

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

An executive meeting was held on Wednesday to discuss the paving projects and the contracts associated with it.

The meeting was opened to the floor. Coleen Gerhard asked how residents will get in and out during the Ochre Mill Road bridge work and asked about the timeframe of the work. Loren Salsman of Carbon Engineering was in attendance and addressed the Board and the residents in regards to this project. It is unclear whether the funding for this project will be released for this year or next, regardless; he says it will be about 4-5 months to get the permit if it goes through the first time. If they bring up wetlands or other types of surveys that could throw a wrench in it but typically resubmittal doesn't take long. It could be done this year if the funding is there. He will touch base with the County tomorrow. As far as temporary access, we can permit a pipe to go around the construction and over the creek. It will cost a bit more but since it is a limited access road, there is not much choice in that. Coleen asked if the temporary access will hold a fire truck and Loren responded that it will. A 4 or 3 foot pipe will need to be obtained and once it's backfilled with gravel it will hold traffic load. Terry asked if there is room to do that. There is discussion about where the temporary access would be. Bob responded that it would be on the North side of the road, the old bridge would be removed and a new box culvert would be installed. Jan Grover asked about the type of bridge that will be installed. Loren explained that it is an aluminum box culvert which has a bottom on it and is set on a bed of gravel, it is pre-assembled and set in place. Unless the creek is dry, it will have to bypass pump. Josh Halecky asked what would happen if it fails before it can be replaced. Loren and Bob talked about emergency approval with DEP. Loren said if flooding happens again to call Mike Seams who was down last time. He can write an emergency permit and a temporary pipe can be put in. Bob explained that the new bridge will be 8 foot wide at its base and 4' clear. Paul Bray questioned the size of the new bridge. His concern is that it is big enough for a fire truck. Bob said and Loren agreed that it will not be approved unless it will accommodate two lanes of traffic. Loren-We will shoot for 22' between the headwalls, 9' lanes and 2' shoulders. If we can do that we will not need narrow bridge signs. We'll get a plan once it's laid out. If funding is there we can get it in towards the end of the year. Bob said that David Bodnar told him they were waiting on his designs so they can get the bid out. Loren will call them in the morning. Terry-The plan is that Township employees will assemble the sections. Susie asked and Bob explained that an excavator will move it into position once it is assembled. The contractor will do this part of the work. We don't have a machine that can work from both sides. Jan Grover asked how much the township will save by the Township employees assembling the sections versus the people who engineered the bridge. Bob was told approximately \$20,000. Terry-Josh gave permission to assemble in the upper part of his parking lot. Paul asked how the township employees would be paid and Loren responded that they are exempt from prevailing wages. Jan Grover said if engineers need to come through the access road that is fine but for general traffic it won't work because of the mud when it rains and it's a one lane access. Loren said the pipe is fine but the second bridge will need improvements. It is not feasible and we'll need to stick with the pipe. Alicia Nyer asked about the potholes and said her yard gets flooded and makes a big mess. Bob responded that we didn't allow for more paving. Right now we have an estimate to do .9 miles at \$110, 000. And that's probably in worse condition than this road. We are working on trying to secure rollers to do some hot patching but it's a slow process. There is a PennDOT auction next week and he wants to get on the website to see if they have any small rollers. As far as the roads, there are other roads in worse shape than Ochre Mill. I think there is paving in part of it that we asked to do down pass where it's all broken up in front of JC's because we didn't want to put another culvert in there. Jason Maday said the road wouldn't be that bad if they didn't plow when there is only an 8<sup>th</sup> inch of snow on it. The plow rips it up. Susie responded that then when they don't plow we hear it that they aren't plowing. Jan volunteered to fix the potholes with his tractor to get them decent with millings. Paul said he got cold patch and talked about patches done at Wallace Way. John Floyd talked about heating the tar up. Jan said if the Township will get to it he won't bother. Terry said give us till June. Paul responded that hot tar is cheaper than cold patch.

Hot tar will last longer. He explained the process. Cold patch is temporary. Paul suggested to tar and chip all the roads to stop them from coming apart and then go around and fill what can be filled in until we get the money for paving a road. If the road was tarred and chipped it seals the patch underneath. Jan asked if there was a program you can work with PennDOT and Bob responded that we tried but they did not respond.

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

**Ordinances and Resolutions** – Atty. Yurchak provided a sample of abandon and unkempt property ordinances. Bob Selert discussed the topic which was addressed at PSATS conference. It is a losing deal. Carbon does not have an abandoned and blight fund. Atty. Yurchak asked them to do it but Wayne Nothstien said he will never vote for it. All they have to do is tack on a little bit of a fee onto any instrument recorded at the Recorder of Deeds office to create a blight fund for anywhere in the County. Susie said of all counties Carbon should do this.

### **Reports of Officials and Committees –**

Barry Isett & Associates – Permit/Zoning & Code Enforcement officer- Absent. 4/1/2022 Spoke with Frank Colangelo about a Zoning permit that he received in September 2018 for a garage. Told him that I will follow up with Stephanie to see if we can pull the old application and I will talk to Phil on April 4th as this permit was prior to Barry Isett. Sent email to Stephanie asking for old Zoning application. 4/4/2022 Spoke with Bob Selert concerning 1867 Wetzel Run Dr. I told him that I sent a courtesy letter and will contact property owner this week. 4/5/2022 Spoke with Giovanni Dimaio the owner of 1867 Wetzel Run Dr. We spoke about the trash containers from County Waste and he also stated that a bear and 4 cubs were in the trash last week. He is waiting for more containers and is removing the trash from the property. He expressed displeasure that my courtesy letter called his vehicles Non-Operational Vehicles. I told him that I was citing from the ordinance and that the vehicles would need to be registered. 4/6/2022 Sent Mr. Dimaio an email asking for a list of the vehicles on the property and his Plans. I also addressed what Jamie Decker stated in an email from Stephanie about them operating an Automobile repair business. I told him that he would need to apply for a Zoning permit and that it would be denied, and he would have to appeal to the Zoning Hearing board as that is not allowed in a C-1 Zoning District. 4/7/2022 Received an email from Stephanie concerning my March report about my inspecting 1458 Hudson Dr. in error and that I was to look at 1416. I forwarded the original list that I received that stated 1458 on it and that I would look at 1416 next week. 4/12/2022 Review of email regarding proposed cell tower colocation, Phone call and voicemail left to applicant; review email of previously issued zoning permit (Colangelo garage) sent to the secretary and solicitor, phone call and voicemail left to applicant; updates received from secretary regarding property violations (5565 Quakake Road) with owner contact information. 4/13/2022 Site visit to 1416 Hudson Dr. as request. Noted numerous unregistered vehicles on property and composed a courtesy letter. I did not send. Will follow up with Phillip Prout. I also noted container vehicles on the 1458 Hudson Dr. property which are not part of a Landscaping business. Will follow up with Phillip Prout. Site visit to 1867 Wetzel Run Rd, noted that the garbage is being removed, but there is still garbage and mattresses on the porch. Vehicles are still on the property, will follow up with a phone call. Received a phone call from Don Stump 785 Brenkman Dr. concerning installing a pool. I advised that he would need a zoning and building permit and would need the cost to calculate the building permit fees. Phone call with property owner (Colangelo) regarding the expired zoning approvals and permit process. 4/15/2022 Email to applicant (Frank Colangelo) explaining permit expiration and erroneous permit issuance; provided Zoning Ordinance and permit application for reference. 4/18/2022 Phone call with resident regarding roof replacement and permit requirements. 4/19/2022 Phone call with property owner (582 Quakake Rd) regarding permit requirements and process for installation of an above-ground swimming pool. Spoke to Ronald Hoffman, he is Barbara Hoffman's husband. Barbara owns 5565 Quakake Rd. Barbara has dementia. Ron made the 8-hour trip from North Carolina after receiving our courtesy letter and was upset at the properties condition. He said the tenant has disconnected the sewer

and tenant was supposed to dismantle the accessory building and was in the process of removing the trailer frame. He also stated that he gave the tenant two months to vacate the property and clean up. They will probably put the property up For Sale. I told him that I would be checking up on the property and keep him informed. Spoke with John Floyd 566 Brenkman Dr. Mr. Floyd states that he is 79 years old and does not run a business from the property. Trees and logs are used for personal fireplace. He stated that the Blazer and Van will be removed soon and that the dump truck is going to a repair facility to get brake lines. We agreed to keep an open line of communication. 4/20/2022 Left message for Giovanni Dimaio 1867 Wetzel Run Rd. 4/21/2022 Phone call with property owner (670 Wallace Way) regarding zoning permit application and variance application processes. 4/22/2022 Emailed permit procedure and application to property owner; application and overhead GIS map mailed to applicant from Wyoming Valley Office. Observation of 1867 Wetzel Run Rd and noted that some vehicles have been removed from the driveway and trash is getting less noticeable. Two mattresses were still noted on the porch. I left a second voicemail message asking if he received my email from April 6th and if he had any questions. I also emphasized that we need to keep an open line of communication or that I would be forced to send a Notice of Violation. I also did a site visit to 5565 Quakake Rd. The building is gone and the Sewer pipe is disconnected, and the hole is covered in. The junk is still there. I called Ron Hoffman and told him of the progress. He said that the tenants father got involved and believes that it will be cleaned up. I told him that I will stop by in a week or so and that I will keep him updated. 4/25/2022 Receipt of Colangelo application. 4/28/2022 Phone conversation with Solar SME regarding permit application requirements; email response to be sent 4/29 with specific instructions. 4/29/2022 Email to solar representative with specific local design criteria, permit applications, and application fee instructions. Follow-up email to Qualtek Wireless regarding cell-tower colocation and specific permit application and documentation requirements. Did a drive by of 566 Brenkman Dr, Vehicles are still there. 1416 Ine 1458 Hudson Dr. no changes. 1867 Wetzel Run Rd. a mattress and box spring are noted on the porch and it appears that two vehicles have been removed. 5565 Quakake Rd. debris still throughout the property. Took photos and will check all Properties in Mid- May. Terry clarified that there is no new cell tower go up in the Township but that the company wants to add antennas to an existing tower. Supervisors questioned the inquiry into solar. Stephanie confirmed the inquiry was about installing solar panels on a residential roof. It is not for a solar farm. Paul Bray asked about the dumpsters at Meadow Landscaping being a part of the business. Meadows was in the paper on 4/6 that they got Meadow Container incorporated, they are now a container company. It was advertised in the paper. They got their license from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State to operate that business. Bob Selert-We will need that to pass on. Stephanie added that Phillip Prout had emailed the company earlier today to address this explaining that he would have to submit a zoning permit application. **PA UCC: 577 Packer Drive – SFD (343221.010) 4/13/2022 – ICF Waterproofing Membrane/Fabric Filter Inspection - Pass 4/28/2022 – Attached Garage Footing Inspection – Pass**

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent. Received a repair permit application. One perc test, one permit for repair issued and subdivision plans reviewed.

**Old Business** – Bob-There is nothing new on the Federal Surplus site. PennDOT is having a sale and he will follow up. Still working on getting the school board to join in the appeal of the assessment of the Hazleton City Authority ground. Bob continued that Stephanie had spoken with RRS regarding reports that residents were turned away in the past. She was told the Borough has a storage area to store items if the truck becomes full before the end of the event. If there is any issues of residents being turned away, let the Supervisors know right away. Susie Gerhard made a motion to participate in the 2022 recycling events with the Weatherly Borough at a cost of \$330. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Robert Selert agreed. Vote 3-0

Atty. Yurchak did not receive a response from County Waste regarding a proposal to extend the contract by 1 year with a 5% increase. The Supervisors will look at the old contract to see if they want to add or change anything and get it out for bid next month. Atty. Yurchak said you can advertise for different bids. Bob will call another municipality to see if they would be interested in joining a cooperative and see when their contract runs out. Maybe we won't be able to do it this time depending on where they are in their contract but maybe we can advertise for 1 or 2 years depending on when their contract is up and entertain the possibility of a co-op. Bob

Selert made a motion to table authorizing advertisement for garbage contract bids. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Bob addresses road project bids. The specs that have been created were for paving and did not include 5 pipes that need attention. Carbon Engineering will have to go out and look at them. Bob Selert made a motion to table the authorization to advertise for road project bids. Susie asked how long it will take to add the pipes as separate items to the specs. Bob explained where the pipes are located and what may need to be done at each drainage pipe. Further discussion about the project took place and Bob added that some local contractors may be interested and Samler had the equipment to do it to.

**New Business** – Bob-The Supervisors convention was very informative and he would like to see at least one or two township representatives attend every year. He says it is a great networking tool and cited some issues addressed at the conference such as fixing roads, blighted properties and potential elimination of gas tax. A gas tax holiday would mean no liquid fuel funds to do paving work.

Bob Selert made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Susie Gerhard seconded the motion. Terry Davis 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

Paul Bray asked if there is an address for the Treschow Rod and Gun Club yet and if there is a map with all the addresses. There should be an address for every property even if there is not a house on it. Bob said he'll look into it. Paul asked if the supervisors got the title for the trailer. Terry said he's working on it. Paul also mentioned that the contractor hasn't done any work on the park. Susie said a call is in to them. Paul also discussed the alarm system. He also suggests having the County monitor the alarm system. It will be cheaper. Bob confirms with Stephanie that the township currently pays \$75/quarter. Paul says the County would charge the Township \$75/year. If it needs service it is an extra fee. Susie will call the County about monitoring. Paul asked when is the next CBDG available because we need to put in for that to get the handicap ramps fixed. Terry said that he has talked to Susie about writing grants. Paul said Carbon Engineering was looking for grants to fix the roads in Black Creek Township and they should be looking for grants for our roads. He said Black Creek Township is getting 4 or 5 roads done this year. Bob asked if the deadline for the CDBG has passed. Loren said possibly. Paul said it should be listed that this is the voting thing for the County when asking for money from the County. Atty. Yurchak added that an LSA grant can be applied for. Bob asked Paul about the invoice for West End Equipment. It was for parts for the plow that was broke. Bob asked about resubmitting for the Covid money. Stephanie is still working on it.

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 6:46 p.m. A total of 12 residents attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Stephanie Stolpe  
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer