

March 3, 2020

As advertised in the Standard Speaker newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Cory Gerhard called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. All were present.

The meeting was opened the meeting to the floor. Roy Christman from Towmensing Township spoke about gerrymandering. He represents a non-partisan group called Fair Districts Pennsylvania. They are trying to get rid of gerrymandering in Pennsylvania. In a democracy the way it ordinarily works is we, the voters, pick our legislators. When you have gerrymandering it works the other way, the legislators pick their voters. Democrats have done it when they're in power and republicans have done it when they're in power. Everyone seems to do it. One of the problems is that Pennsylvania is one of the worst gerrymandering states in the country. A number of states are now using a citizen's commission to draw the district lines, do it fairly but those states, a lot of those state have an initiative where they don't have to go through the legislature. It's very difficult to get the legislature to change the system that elected them. In Pennsylvania there are two bills, House Bill 22 & 23 and each of those bills has over 90 co-sponsors. We're close to a majority. In the senate, Senator Tom Killion, who is a Republican from Delaware and Chester Counties, he's introduced SB 1023 and Senator Lisa Boscola who is a Democrat from Lehigh County has introduced SB, Senate Bill 1022. Both of those bills are exactly the same as the House Bills. The way it works is the bills have to pass both houses exactly the same so they are mirror images of each other. What I'm here for is we're trying to get municipalities to adopt a resolution that supports these bills. So far Carbon County has adopted this. Summit Hill, Palmerton, Lehigh, Nesquehoning and Bowmanstown have all adopted it supporting fair districts and Towamensing, Lower Towamensing, Penn Forest and Mahoning Townships have adopted it. Lansford, Jim Thorpe and Franklin Townships are considering. The way it works usually is he or another representative of Fair Districts presents the Resolution at one meeting but you can't, I don't know if legally you can even adopt it. I have copies here. This is kind of a template that the other municipalities have adopted. Over 300 municipalities have adopted it and we're close to getting a majority now, I think we have a majority of the boroughs in Carbon County so I hope you consider it. I can come back next meeting if you have any questions. Thank you very much.

The minutes were approved with a motion from Cory Gerhard. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Robert Selert agreed. Vote of 3-0.

Ordinances and Resolutions – None

Reports of Officials and Committees –

Barry Isett & Associates – Permit/Zoning officer – Absent. 1. 2/5/2020 – Zoning inquiry, ordinance review and response to resident regarding the operation of a petting zoo. (30 MIN) 2. 2/12/2020 – Zoning inquiry, ordinance review and response to residents regarding a shed/fence and a single-family dwelling. Emailed applications. (30 MIN) 3. 2/14/2020 – Zoning inquiry, assisted resident with application and ordinance review for 2 pole buildings. Emailed applications. (30 MIN) 4. 2/21/2020 – 1408 Wetzel Run Drive permit application review. Need more information and conditions will apply. Continued correspondence with resident regarding “petting zoo” (numerous emails/phone calls) (1 HR) 5. 2/28/2020 – Reviewed zoning permit application for 325 E Railroad Drive. Zoning Inspections: 1408 Wetzel Run Drive (pass); 325 E Railroad Drive (pass) Emails regarding a barn/butcher shop (same man that wants a “petting zoo”) (1.5 HRS)

TOTAL HOURS: 4 HOURS --Phillip Prout

Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.- Code Enforcement Officer – Absent, no report.

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent, no report.

Old Business –Cory Gerhard made a motion to ratify the placement of the advertisement of the meeting schedule. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Robert Selert agreed. Vote 3-0 Options and costs for a township website were discussed. Robert Selert made a motion to have PSATS set up a website for the Township for a one-time set-up charge of \$200 and \$240 annual subscription fee. Cory Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry

Davis agreed. Vote 3-0 Stephanie will add to and make changes to the website as needed. Robert Selert provided more information about an agility agreement with PennDOT. He received an initial agreement and explained that the supervisors have to sign it for PennDOT to open the door for this from there end. It does not hold the township to participating. Once we sign the initial agreement they will prepare the figures and stuff for what we're proposing to trade, services. Initially, mowing along the state roads and receiving some type of road maintenance in return. We have to adopt by resolution to participate. Terry Davis made a motion to sign this initial Agility Agreement with PennDOT and Robert Selert seconded the motion. Cory Gerhard agreed. Vote 3-0 Stephanie is in the process of collecting quotes for a PA system and will have them ready for the April meeting. Cory stated that Robert S. went to a meeting with Weatherly regarding the ambulance services. He can explain it. Cory talked to Bob Y. about it. We need primary ambulance coverage. It doesn't matter who we go to so there is a couple options out there that we might wave it out to whatever best serves Packer Township residents. Robert S. talked about the meeting at the Borough of Weatherly which Borough Manager Harold Pudliner scheduled with Packer, Lehigh and Lausanne Townships. These 4 municipalities had previously been served by the Weatherly Ambulance Association which is no longer serving the communities because of manpower issues and are no longer a service provider. In the meantime Weatherly Ambulance had been using the services of Mahoning Valley and the Weatherly Ambulance called them up and said we don't need you anymore. When Mr. Pudliner found out he approached Mahoning Valley right away about continuing some kind of basic support and basic service to Weatherly Borough which they have been without an agreement. They are temporarily the assigned provider for Weatherly and technically for Packer right now too because there has to be someone there. In the meantime Harold reached out to APTS which is Lehigh Valley and they forwarded him an agreement for providing service also. It was reviewed by the Nanovics for Lehigh, Weatherly Borough and Tom Nanovic for Lausanne and they felt that the proposal from Mahoning Valley which was basically them looking to expand their service area. The one from Lehigh Valley was more restrictive when it comes to cancelling the agreement. They can cancel anytime, the municipalities would be required to show cause to do it so based on their recommendations they felt that it was better to go with Mahoning Valley. We are mandated by Township code to assign a provider. Terry asked how soon do we have to do this. Robert had seen in the advertisements today in the newspaper that Weatherly Borough is having a special meeting tomorrow night to assign Mahoning Valley because right now, and I don't know if they're there 24 hours but during the daytime Mahoning Valley does have a crew and right now they're stationing themselves by the Borough building. They can come inside if they want to get warm, get coffee and stuff like that. In the event that Mahoning Valley has to take the unit from here to service their other area in Mahoning Valley the mutual aide pact covers. I know coming home from that meeting either Rush or Ryan was coming in so mutual aide services are working. Lehigh Valley was interested but they don't have the manpower at this time and they are saying 3-6 months. These guys are right there now still providing service. I don't know who else you guys had in mind that you would think would provide better service than what we already have. Terry asked if it was any cost to the Township. Robert responded that there is no cost to the Township. They would like to be able to do a membership drive. Other than that there is no cost to the Township. There is a proposal from Mahoning that the Supervisors will review and take care of it next month. John Floyd asked about the membership drive. He wanted to know that if by chance they don't fulfill their obligation half way through the year and you change would the new assigned ambulance service honor the other 6 months? Bob S. responded that that is a question that is not answered. Mr. Floyd continued that they are a for-profit organization. Bob S. said no, Mahoning Valley is a 501. Lehigh Valley/APTS is a for-profit. Paul Bray said they used to be, the hospital owns it now. APTS was a for-profit ambulance. Lehigh Valley bought them out. Lehigh Valley Hospital, are they a not-for-profit hospital? Robert S. said in the paper the other day Salisbury Township where the main hospital is, is again challenging their non-profit status.

New Business –In lieu of Stephanie's attendance at the conference she requests approval to attend Secretary's Training in Drums on March 17th at a cost of \$75. She has attended it in the past and would like a refresher. On May 3rd in Hershey there is an advanced Quickbooks training at a cost of \$125. Robert Selert made a motion to approve the request of the Secretary to attend the trainings. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Cory Gerhard agreed. Vote 3-0 Terry Davis discussed the USDA request to inspect and treat Township owned property for spotted lanternfly infestation. Terry will sign the treatment release form for the PA Spotted Lanternfly Cooperative Eradication Program. Robert Selert mentions a letter received from Senator Turzai asking the

Supervisors to encourage everyone to participate in the 2020 Census.

A letter was received from the Greater Weatherly Ambulance Association stating that it would be closing immediately due to the lack of financial funding and personnel shortages. A letter from PennDOT stating that the liquid fuels payment of \$50,451.92 was deposited to the Township State Fund on March 2nd.

Cory Gerhard made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Robert Selert seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Cory Gerhard made a motion to sign and approve the checks drafted and Terry Davis seconded the motion. Robert Selert agreed. Vote 3-0

Robert Selert made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cory Gerhard seconded the motion. Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. A total of 6 residents attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Stolpe, Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer