

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 9, 2019

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: Michael Sacks, Chairman; Randy Sicher, Vice Chairman; Joyce Marin, Supervisor; Jill Smith, representing the Engineer; Jill Nagy, representing the Solicitor; Steve Wyka, Operations Administrator; Treasurer, David Fatzinger and Secretary/Administrator, Jennifer Wassell-Bonser.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Sacks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 11, 2019 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 of June 11, 2019 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 June, 2019 as presented for the Board of Supervisor's further review. The Treasurer's Report for the month of June, 2019 indicated \$1,206,071.02 total Township General Funds for the period; \$1,062,746.90 total Township Additional Funds for the period; for a total of \$2,268,817.92 in Total Account Funds for the period.

Mike Sacks made a **motion** accepting the Treasurer's Report for the month of June, 2019 subject to further audit; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Township Treasurer requested the Board's consideration of a routine schedule for signing Accounts Payable checks. Dave Fatzinger explained that the Township has been incurring finance and late fees due to late payments caused by not having a check signor available for longer periods of time in between meeting dates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Sacks also announced that the Board of Supervisors will be holding their second meeting on July 23, 2019 as previously advertised. Mike stated the Board will hold the informational meeting regarding on-site septic systems to provide updates on the Township's Act 537 Plan and that property owners in the affected area will be notified by mail regarding the upcoming meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dale Bortz, resident of The Meadows Development, addressed the Board of Supervisors regarding an incident that occurred at his home at 10:50 p.m. on July 3, 2019. Mr. Bortz explained that his neighbors were setting off fireworks and remains of them were found on his property, including a fuse which was found on his shed roof. Mr. Bortz stated that he was assaulted and verbally attacked with obscenities and ended up in the hospital when he attempted to speak with his neighbor about the issue. Mr. Bortz also stated that the State Police were called and interviewed him in the hospital. He stated he was charged with trespassing onto his neighbor's property and his neighbor was charged with harassment for the assault. Mr. Bortz confirmed that the incident has been reported to his attorney as well as the State Police and wanted the Township to be notified for the record as well since he is now under medical care. Mr. Bortz and his neighbors concluded by stating their concern of the response time by the State Police and requested the Township's assistance.

The Township Solicitor suggest that the Board of Supervisors may wish to send a letter of concern to the State Police Barracks as follow-up to the incident. Jill Nagy also suggested that the Township Zoning Officer cite the neighbor for setting off fireworks without the proper permit.

Randy Sicher made a **motion** authorizing the Township Solicitor to send a letter to the State Police regarding the incident and the Township's concern relative to their response time; Joyce Marin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Dan Fasanella, addressed the Board of Supervisors to follow-up with an issue he had previously reported with the drainage grate located near his driveway. Mr. Fasanella provided photos of the grate and explained that it continues to collect debris and an area of erosion is getting deeper even after the Roadcrew cleaned the grate out. The Township Engineer informed the Board that she and Scott Miller will be conducting site visits of various stormwater areas of concern through-out the Township. Jill Smith explained corrective measures were already discussed for this location and the Road Crew will be completing improvements to help transfer water from the area near the driveway and re-direct the run-off by cutting a swale across the road and pave the areas of erosion. Jill noted at other locations already reviewed DEP permits will be required to complete proposed improvements and that she will prepare cost estimates for the Board's further review.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Master addressed the Board relative to a stormwater issue on Stone Avenue, explaining that the Township Roadcrew has been very accommodating in helping to alleviate the problem. The Masters reported that a neighbor has been causing the stormwater runoff due to digging that they've been undertaking on their property. The Masters expressed their concerns and explained that the excess water is going onto their drainfield. They also explained that when they confronted their neighbors about the issue, the situation escalated and resulted in the State Police being called. The Township Engineer confirmed that digging/ land disturbance could constitute an E&S issue and that the Berks County Conservation District can be notified.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Native Plant Ordinance

The Township Engineer provided the Board of Supervisors with a draft Invasive Plant Ordinance for their further review and consideration for adoption. Jill Smith reviewed details of the Ordinance, including specific definitions of plantings and plant lists, noting that the list is susceptible to changes in the future. Jill also stated that the requirement for a “Certified Plant Expert” to renew the landscaping plan has been added and that this can be completed by Hanover Engineering during the review of land development and subdivision plans or LTL Consultants during zoning or building permit review, if they have a qualified person to complete the necessary review.

The Board of Supervisors suggested the Township Environmental Advisory Council review and provide comment on the Invasive Plant Ordinance as well. Jill Smith stated that a representative from her office will attend the upcoming EAC Meeting.

SEO REPORT

Chairman Sacks informed the audience that Cycle 1 of the Sewage Management Program is in effect.

LTL Consultants, Ltd. Report for June, 2019

Chairman Sacks reviewed the activities as noted in the Sewage Enforcement Officer’s Report for the month of June, 2019.

ZONING AND CODES ENFORCEMENT

LTL Consultants, Ltd. Report for June, 2019

Chairman Sacks reviewed details of the activities as noted in the Zoning and Codes Enforcement Report for June, 2019.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Agricultural Area Security District

Randy Sicher made a **motion** authorizing the Township Solicitor to advertise the opening period of the Agricultural Area Security District for the month of August; Joyce Marin seconded the motion. All in favor.

CDBG Grants

Joyce Marin made a **motion** authorizing the Township Solicitor to request the forms necessary for state allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding that may be available for helping with the Township’s Act 537 Plan; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

Collective Bargaining Agreement

Randy Sicher made a **motion** authorizing the Township Solicitor to co-ordinate transfer of the Township Staff Pension Plan per the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement; Joyce Marin seconded the motion.

Randy Sicher made a **motion** authorizing the adoption of the required Resolution for the Township’s Matching Contribution of the 457 Plan per the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement; Joyce Marin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Township Auditing Firm

The Township Solicitor stated the Board may wish to authorize her to begin soliciting Requests for Proposal for Township Audit services. The Board of Supervisors directed the Township Solicitor's Office to initiate the RFP process for the Township Audit Firm.

Topton Ambulance Service Financial Information

Joyce Marin made a **motion** authorizing the Township Solicitor to send a formal request to the Topton Ambulance Service requesting financial information required for the Township's budget season; Randy Sicher seconded the motion. All in favor.

RECREATION REPORT

Chairman Sacks announced the June Park & Recreation Commission Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2019, as previously advertised.

Park & Recreation Commission Director, Steve Wyka, informed the Board of Supervisors about plumbing issues at Pavilion 1 which occurred after the SwampStock Event. Steve explained that there have been major blockages in the bathrooms lately which then caused issues for those who rented the pavilions and ultimately resulted in refunding their reservation fee.

ROADMASTER REPORT

None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

As follow-up to recent storm water issues, Chairman Sacks stated the issue on Gap Road will be reviewed by the Township Engineer. Mike also stated the culvert on State Street at the Township Public Works Building has been cleaned out.

NEW BUSINESS

The Township Treasurer requested directive regarding the anticipated insurance premium payment for coverage of the Topton Sewer Lines. Dave stated the three-year coverage period deadline is approaching and if the approximate \$11,000.00 premium should be allocated. The Township Engineer stated she will follow-up regarding the inspections and report back prior to the premium date.

Steve Wyka requested the Board's directive regarding the renewal of the TrafficCloud Software Subscription for temporary speed limit sign. Steve stated the cost is \$1,500.00 for the software renewal. Randy Sicher made a **motion** authorizing the renewal at a total cost of \$1,500.00 for the TrafficCloud Software Subscription; Joyce Marin seconded the motion. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Randy Sicher made a **motion** to approve processing for payment, bills totaling \$118,933.30 and transfers totaling \$45,622.50 for the period of June 12, 2019 through July 9, 2019; Joyce Marin seconded that motion. All in favor.

Vote: Randy Sicher; Yes; Joyce Marin, Yes; Mike Sacks, Yes

ADJOURNMENT

Randy Sicher made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.; Joyce Marin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer A. Wassell-Bonser
Township Secretary