

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at the township building. Cory Gerhard called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. All were present. An executive session held in January to discuss potential litigation was announced.

The meeting was opened to the floor. Brandon Bell, lead coordinator in Carbon County pushing the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary movement spoke. Palmerton just recently passed it, Bowmanstown passed it a month ago. He presented the ordinance and petition that each municipality will get. Cory asked Mr. Bell to elaborate on what they are looking to do regarding the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary. Mr. Bell explained that it protects gun owner rights. A couple big articles on the Federal side, HR 127 being the largest, there are things within it that most would view as unconstitutional. Virginia passed red flag laws last year that takes out the local asset that state agencies would have to enforce those laws. After talking with local law enforcement, they feel it's ideal because, for example, a gun confiscation, no one wants to think about it but if it happens it's going to be your state troopers pushing it and then they're going to need aid to your local police department. A lot of your local cops are like, they don't even want to take part in something like that. I'm prior military, I'm infantry, I'm trained on doing that kind of operation and what most local law enforcement communities have, they don't have the resources to do something of that level. So this kind of protects your law enforcement. As of now, Packer Township is the 13th municipality. There is a bunch of them that they're all looking at doing it, just kind of run through the process of dealing with the solicitors, getting it advertised and then passing it. Terry said now, our township has no law enforcement. Mr. Bell-So, in that case there's a resolution. I personally don't push it but Bowmans...all the towns, that's what they're doing as a first step. Resolution, in my opinion would be the best thing for you being that you don't have a law enforcement. Bob S. asked what would the resolution say? Mr. Bell responded that a resolution is essentially just a statement of support. He provided a generic resolution that he has drafted up but you can reach out to Mayor Snyder of Bowmanstown or Palmerton. I'm sure they'd be more than willing to give you what they actually put down on. Bob S. asked how many municipalities have already adopted the ordinance or the resolution. As of now it is just two. Penn Forest Township is looking to do it, their meeting is Thursday. Terry asks if this is country-wide. Mr. Bell-Country-wide, there's 1100 across the country. Some states did it on a state level. As of 1/15/21 there's 1165 counties, cities, towns have passed this across the country, 34 separate states. It's something that is definitely sweeping across the country. Bob S.-So, we are the 13th municipality you approached, you have 10 more to go. Mr. Bell-That is correct, yes. Thank you.

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

Ordinances and Resolutions – A fee for the UCC Joint Board of Appeals will need to be established. A fee of \$800 is suggested based on what the other member municipalities use. The Township's member for the Board is Tony Caso. The procedure for an appeal to the Board was discussed. When an applicant appeals the Code Officials decision, a hearing is scheduled and advertised. If the appeal is within the Township, the Township holds the hearing. This is the reason the Township need to have a fee in place and it can be set by resolution. Bob Selert made a motion to adopt by resolution a fee of \$800 for the UCC Joint Board of Appeals. Cory asked Attorney Yurchak if the \$800 is based on fees in our area. Atty. Yurchak responded that it is based on other municipalities to cover the cost of holding a hearing. Some of the other municipality fees are much higher. Cory asked Bob Y. if it would cover the cost of a hearing. Bob Y. thinks it would. Stephanie added if it doesn't go beyond one hearing and Tony added that of those he's attended, it was only one hearing. Cory Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Reports of Officials and Committees –

Barry Isett& Associates – Permit/Zoning& Code Enforcement officer- January-Created the public ad/posting for the upcoming Zoning Hearing Board hearing(s). Compiled all email threads and documents received from DEP

for the corresponding RTK request. Brenkman Dr - Permit application review. 2304 Quakake Rd - Permit application review. Create and format: Ad, Postings, Mailings for upcoming Zoning Hearing Board Meeting. (continued) Printed public notices for upcoming Zoning Hearing Board meeting. Laminated and posted in 2 conspicuous locations of each property. Advised on inquiry of vacant parcel - 112-45-A18.01. Began email correspondence with engineering firm regarding proposed subdivision along SR4010. Proposed Solar Farm inquiry from Sean Jeffrey, Environmental Consulting Technologies, for possible solar development. Advised on performance standards for solar farms and conditional use approval from BOS. Returned email to Jeff Donadi for new application of proposed Single-Family Dwelling. Compile/print documents for Zoning Hearing Board packets. Zoning Hearing Board 5:15pm meeting on 01/25/2021. UCC-Projects Created – 343221.001 – 217 Brenkman Drive – Above-Ground Swimming Pool & 343221.002 – 2304 Quakake Road – Detached Garage (>1000 ft²) -Additional details requested; Received construction details on 1/27. February-Correspondence with Solar Farm developer. Specific ordinance Sections and requirements were provided. Zoning permit Z21-001 issued with UCC permit: 343221.001 (N/A) Email and phone correspondence with resident regarding application for a new Single-Family Dwelling. Correspondence with engineering firm regarding proposed subdivision and the zoning procedure for requesting variances. Zoning application to be received shortly. UCC Permit: 343221.001 – 217 Brenkman Drive – Above-Ground Swimming Pool: 1. Plan Review completed and approved. 2. Approval memo sent to applicant for payment. 3. Permit issued. Permit: 343221.002 – 2304 Quakake Road – Detached Garage: 1. Plan Review completed and approved. 2. Approval memo sent to applicant for payment. 3. Permit fees explained to applicant.

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent. No report.

Citizen Fire Company-Annual Report received. Stephanie highlighted some items from the 8 page report. Of 110 calls 23 were to Packer. 120 man hours were utilized for Community Outreach such as prevention events, graduation, Birthday parades and funeral detail. 22 training/drills were held. Classroom training of 1152 hours. Some of that training included training in Hazmat, Vehicle Rescue and Emergency Medical Technician. Various duties such as decontamination, maintenance and air monitoring. Roster consists of 55 total members. New KME expected in June. New equipment, water supplies and training is expected to improve homeowner's Insurance Premiums within the Borough and Township. Station Lane Hydrant is fully operational with the assistance of the Supervisors. Hydrant on Wetzel Run Drive is a work in progress.

Zoning Hearing Board-Secretary Stolpe presented the Board's annual report which included the 2020 appointments from the re-organizational meeting and the conclusion of Wind Farm zoning hearings, 25 in total, with the decision to deny the requests on December 22nd.

Old Business –Cory stated that a fire agreement proposal with the Weatherly Borough was received and the Supervisors will counter that proposal with an agreement which Attorney Yurchak provided and will be reviewed and forwarded to the Borough hopefully this week.

Cory Gerhard made a motion extend the Declaration of Disaster Emergency 60 days from March 17th and Terry Davis seconded the motion. Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0

New Business – Bob Selert made a motion to accept the Packer Township/Carbon County Exoneration and Delinquent List for 2020 as presented by the Packer Township Tax Collector, Valerie Kane. Cory Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Cory Gerhard made a motion to participate in the electronic recycling events with the Borough of Weatherly on June 19th and September 9th at a cost of \$303. Vote 3-0

Cory Gerhard made a motion to authorize attendance of Bob Selert and Stephanie Stolpe to the PSATS Conference. Bob Selert seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

The conference will be held virtually this year.

Cory Gerhard made a motion to appoint Bob Selert as a voting delegate at the PSATS Conference. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0

A request of the Weatherly Area Community Library for a donation is discussed. Stephanie will research what had been donated in the past.

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m. A total of 4 residents attended the meeting in person and there were four Zoom attendees.

Respectfully submitted
Stephanie Stolpe
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer