

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at the township building. Bob Selert called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. All were present.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Susie Gerhard made a motion to approve the minutes. 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. **ZONING:** July 6, 2022: Returned a phone call from Jim Dulcey who is upset about 2006 Quakake Rd. Dulcey stating that he plans to write an article in the newspaper and has reported the Township to Harrisburg. He also mentioned suing the Township and Barry Isett. I ended our conversation with that I would look into the status of the zoning application. Noted when driving through the Township that Bob Terracino's house is for sale. July 11, 2022: Received a phone call regarding zoning questions. July 13, 2022: Returned a phone call to resident looking for an ordinance on shooting in the Township. Site visit to 5565 Quakake Rd. Property is much improved, some debris next to the house and in backyard. July 15, 2022: Phone call with Bob Terracino. Researched 2006 Quakake Rd. and forwarded NOV for review and formatting. July 28, 2022: Phone discussion and email correspondence with agent regarding SALDO application for proposed easement along Wetzel Run Drive. **PA UCC:** No items to report.

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent. One new permit application received, 1 site evaluation, 1 verification of prior testing for Larry Suravicz.

Zoning Hearing Board Annual Report – Three hearings were held in 2021 for variances to the Zoning Ordinance sought by SWJJ Real Estate, LLC, Howard & Diane Freed and Jason Lenhardt. A re-organization meeting was held on June 21, 2022 where Barbara Genetti was appointed to Chairman and Tony Caso to Vice-Chairman.

**Old Business** – Bob will plan a trip, hopefully next month, to New Holland, a COSTARS vendor. Still waiting to set up a meeting with School Board to talk to them about the tax assessment appeal regarding Hazleton City Authority. Road project bids were open and awarded on July 20<sup>th</sup>. For pipe replacement Franzosa bid \$44,890, Ankiewicz Construction bid \$69,985.81, H & K Group bid \$83,558.14 and Lehigh Asphalt bid \$95,241. Franzosa Trucking was awarded the contract for storm sewer replacement prior to paving on Wetzel Run Drive. For paving H & K Group bid \$118816.64, Franzosa bid \$124,440, Lehigh Asphalt bid \$136,542 and Ankiewicz Construction bid \$181,631. H & K Group was awarded the contract for paving on Wetzel Run Drive after the pipe project is complete. Paul Bray said all the holes on Wetzel Run Drive were hot patched and the stop sign. We started on Wallace Way and have two more loads to do. Bob asked Paul if between the ground cellar and the water plant were done. Paul said it is not. The pipe on Grist Mill was completed, as you go up to Wallace way was completed at the beginning of the month and we've been working on Wallace Way this week. John Floyd said we did put tar out on Grist Mill. Paul responded that he took cold patch out there to fill out on Grist Mill where the big holes were. What I use on Wallace Way might not be enough left to go out there. It's 90 % down. John said as you go up the hill to the first house, we are right at their driveway. Paul-That's where we ran out. Garbage bids from J.P. Mascaro and GFL (formerly County Waste) were opened. J.P. Mascaro submitted no one year bid, the 3 year proposal was \$1,090,008 and the 5 year proposal was for \$1,912,500. GLF submitted one year proposal of \$194,779, a 3 year proposal of \$607,944 and a 5 year proposal of 1,054,175. Some discussion took place about whether to accept a 1, 3 or 5 year contract and what those amounts would equate to per residence. Bob noted that everyone has been seeing rates increase by about double. Stephanie was asked to confirm that the current rates are just covering the expenses under the current contract. The supervisors asked Stephanie what the collect rate was and she responded that it was approximately 90%. Susie asked her if every property

with a residence, vacant or not is charged. Stephanie responded that they are supposed to be. Bob added that if it is a habitable property, it has to have electricity and a toilet facility. Bob Selert asked for a motion to accept a 3 year contract with GFL for \$607,944. With a 100% collection each residence would pay \$115 per quarter towards the contract. Susie made a motion to accept a 3 year contract with GFL and Terry seconded the motion. Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0 Jonas Kreitzer with GFL says he knows this is tough. Bob had mentioned that he saw the newspaper article and Jonas says unfortunately it has been going this way everywhere. It's not a good time to be rebidding. Every expense along the way has gone up. There are supply chain issues all over the place. Labor is the worst, we just can't keep the trucks staffed. Terry asked how will we get this out to the residents. Bob said we can put it in the next newsletter that we accepted the bid and the new rate will be for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2023. Stephanie added that admin costs will also need to be taken into consideration when establishing the new fee. Peter Genetti asked if the new contract will include recycling. Bob responded that since our community is not mandated to recycle, it is at the discretion of the company to provide recycling at its expense. Jonas confirmed that as it stands now the curbside recycling carts will remain in place. He is pleased that that is not part of the contract because as costs continue to rise this may not be feasible. If recycling was mandated unfortunately the contract would have been higher. Bob knows that GFL has sent revised information on recycling and we will get that into the newsletter. Jonas confirmed it was not any major change but some items were eliminated as recyclable to minimize cost. Paul Bray asked about cans that were requested and Bob asked if we can keep 5 extra cans at the township building. Jonas said absolutely but explained that as many other things, the carts have been on back order for months. A shipment did come in a couple of weeks ago. Now is a good time to request, say 10 cans. Susie questioned if that would be enough. Stephanie responded that we can have them replenished as we go but there is not that many requested that we would go through them that quickly. Some get damaged, some get stolen and other don't leave them when they move. It was agreed that 6 trash and 6 recycling would be good. Stephanie asked Jonas about customer service. She gets a lot of calls that customers are on hold for a long time and when they do get through their request does not get processed. He can get me direct contacts but would have to check if he has anything that can be published to the residents. He knows the call center had been backed up. Everything snowballs, they are shorthanded there, and the routes are shorthanded so there are more calls to the call center. It has been improving the last few weeks. Susie says Steph is probably better off taking the messages. Stephanie says it works out better that way but it is a lot some times. Terry said this is going to be tough on a lot of residents. Bob agreed. Paul said his neighbor puts out a small bag each week that he puts in his can, his mother-in-law. Terry said it is the same with his mother-in-law. Susie has begun to gather some information on abandoned building ordinances and will have something at the next meeting. Paul Bray asked if an address for the gun club has been issued. Bob had the notebook out the other day. Paul said he was asked again.

**New Business** – The Swinesburg Minor Subdivision went before the Planning Commission. Bob Selert explained that there was two issues that they requested waivers for and the Planning Commission granted conditional approval. He wanted to see detailed the new lot 4 access from Center Lane. The conditional approval included that they expanded line 26 to the private road agreement. They did everything else that they needed to do. It is listed in the new deed description. Bob Selert made a motion that the Board of Supervisors approves the Swinesburg Minor Subdivision and Susie Gerhard seconded the motion. Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0 Bob Selert made a motion to set the mileage rate at the IRS Standard Mileage Rate of \$.625 for the final 6 months of 2022. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Susie Gerhard agreed. Vote 3-0 Bob Selert discussed a letter received from the Carbon County Commissioners inviting the Supervisors to the new Training Center dedication on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Bob Selert made a motion to place a quarter page ad in the dedication program booklet. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Correspondence-The medical waste facility in Nesquehoning is expanding their permit. There is a meeting with Borough Council on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. Bob S. asked Atty. Yurchak that since we are an adjoining municipality do we have input. Atty. Yurchak said yes.

Paul Bray added that August 27th is the Picnic in the Park. The fire department is having a parade in Weatherly to dedicate the new fire truck and the fire company has requested that the Supervisors come to the dedication at 3:30 at the park after the parade. If you can make it, it is appreciated. The parade is at 12:00, forming at the school, they will parade around town, whatever fire companies come. There will be judging of the trucks. At 3:30, when the band is done we will give out the trophies and dedicate the new rescue engine at the park. They are going to have stands up there, the fire company will have the beef and brew. Bands will be there so we don't have to duplicate all that stuff. We were just going to try to bring more people in for the festival and do the dedication right there. The borough officials are invited to be there. Anyone who wants to come. We are asking the municipal officials to be there because they have a big part in getting this truck and paying for it. It is \$4200/month (John Floyd guesses) that the Borough is taking on. All of the equipment on it, the fire company and the volunteers raised the money for that. What we and the Borough pays in taxes goes into that fund. That does not go to the fire company. The tax we pay out here, we don't see that. The Borough pays our insurance on the vehicles, the personnel, the workman's comp, the fuel. Anything to keep that truck available 24 hours/day. They pay for all of that. All the equipment on the trucks, we raise the money through fundraisers and fireman's relief money. The billing that we are doing so that if we bill the insurance and they give us money it goes, that money comes to the fire company to replace stuff. So our gear alone, when we're in full gear the fire company is putting out like \$10,000/year because that doesn't come out of the tax money. Ok. So both sides are, it's given, if we just had what the tax money paid you'd have a truck with no equipment on it. John Floyd added and with the gear, the gear only has a ten year life on it which seems ridiculous but if a firefighters, if he uses it or don't use it, in ten years we have to replace it. We can't even send it to fire school. The fire school won't accept them or any training classes unless he has up to date gear. So that means every year, you know, we got like 35 volunteers. Look at the amount of money we have to come up with. Paul-That is the NFPA national standard for the gear. Bob asked what's the percentage with our firemans' relief versus the towns fire relief. What do they get? Paul-I would have to look, I don't know what the Borough gets. John-I think it's close to double Weatherly versus out here. It goes by foreign fire insurance. So like if you buy fire insurance from a company that has a home office in say, Maryland, they have to pay the foreign fire. If you buy one that's incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania, they don't have to pay it. So, you can't go around telling people look, buy off of this company don't buy off of that, you know.

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

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 6:43 p.m. A total of 5 residents, 2 GFL representative and 1 reporter attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Stephanie Stolpe  
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer