

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at the township building. Bob Selert called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. All were present.

Bob Selert announced that an executive meeting was held with Barry Isett & Associates to discuss personnel matters and potential litigation.

The meeting was opened to the floor. Paul Bray provided the breakdown of Township fire calls as requested: 5 motor vehicle accidents, 2 car fires, 2 house fires, 2 automatic fire alarms, 1 wire down, 3 medical, 3 brush fires. Paul asked how many township residents utilize the electronic recycling in Weatherly. He said he had gone twice but they wouldn't take his items because they were full and if township residents can't take things to be recycled we don't need to pay to have the service. This was last year and the year before. The borough talked about it at their meeting. (The Township paid \$303 to participate) Paul says that he was there 5-10 minutes after they started and they were full already.

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

Ordinances and Resolutions – None

Reports of Officials and Committees –

Barry Isett & Associates – Permit/Zoning & Code Enforcement officer- Absent. 2/1/2022 - Phone conversation with Jason Samler regarding the proposed reconstruction of commercial building, created monthly report for January 2022. 2/2/2022 - Phone conversation with Paul and Alexis Sholtis regarding nuisance properties along Stoney Hill Rd. and Oak Hill Rd, left voicemail to property manager requesting a phone call, phone conversation with Larry Suravicz regarding subdivision requirements, Larry insists that Parcel ID: 120-45-A12 was sold to Stephen Hinkle. 2/8/2022 - Phone conversation with Solicitor Yurchak regarding proposed commercial construction; phone conversation with Supervisor Bob Selert regarding upcoming meeting. 2/10/2022 - Review email sent to Jason Samler regarding proposed new construction at 1458 Hudson Drive. 2/11/2022 - Phone call with property owner of 1752 Hudson Drive regarding removal/demolition of manufactured home to replace with accessory living unit for elderly family. Discussion/review by township SEO will be required. 2/15/2022 - Follow-up to complaints along Stoney Hill Road/Oak Hill Road and Quakake Road, spoke with property manager of Kamila Farms LLC regarding specific properties. Site inspection of 55 Stoney Hill Road performed; spoke with tenants of 55 Stoney Hill Road and observed/photographed property and inside of accessory structures. Complaints are not valid. 5565 Quakake Road was observed and photographed; a "tiny home on wheels" was erected previously and has since tied the plumbing into the existing septic system. 2/17/2022 - Reviewed inquiry for Parcel ID: 112-45-A36 (1752 Hudson Drive) regarding demolition of manufactured home and proposed new use. 3 existing on-lot septic systems noted and emailed to Brior Environmental for their review of continued/upgraded use. 2/21/2022 - Uploaded pictures from various site observations to server folder: 5565 Quakake Road, 55 Stoney Hill Road, 2006 Quakake Road. 2/22/2022 - Courtesy letter composed for 5565 Quakake Rd regarding septic and zoning approval prior to the accessory structure being constructed and tied to septic; Composed letter to Supervisors regarding complaint of 55 Stoney Hill Road and attached photographs; Courtesy letter composed for 2006 Quakake Rd regarding the change-of-use prior to zoning approval. 2/28/2022 - Submitted 2021 DCED Annual Report to PEMA. UCC – 250 Tower Road (Single-Family Dwelling)
 2.22.2022 – Insulation Inspection – Pass
Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent, no report.

Old Business – Bob has seen nothing new on the Federal Surplus site for a good used truck. He and Terry looked at a truck Butler Township purchased a year ago and are waiting for the specs. Further discussion is needed. The Township is waiting for correspondence from the school district to see if they want to go on as a

signatory to appealing the tax-exempt status for the logging operations of Hazleton City Authority. Susie Gerhard made a motion to ratify the selection of BerkOne as the new tax bill printer. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0 Current charges are approximately \$420 per year and BerkOne will be approximately \$460/year. There were issues getting the supplement tax bills taken care of with the current printer.

New Business – Bob Selert attended the Tax Collection Committee meeting on February 23th. The business before us is to give permission to vote to retain Berkheimer who is proposing a 10 year contract with no increase of their collection fee of 1.27%. If the other municipalities and the school districts decide that they want to solicit other bids; we'll have to move forward with that. Susie Gerhard made a motion to retain Berkheimer. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0 Terry asked if there was any zoning for setbacks of mailboxes. Atty. Yurchak will check. Bob and Terry said some interfere with the plowing. Paul added that some, if we measured, are in the township right-of-way. Paul gave an example on Wallace Way of one he measured that the right-of-way was 2-3 feet behind the mailbox. Atty. Yurchak stated if they are in the township right-of-way you can make them move it. Paul also talks about a pipe where the resident said he dug up the driveway but he didn't. Paul measured it, the resident has a pipe that is in the right-of-way. Paul says the resident told him the township engineer told him to put the pipe in that spot when he built the house. He says no water ever runs through the pipe. Bob responds that most of those houses were built before the township assumed responsibility for that road so he disagrees that the township engineer told him to put that pipe there. The resident told Paul he has paperwork on it and Bob would like to see it. Paul has asked the engineer to inform people doing new construction where the right-of-way is. Terry added that the right-of-way is 16 and one half feet from the center of the road. Bob added that on Wallace Way the front is different from the back. He believes there is a 50 foot cart-way through the back. We'd have to look at the subdivision plans and approval to see. Paul said at the back the house there put markers right next to the macadam. The fire department can't make the swing without running over the post. Susie had a resident bring her an invoice for a fire they had and asked if they are supposed to be getting charged for that since the Township pays the fire company for fire protection. Paul responded that the insurance is charged. Susie responded that the insurance denied the claim and Paul said then they won't be billed. They were billed \$4000 and it says the owner is responsible to pay it. Paul said apparently if the insurance denied it and he's a township resident, he doesn't have to pay the bill. Atty. Yurchak thought that sounded right but wasn't certain. He doesn't know why they would get a bill anyway. It is from the PA Fire Recovery Service. Paul explained it is the billing company the fire department uses. Bob asked if he's tried to contact anyone at the fire company. Susie said he brought it right out to her. Susie will call the fire chief to discuss. Paul gave an example of the school being billed for an alarm they should not have been billed for and explained it is a new billing company and they are working the bugs out with them. Susie told Paul to give the chief her number to call her after their officers meeting tonight. Paul compared the billing of fire services to how it works with the ambulance in that if they don't have your insurance information they are going to bill you. Then you would turn it into your insurance in case they didn't get it from the hospital. If a patient is a member of the ambulance they didn't get a bill. It's up to us if we collect it but they can't come back and say we billed you but we didn't bill you. So a bill is created for everybody and gets turned into your medical insurance when you use the ambulance. Depending on the situation sometimes you can't get the insurance off the patient so the ambulance usually doesn't worry about that until later. A bill gets sent to the house, when they call about it they are told we need your insurance to submit. Whatever the insurance pays that covers it. Non-profit volunteer ambulances except the insurance payment and if they are a member they don't go after them. If they are not a member they try to work something out to pay the difference. The patient is responsible if their insurance sends the payment to them and is responsible for their deductible. If they don't pay the ambulance then the hospital or doctor will bill you. Lori Floyd of Wallace Way came to find out what the plan is for the roads. She has roads that are crumbling in front of her house. Potholes from the

beginning of Wallace Way to the end are very deep and would take a tire out. She describes driving down Wallace Way to avoid potholes. She understands it is winter but wants to know what can be done, what is the plan. It has been festering for several years. Last year or the year before, sections were patched but the places that weren't patched are terrible. This winter has been horrific. She lives on the S corner. A plow driver took out two feet of her grass two ice storms ago. It is beyond the road, they took out the whole corner and took out the front. Bob responded that Wallace Way is the newest constructed road in the township. Lori responded that her home was built in 1987. Bob reiterates that is the newest constructed road. We had the engineer up and looked at roads that were in worse condition and we will do what we need to do to make the roads passable. With the weather the way it is we'll get out and fill the potholes with modified this week. Paul explained how they will be filled in and what happens when water gets in and freezes. Terry talked about the cost of paving and the oil prices being high so we aren't going to get a lot of paving done. The engineers are looking at it but you can't go very far on \$100,000. We could raise taxes but we don't want to do that to people. Lori said she's just asking can we at least patch what we can patch sooner than later. Terry said yes we will. Lori said they are paying a premium to live where they live in her opinion and they love it there. What they live with is just uncalled for. Paul concurs that the spot is bad and they probably scraped a lot of it up with the plows. During the nice days water got in under the cold patch, froze and lifted it. When the plows came along they were leveled. Lori said she has macadam on her grass. Paul said all those holes were patched prior to winter and the water gets underneath and lifts it. Lori asks isn't there a better solution than just patch. She doesn't understand what the options are, what are the options and how do we get there. Terry says if someone wins the lottery and donates a \$1,000,000. The road was never put in right. Lori says she knows, she has heard that from day one. Terry said the perfect way to fix it is to put it in right and this township does not have the money to do that. Lori said she is not asking for that. I'm asking for a bearable, drivable road. That's all I'm asking. So if it's patch or millings, she is just asking for a step above what we have now. Paul said that is what we have to use now because of the weather. They are not making hot tar until probably April when the weather breaks and they know it's not going to freeze anymore the plant will open for hot tar. That's when we pave the roads. We patch the roads with the hot tar in the summer time. When we had the extra money we went around and did 35 holes one year and 25 last year. Lori knows they have, she's seen them doing it. Paul continues that when we cut up there, on Wallace Way especially, when I cut up there and we took out the bad, I was hitting dirt. You shouldn't be hitting dirt, the road is not thick enough. Lori agrees and says you are exactly right, it wasn't put in right from day one but that is not today's discussion. Today's discussion is what do we do between now and summer to better this or you're going to have more people here complaining because people have had it. I don't know what else to do. People drive over driveways. The plows rip out, it's just horrible and I'm trying to understand why it happens like that and what we can do to improve that road even if it's temporary. What can we do to improve the road and it sounds like patching is an option or milling but when can that begin? Terry responded this week Paul said. Paul says I've been, I was out, and they had me out filling. He has modified and millings in the back. It is frozen but he breaks it up and takes it out. Terry replies that is another problem. Lori agrees it is not the best time to do it. Further discussion took place regarding a hole that was filled in last week and re-opened. Lori reiterates that it is a temporary solution and she knows intentions are good. Bob again explains that until it stops freezing and thawing everything is going to be temporary and then we can get out there and tamp it down when the conditions are right that it won't fill with water again. Lori says the next 3 days will be in the 60's. What do you need? You've got a break right now. Bob says we'll do what we can. Paul will be up there tomorrow. Lori says it's not just her. She's talked to several people in the development and its bad driving to try to get between the holes. There are holes beyond her property at the end of Wallace way which are very deep. Hers are not as bad but maybe they are not in the mood to come out and vent, I don't know, I am. She questions whether the supervisors have been out on the road to see the condition and Bob answered that he has been on all the township roads at least once in the last 4-5 days. I wish we could

go back 20 years, I pleaded with my uncle to not take the road over because it wasn't built right. Lori now knows why so many trees were put on that corner because people come barreling down there and barely take that corner on two wheels. And that's why there is a ton of trees there and when a plow comes down and I know it's not Paul, she was ready to run up and say what you are doing. So maybe it's other people's property too, I don't know but we take care of our property and we're very meticulous about things so when things like this happen, it's not right, it's not fair. What do you do about it? Terry-And the township right-of-way is 16.5 feet from the center of the road onto your property. That's our right-of-way. If that gets tore up, that's ours. Lori-So are you saying that, too bad, so sad, that's ok? Is that what you're saying? Bob-Measure the road and it will show you right where you're at. Lori-I'm going to take a stick and measure 16.5 feet off the center of the road, I'm home tomorrow, you show me because I would like to know where that line is. You know what I'm doing next? I'm putting nice big-ass rocks right around that S curve and I'm going to make sure they are 16.5 feet from that center of the road. Terry-Your points taken. Lori-Yeah, that's what I'm going to do cause I've had enough.

Correspondence-A dividend check for \$1561 and letter from DGK was received. Bob asked about an email received from DGK about legislation to increase limits for municipal responsibilities. Stephanie will forward the email to Bob to review.

Discussion took place about purchasing a Hometown Hero Banner that honors all services for the park. Bob would sooner see a banner at the Township building than the park. Paul recommends putting the pavilions lights on a timer. He also mentions eliminating the light and putting an LED up instead. Susie said that stuff can be done and taken out of the park fund. Paul says the employees can do this, an electrician is not needed. The supervisors agree on making these changes to the lighting at the park. Bob asked Stephanie to find out how much the lighting is. Whether the lighting is mercury vapor, halogen or LED is also discussed. Motion detection can be installed. Bob says we'll have to have PPL remove the light. We'll go up and look at it. Paul asked about the 4 benches and a picnic table. Susie-A student at CCTI made them for an Eagle Scout service project and they were donated to the park. Paul asked if they need to be added to the insurance. Susie said they should be on the insurance and Terry questions why they have to be insured. Atty. Yurchak said if you need to add them just call the insurance and they will add them. Paul goes around and checks on things so when he sees stuff like this he asks the supervisors about it in case they are not aware of it and what is going on. Bob mentions the bull-dozer is gone, piles of brush is still there and it looks like someone is putting up some kind of a billboard. Susie informs him that was in the woods, it was there. They are supposed to take the trees down because it needs to be clear. The trees are supposed to be removed, leveled and grass is to be planted. Bob Selert makes a motion that a banner honoring all services is placed at the Township building and another is placed at the park and will be paid for out of the park fund. The banners are \$165 each. That price included hardware. Susie seconded the motion and Terry Davis agrees. Vote 3-0

Susie Gerhard made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Terry Davis seconded the motion. Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0 Bob Selert made a motion to sign and approve the checks drafted and Susie Gerhard seconded the motion. Terry Davis 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 6:41 p.m. A total of 4 residents attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Stephanie Stolpe
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer