem at the mobile home park. The Township Zoning Officer stated that the Conservation District is aware of the issue and is actively monitoring the situation. John Yoder noted that the District has reported positive drainage results. The resident of the mobile home park expressed his concerns about the validity of the testing that was conducted. The Board suggested that he contact John Yoder during the next rain event so the Township can document results for the Conservation District.

### **ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

The Township Engineer provided the Board of Supervisors with follow-up information relative to reports of speeding on State Street. Jill Smith suggested the Board's consideration to authorize Hanover Engineering to pursue the placement of radar speed signs on State Street as a means of traffic calming. The Board agreed to authorize further research in an attempt to alleviate speeding issues on State Street.

Mike Sacks made a **motion** authorizing the Township Solicitor to follow up with the Pennsylvania State Police regarding speeding issues on Mountain Road and Mertztown Road; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **SEO REPORT**

Chairman Wyka provided a general reminder for the good of the record that the deadline for Cycle 2 of the Sewage Management Program is June 30, 2017.

### **LTL Consultants, Ltd. Report for April, 2017**

Chairman Wyka reviewed the activities as noted in the Sewage Enforcement Officer's Report for the month of April, 2017.

### **High Needs Properties Sewer Planning Update**

The Sewage Project Engineer provided an explanation of the purpose and approval process of the Act 537 Plan in addition to outlining the history of the Township's past submissions and subsequent rejections. Pete Eisenberg updated members of the audience in attendance on the progress of the sewage planning and reviewed a Property Classification Map depicting the various sewage planning and implementation options and related costs. Pete also informed the audience that the Township has reached out to legislation to request state assistance and to possibly meet with representatives from DEP.

Steve informed those property owners with sewer systems that were installed in 1972 or later would not be affected by the terms of the terms of the Consent Order between the Township and PA DEP. Steve stated properties with failing septic systems would be affected as well as properties with cesspools with less than 100' isolation distance. Steve also explained that Community On-Lot Systems (COLDS) for the immediate needs area is costly and those properties affected will need to hook-up and bear the financial responsibility of hook-up. Steve noted that the law does not allow the Township to raise taxes to off-set the costs. Steve also noted that there is no planned warehousing or residential development coming into the Township to help alleviate the costs.

The Sewage Project Engineer and Board of Supervisors responded to several questions posed by members of the audience, including property-specific concerns. The Board also addressed concerns relative to satisfactory inspections as a determining factor in the necessity to hook-up to a Community On-Lot System.

The Township Solicitor explained that DEP may continue to require the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer to conduct septic system inspections at the time of pumping as a condition of the Township's Act 537 Plan. Jill Nagy also stated that it is possible for DEP to require more frequent pumping or sludge judges to be conducted.

Jill informed the audience in attendance that her office has been researching grant opportunities as a means to help off-set the cost to the Township and property owners. Jill noted the importance of community involvement and participation in grant opportunities that may be available to the Township. Jill also stressed the importance of the Public Comment period and encouraged property owners to submit their questions and concerns in writing as part of the Township's next submission to DEP.

Chairman Wyka stated that the Township is in the process of finalizing Update Revision to the Act 537 Plan Cycle 1/2 Combined Submission prior to the July 31, 2017 deadline and that individual property questions can be relayed to the Township Office. Chairman Wyka thanked the audience for their cooperative participation in the Act 537 Planning Meeting and encouraged residents to submit their public comments to the Township Office.

A member of the audience addressed everyone in attendance and encouraged recognition to the Board of Supervisors, thanking them for the efforts put forth on the Act 537 Sewage Planning for the Township.

### **ZONING AND CODES ENFORCEMENT**

#### **LTL Consultants, Ltd. Report for March 28, 2017 to April 26, 2017**

The Township Zoning and Codes Enforcement Officer, John Yoder, reviewed the activities as noted in the Zoning and Codes Enforcement Report for the period of March 28, 2017 to April 26, 2017.

#### **Notification of Michael Ferry Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) Project**

This item was inadvertently skipped but it is noted for the record that the Board of Supervisors were presented with information relative to the Michael Ferry Wetland Reserve Program Project and that the Township Secretary will retain a copy for the Township file.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

### **Maxatawny Township Proposed Update Traffic Impact Fee Land Use Assumption Report**

The Township Solicitor presented the Maxatawny Township Proposed Update Traffic Impact Land Use Assumption Report to the Board of Supervisors. Jill Nagy noted there are no changes to the report and no impact on the Township.

The Board accepted the report as presented from Maxatawny Township.

### **Act 537 Official Plan Update – Cycle 1 – DEP Review Time Extension**

#### **Notification/Response to Technical Deficiencies**

Mike Sacks made a **motion** authorizing the Township Solicitor to advertise the Public Comment period to be open from June 1 through June 30, 2017 for the Township's Act 537 Official Plan Update.

## **RECREATION REPORT**

Chairman/Park and Recreation Director, Steve Wyka announced the May Park & Recreation Commission Meeting is cancelled.

### **2017 Summer Playground Program & Registrations**

Steve announced registrations for the 2017 Summer Playground Program are being taken at the Township Municipal Building week-days during normal Township Office hours. It was noted the Program is open to children ages six to eleven, week-days beginning Monday, June 12, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through August 4, 2017.

### **2017 Summer Playground Program Counselor Employment Approval**

Mike Sacks made a **motion** approving employment of seven Summer Playground Counselors for the 2017 Summer Playground Program at the same pay rate as in the past; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Board of Supervisors also approved a request for a dedication of the new playground to be held during the annual fireworks celebration scheduled to be held on Saturday, June 24, 2017.

## **ROADMASTER REPORT**

Chairman Wyka also noted that the Township Road Crew has completed construction of the new playground at the Township Municipal Park.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Bear Creek – Status of Amusement Tax**

The Township Solicitor informed the Board that she will keep the Board updated with new developments of the appeal at the next Board of Supervisors Meeting.

### **Resident Notification System**

The item was tabled at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Draft May 4, 2017 and Approved March 30, 2017 Berks County TCC Meeting Minutes**

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Draft May 4, 2017 and March 30, 2017 approved Meeting Minutes as received from the Berks County Tax Collection Committee.

**Compliance Audit Report of the Seisholtzville Volunteer Firemen’s Relief Association for the Period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016**

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Compliance Audit Report of the Seisholtzville Volunteer Firemen’s Relief Association for the Period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016 and stated the report will be available for public viewing.

**Request for Approval to Exonerate Tax Collector to Collect Taxes – Real Estate (2017)**

Mike Sacks made a **motion** authorizing the Tax Collector’s request for exoneration to collect 2017 Real Estate Taxes totaling \$552.37; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Township Office Copier**

Steve Wyka provided the Board with an update relative to leasing a new copier versus an out-right purchase. Steve stated the lease option is more expensive than purchasing a new copier for the Township Office.

Mike Sacks made a **motion** authorizing the purchase of a new copier for the Township Office a total cost of \$6,440.00; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Township Environmental Advisory Council**

Vice Chairman Sacks stated that the current Chair of the Township Environmental Advisory Council will be stepping down and that the Council needs a replacement for the vacant position.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Mike Sacks made a **motion** to approve processing for payment, bills totaling \$204,475.21 and transfers totaling \$63,305.49 for the period of April 12, 2017 through May 23, 2017; Randy Sicher seconded that motion. All in favor.

Vote: Mike Sacks, Yes; Steve Wyka, Yes; Randy Sicher, Yes

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Sacks made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer A. Wassell-Bonser  
Township Secretary