

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at the township building. Cory Gerhard called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. All were present

The meeting was opened to the floor. Jeff Nyer discussed the bridge by his house. He said the only reason his house didn't get flooded out is because he didn't let them build the road up. The engineer was out last year and said the pipe was undersized. It is blocked. It has to be looked at. It takes water all the way up from Sherlock's and the highway. Past supervisors built up the road, made a dam and there is no provisions for drainage. Cory questioned whether a proposal had been drawn up. Terry and Bob responded no. Mr. Nyer says he has asked many times. Bob Selert stated this was a 500 year storm and Mr. Nyer responded that, bottom line, it has to be replaced. Bob said it will be on the list and that if the supervisors want to pave the road they will. Mr. Nyer said not if it's going to flood my house out, he will come after the supervisors for not allowing for drainage. He said he asked last year for it to not be paved. Bob responded that no paving was done last year. Mr. Nyer responded well, you better look into it because it was up to my house. It has happened before. Cory confirmed with Jeff that his concern is the pipe and it being undersized. Mr. Nyer says it has to get fixed before anything else is done to the road. Terry said it won't be paved over. It would be repaired first. Cory said the engineer will be contacted to conduct a study with the rain runoff. Mr. Nyer appreciates that. Paula Hoffman has a question about the position or what is the township doing about regarding derelict buildings? We have those two eyesores right out here at the intersection; one is falling down, the former restaurant. Is there any action being taken? Cory said no, the best way to handle that is to put in a formal complaint and it will be looked into. The Supervisors will not be going out to pick out which buildings fall into this category but formal complaints will be followed up on. Ms. Hoffman asked if any zoning or anything is in place that addresses abandoned buildings in the township. Cory responded that there is but a formal complaint has to be received for it to be looked into. Terry responded that the code officer would look into it and confirmed for Ms. Hoffman that demolition would be at the property owner's expense. Ms. Hoffman notified the Supervisors that some erosion control needs to be addressed at the construction going on at Tower Road realizing that this was an unusual rainstorm but with runoff from the state road and fields there is a lot of dirt and mud. The construction vehicles are using the turnaround for staging which is ok but it is getting tore up. Todd Hoffman added that there was nothing coming out of the pipe at Brenkman Drive where all the cinders are, during the rain. The Supervisors will contact PennDOT regarding this pipe. Paul Bray discussed the State of Emergency and damage to the Ochre Mill bridge. At 1:30 p.m. the County sent an email that they wanted damage estimates within municipalities by 4:00 p.m. submitted to Harrisburg. He responded to the County that it wasn't right to only give 2 hours. Cory, upon reviewing the State of Emergency, and is not sure he can justify signing it based on information we don't have and asked what damage did the Township have, was it assessed by Carbon Engineering? Paul said it would have to be assessed but the Declaration would have to be in place to received State funding to qualify. The Declaration doesn't do anything except if there is funding to qualify for. The Declaration and damage at Ochre Mill bridge was further discussed and it was decided to call Carbon Engineering to look at it. Paul asked if the Township had a template of an emergency declaration on file for future use. Cory asked Atty. Yurchak for his opinion on signing a Declaration prior to damage happening. Atty. Yurchak responded that if a Declaration was signed but there was no damage then you just wouldn't claim any damages if none happen. Cory asked if it is recommended to put a Declaration in place early and Atty. Yurchak said it would at least open the door in case there is damage. Cory asked what would be considered a "significant" storm, whether snowfall or rain, would it be up to the state and then we follow suit? Atty. Yurchak responds generally, yes they declared a State of Emergency in the state anyway, so the Township should follow behind them. Paul added that the County EMAs request the municipalities to do it and once they get enough municipalities to do it the County EMA notifies the State EMA, PEMA. There is a dollar amount that the County has to hit to qualify so once the State hits that dollar the governor will sign off on the State of Emergency. The Supervisors discuss the wording of the Emergency Declaration. Atty. Yurchak will reword it. Stephanie had attached to the Declaration documents which Paul had sent from EMA to help with damage assessment. Paul added that these are the types of things he learns about by going to the classes.

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

Ordinances and Resolutions – None. Discussion of Myers Drive/Pine Tree Lane resolution. Pine Tree Lane resident will be talked to about keeping Pine Tree Lane or changing to Myers Drive.

Reports of Officials and Committees –

Barry Isett& Associates – Permit/Zoning& Code Enforcement officer- Absent. Monthly report received, read and attached. Letter from code officer regarding Samler property will be reviewed. Cory-There should be an E&S Plan for the construction site on Tower Road and it will be looked into.

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent. June 25th – August 31st activity: New permit received, 2 test probes, site evaluation, one subdivision plan review.

Old Business –Ag Security Area tabled. Bob Selert is gathering information and paperwork for properties to be added. Bob provides an explanation of the Ag Security Area.

New Business –Federal Surplus Property Program is explained by Bob Selert. It doesn't cost the Township to belong but you have to belong to possibly purchase surplus equipment. John Floyd and Paul Bray provided examples of the Weatherly Borough and the Fire Department equipment purchases through the program. Bob Selert made a motion to join the Federal Surplus Property Program. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Cory Gerhard agreed. Vote 3-0

Terry Davis made a motion to approve a Hometown Hero Banner Campaign for 2022. Bob Selert seconded the motion and Cory Gerhard agreed. Vote 3-0

Correspondence regarding an existing surface mining permit for Silverbrook Bank Operation in Kline and Packer Townships that has been corrected and there is 30 days to appeal. Atty. Yurchak will review. The American Legion Auxillary asked to have their Veterans Day Dinner and pizza sales included in the Township newsletters and website. A letter was received from Liberty stating MET towers will be removed.

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:3 p.m. A total of 6 residents attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Stephanie Stolpe
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer