

September 23, 2015
East Bethlehem Township, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the East Bethlehem Township Commissioners was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at the Sewage Authority Building, 522 Front Street, Fredericktown PA.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Commissioner Paul Battaglini. The roll call was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Paul Battaglini, Brenda Bennett, Leisa Conklin and William Hess. Commissioner Mike Packrall was absent. Also present was Solicitor Lane Turturice and Secretary Maryann Kubacki.

Public Participation

Ron Revi, Fredericktown, commended the board for the work done on the railroad tracks at Mill Street by Millsboro Lumber. He added that the paving caused the road to be higher and that stone needs to be put on the sides of the road to prevent a car going off. He also asked if the board has considered reducing the speed on Rt. 88 near Calvary Chapel. Mrs. Conklin stated that the police department regularly monitors traffic in that area and keeps in touch with Calvary Chapel's administration regarding student safety and traffic. There have been no complaints about traffic and/or speeding in the area. Mr. Revi asked that the board consider reimbursing his neighbor Bill Giovanelli for his out-of-pocket legal fees for the appeal filed against the township over a zoning matter on Sandy Plains Road. The board took no action on this request.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Conklin motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2015 Regular meeting as received. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report

General Fund Receipts	\$50,357.64	General Fund Expenses	\$34,907.63
State Fund Receipts	\$ 3.16	State Fund Expenses	\$ 5,995.65
Municipal Share Receipts	\$ 1.28	Municipal Share Expenses	\$ 2,271.04
Act 13 Receipts	\$ 9.51	Act 13 Expenses	\$14,497.43

Ms. Bennett motioned and Mr. Hess seconded to accept the secretary's report and pay the bills as presented. The motion carried.

Tax Collector's Report

August 2015 Collections:

Real Estate \$2,310.03	Per Capita \$75.60	Fire Service \$119.46
Total Collections \$2,505.09		

Mr. Hess motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to accept the Tax Collector's Report as presented. The motion carried.

Solicitor's Report

The Solicitor stated that he will provide a copy of the garbage contract to the township office. The court action on the Hobo Ventures Slate Dump property is still pending. PennDot is waiting on a design for the intended use of the Ferry Landing before approving a lease agreement. He has been contacted by Kallie Lawver regarding the purchase of property in Clarksville. He stated that they do wish to go through with the purchase and have requested

several changes to the proposed sales agreement. Mr. Hess motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to accept the Solicitor's Report.

Police Department Updates

Mrs. Conklin presented the part-time police policy that she prepared. The policy was previously emailed to the commissioners for review. Ms. Bennett stated that some grammatical changes were necessary. Mr. Hess motioned and Ms. Bennett motioned to adopt the Part-Time Police Officer policy with changes. The motion carried. A letter was read from Ohio Attorney General Mike Dewine recognizing Chief Mark Pompe for his assistance in a criminal investigation that was conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Investigation. Ms. Bennett suggested that the board prepare a formal letter of endorsement to be presented to Chief Pompe with the letter. The board agreed.

Old Business

The draft Zoning Ordinance is being updated with suggested changes.

The township was awarded a grant from the Dirt and Gravel Road Center to perform drainage improvements on Bridge Avenue. The Conservation District Quality Assurance Board will be in touch with the township regarding changes to the grant application.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded that East Bethlehem Township apply for a grant through the Washington County Local Share Account to fund the Besco Area Act 537 Sewage Plan. The motion carried.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded that East Bethlehem Township pledge \$9,000 of Act 13 funding toward the Besco Area Act 537 Plan grant application. The motion carried.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded that East Bethlehem Township apply for grant funding to perform the asbestos abatement and demolition of the former Taylor Gas Station. The motion carried.

There has been no action on the walkway from the Municipal Parking Lot to the Township Building.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded that the township purchase a prefabricated restroom unit through the CoStars program for the DCNR Community Square Phase II Grant Project. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on current animal control. The secretary was instructed to contact neighboring municipalities to inquire about animal control.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded that the six structures being demolished using Community Development Block Grant Funding be liened for the cost of the demolition. The motion carried.

The secretary was instructed to write a letter to Tri County Municipal Authority Representative Mike Hughes inquiring about the replacement of the Mag Meter and the appropriation of funds from EBT to assist with the purchase.

New Business

Ms. Bennett stated that the paving on Lawrence Avenue is an excellent job. She inquired as to whether the Street Dept. can seal the seams on the roads that they paved.

Mr. Hess motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to apply for a road closing permit for the Halloween Parade on October 31, 2015 at 3:30PM. The motion carried.

Mr. Hess motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to schedule East Bethlehem Township Trick-or-Treat on Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 1:00PM to 3:00PM. The motion carried.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded to adopt the Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan as prepared. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on the issuance of Solicitation Permits in the township due to a recent canvassing of the neighborhoods by electric supply companies.

The demolition of 422/424 First Street in Vestaburg was completed by pursuing a fire escrow from State Farm Insurance that was not placed, as required by law, when the structure was lost in 2006.

Mr. Turturice stated that he received another call from the attorney for the Estate of Emil Faieta requesting return of the fire escrow being held by the township. He stated that the building has been sold. Mrs. Conklin stated that the building is boarded up. The solicitor recommended that the escrow be returned. Mrs. Conklin motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to return the Faieta Fire Escrow. The motion carried.

Mr. Hess motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to purchase helper springs for the Dodge Truck. The motion carried.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded that the solicitor be authorized to attend the tax assessment appeal hearing for Sam Smith, 3 Jefferson Avenue. The motion carried.

A letter was received from James Carnahan requesting that the township abandon or sell a paper alley adjoining his property so that he can install a handicap ramp. Mrs. Conklin motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded that the township will not abandon or sell the paper alley, but will grant permission for the installation of a handicap ramp for use by Mr. Carnahan. The motion carried.

Ms. Bennett motioned and Mrs. Conklin seconded to purchase 4 tires for the Peterbilt Truck . The motion carried.

Mr. Hess motioned and Mrs. Conklin seconded to approve the Non-Uniform and Police Pension Plan MMO's as prepared. The motion carried.

Other New Business

Mr. Hess will repair the electrical problem in the garage.

The township street department will attend a Winter Maintenance free webinar on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

The secretary will attend a free Floodplain Administration course on Friday, October 2.

The secretary suggested that the board consider forming a Safety Committee for the township which would result in a decrease in the Worker's Comp. policy.

Mr. Battaglini called for an executive session for legal and personnel at 8:20PM. The board returned to regular session at 8:55PM.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded to lay off street department laborer Ronald Earley effective September 24, 2015. A roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Bennett - no; Mrs. Conklin - yes; Mr. Hess - yes and Mr. Battaglini - yes. The motion carried.

Adjournment

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Maryann Kubacki, Secretary