

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 3, 2022 at the township building. Robert Selert called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. All were present.

The meeting was opened to the floor. John Floyd reported that Citizens Fire Company #1 took possession of the new 2022 Engine Rescue on December 10th and has put it in service for Weatherly and Packer Township. It took two weeks to put it in service and train on it. It is now responding to calls. The final price was \$732,000. The fire company added several thousand dollars of extra equipment after that. Paul Bray added there was a \$10,000 reduction in price and the year was changed because it wasn't delivered on time. Operators were trained to pump at Hinkle Village.

Robert Selert made a motion to approve the minutes. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Susie Gerhard agreed. Vote 3-0.

Ordinances and Resolutions – None

Reports of Officials and Committees –

Barry Isett & Associates – Permit/Zoning & Code Enforcement officer- Absent. Zoning 2/3/2021 - Phone call with resident regarding roof-mounted solar panel installation and permit requirements. 12/7/2021 - Prepared monthly report for November and forward to township. 12/13/2021 - Compiled ZHB application packet; Attendance of Zoning Hearing Board meeting. 12/14/2021 - Field observation of 55 Stony Hill Road; photographs taken. 12/20/2021 - Phone calls to each affected property owner regarding complaint on Hudson Drive.

Email composed/sent to Stephanie for distribution to Supervisors. 12/29/2021 - Approved and issued zoning permit for 577 Packer Drive – SFD 12/30/2021 - Received application from James Grega for Amendment to Zoning Map; ZHB Decision letter received from Solicitor Mousseau (Lenhardt)

UCC – 2304 Quakake Road (Res. Pole Building), Final Building Inspection – Pass, no comments. Tower Road (Single-Family Dwelling) – Rough inspections performed (B,E,P,M) – Pass with comments. Packer Drive (Single-Family Dwelling) – Permit approved and issued. – Footer Inspection – Pass. – 312 Windy Oaks Lane (Roof-Mounted Solar PV System) - Application received and sent for project creation; Plan Review by Dave Brodhead, MCP

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent. -1 new application, 1 test probe, 2 perc tests, 1 site eval.

Old Business – Bob Selert discusses that the engineer has gone over the specs for the bridge on Ochre Mill Road and did road inspection on Wetzell Run Drive regarding paving for the summer. Sand Spring and Round Head were looked at. We are waiting on comments on the road project before we proceed. Terry said this can't be advertised until we get more information and that the engineer mentioned that we won't get as much done as last year because of the prices of oil and asphalt being up. We'll do what we can. There is some work the Township can do to save money which the engineer explained.

New Business – Terry Davis made a motion to appoint Bob Selert as delegate to the Carbon County Tax Collection Committee. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0 No alternate was delegated.

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

Susie 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 letter was received from Attorney Robert S. Frycklund RE: Alleged logging activities in and upon tax-exempt Hazleton City Authority properties. The letter is in response to the Township's inquiry

which was prompted by a phone call from a resident. Bob Selert explained that removal of properties from tax-exempt status is a lengthy process. The letter advises the Supervisors to discuss the matter with the township solicitor. Atty. Yurchak explained the issue of whether they would remain non-profit for that parcel would require an appeal by the Township challenging their non-profit status which likely would have to go before the court or a judge because he can't see the Board of Assessment changing the non-profit status themselves. Bob Selert asked how we gather information that the HCA is taking logging proceeds and turning it into the City of Hazleton. Atty. Yurchak advises to request their minutes under the Right-To-Know law. Donald Yanac asked if the Township has asked for money or a donation instead of going through a formal process. Paul Bray responded that they charged the Township for to fire hydrants and one is still not usable. Atty. ~~Selert~~ ^{Yurchak} suggested the option of requesting a payment in lieu of taxes. Bob Selert made a motion to authorize Atty. Yurchak to write a letter to ask for payment in lieu of taxes and to specifically say that we are going to challenge their tax-exempt status. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Susie Gerhard agreed. Vote 3-0 Paul Bray asked if an ordinance should be in place for future logging because the logging companies are prepared to pay that, we don't have an ordinance so they don't pay us. Atty. Yurchak says we had a rough draft at one point but didn't move forward. Paul continued that there has been logging started on Brenkman Drive. Bob Selert explains his personal stance is that they have to be able to pay their taxes somehow. It's been in the family 50 years or more so as long as they're not polluting any streams and not damaging any roads. If an E&S plan is in place and they want to log, that's their right. Dirt should be kept of the road and no safety hazards are created. Any landowner should be able to do that. When looking at HCA today, that's a whole different issue because they are supposed to be a non-profit. Their business is to provide potable water for the City of Hazleton and I see nowhere where the logging that they are doing is to benefit water quality. Atty. Yurchak asked if they are using any township roads for transport. They are not. If they go up behind Kenny Sency they will be on Township roads then and the large vehicle ordinance will require bonds. The Supervisors will look into a logging ordinance again.

An email was received on January 3rd from Catherine Grega resigning as an auditor. This leaves only Donny Yanac Atty. Yurchak advised that she offered her resignation but it is not official until the Supervisors accept it. He said to see if you can come up with somebody and call a special meeting. Bob Selert made a motion to accept the resignation of Catherine Grega as township Auditor and Terry Davis seconded the motion. Susie Gerhard agreed. Vote 3-0

A letter from Wells Fargo with a check for \$10,000 from the Joe Andreuzzi Family Foundation was received today. Stephanie will provide Susie contact information so a letter of appreciation can be sent. Bob Selert said Stony Lonesome was at the park grubbing and asked what the plan is. Tom Gerhard had talked to them. Susie said she was told they were coming in to cut by the lines. She doesn't think they went near the trees by the power lines. Paul said thees are the cable and phone lines. Bob asked why they asked for permission to cut trees at the park. Paul said they were probably talking about the old fire house property, they thought that was township property. There are no power lines on the township park and no place for them to spray.

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m. A total of 6 residents attended the meeting.
Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Stolpe, Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer