

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 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. Paul Bray thanked the Board for coming to the fire company's 150th anniversary. A plaque was presented at the event in recognition of the Township's support. He ask that the non-emergency number (570-325-9111) for the communication center be included in the next newsletter to inform of controlled burns. If there is a ban the communication center can let them know and fire departments won't be dispatched for an unknown fire. Paul continues that the fire company is having a problem with Geico and the Carbon County Housing Authority (a federal agency). The Borough of Weatherly did an ordinance because Geico refused to pay 3rd party billing for accidents unless there was an ordinance. The latest issue with the Authority was an oil tank that leaked in a house owned by the Authority and it contaminated the borough's sewer system. They won't pay for anything prior to the ordinance being signed. We would like the Township to enact the ordinance as well in case there is ever an issue with these entities or others over 3rd party billing. Bob Selert suggested the Township be proactive in passing an ordinance as they take time. Bob asked Paul if the Borough's ordinance has withstood challenges. Paul responded that other insurance companies have been responsive in paying to re-coup the equipment used; it was just those 2 entities. Bob asked if there is an accident here what would happen if Geico insures both vehicles. Paul said they might not want to pay but the ordinance the borough enacted was forwarded to the billing company to be on file. I guess they are looking at it as being Weatherly but we want to make sure we cover the Township as well, in case there is an issue. Paul will get a copy for Atty. Yurchak to review. Terry confirmed this is to protect the fire company. John Floyd questioned the percentage of residents who don't pay garbage bills having been mentioned by Stephane last month as 10% and what will be done about that now that the bills will be increasing to \$115/quarter. Bob responded that the ordinance says the unpaid totals go to Creditech for 6 months. Stephanie added that Atty. Yurchak sends letters to those property owners and liens are put on the properties of those who do not respond with payment. John is concerned that more people will become delinquent with the increased rate and asked if there is interest added to the unpaid totals. Stephanie responded that there is a 10% late fee per month. Bob asked Atty. Yurchak what the collection rate is once he starts the lien process. Atty. Yurchak said the lien stays on the title. Bob-When the lien is filed, say we give them another 6 months, can we still collect our fees for you pursuing them after the lien is filed. Atty. Yurchak adds the fees in. Bob suggested that when they reach being 2 years behind, we go to sheriff sale. Atty. Yurchak suggested changing the policy that he begins sending letters sooner and before we give it to Creditech. Stephanie added that Creditech adds a 30 % fee for their commission. Bob says a policy should be in writing. We have to allow for extenuating circumstances. Terry asked if it has to be put in writing and Bob responded that he thinks we should considering it is not fair to the other 400+ residents who do pay. We have to take into consideration extenuating circumstances of if it's in an estate where there is no family left or if it's a two head of household and they are both out of work. Atty. Yurchak mentions a hardship application and Stephanie responded that they are not always effective. Paul Bray asked if it could be considered theft of services and Atty. Yurchak responded that the DA office would probably not approve that. They would say it is a civil matter. They would have to make no payments ever. Bob said we will look at the policy and tweak it. Terry asked if we should go 3 months rather than 6 and Susie agreed to go sooner rather than later because the amount is high. Paul asked if the letters warn people about the added fees if it goes to collections. Stephanie noted that information is included on the invoices. Bob said we will look at the procedure currently being followed and we will discuss at the next meeting, this will give 3 months to implement a plan starting next year. Stephanie added that the supervisors should consider taking credit card payments which will make it easier for the township to collect the fee. Susie agreed because then it is on the credit card company to collect the money. Stephanie will look into it. Terry asked how it would work and Stephanie responded that it would be electronic and will look into how it will work. It might be a button on the township website. Terry agrees that this might be the way to go because people will put it on the credit card and the garbage fund has the money.

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

Ordinances and Resolutions – Act 58 Atty. Yurchak explains, is basically for those people who never received a tax notice and they get a delinquent charge added. For instance, if there is a real estate transaction and they don't get their school tax bill on time. This would allow us to absolve them from paying the penalty. A resolution must be adopted by October 11th in order for it to be effective next year. It must be done by resolution or ordinance. Atty. Yurchak recommends a resolution to avoid the expense of an ordinance. Per Bob, a resolution will be prepared for the October meeting. Before the meeting Bob and Susie talked regarding the abandoned building ordinance. Susie is in the process of compiling data.

Reports of Officials and Committees –

Barry Isett & Associates – Permit/Zoning & Code Enforcement officer- Absent. **ZONING:** August 4, 2022: Phone call with Jim Dulcey who wanted it known that he is pursuing legal issues about 2006 Quakake Rd. He stated that he has been in contact with the Attorney General's office. August 5, 2022: Received a complaint concerning an Earth disturbance and drainage issues at 374 Packer Dr. Did a site visit and took photos. August 10, 2022: Composed and sent an NOV to 2006 Quakake Rd concerning running a business from a building that is zoned as an Agriculture Building and after a site visit and noted no change to debris in driveway, issued and NOV to 1867 Wetzel Run Rd. August 11, 2022: Issued an NOV to 374 Packer Dr. for § 1302.1 ISSUANCE OF PERMIT and § 317 SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT POLLUTION CONTROL August 17, 2022: Site visit to parcel 111-45-C1.06 that is adjacent to 374 Packer Dr. Took photos and will compose an NOV. August 18, 2022: Contacted Carbon County Conservation District to see if they have a soil and erosion plan on file for the properties on Packer Drive; Confirmed that no paperwork has been filed. Phone call and follow up email to property owner (902 Hudson Drive; Parcel 119A-45-A7.01) regarding the permit process and requirements for constructing a new single-family dwelling; responded to email for permit requirements for upgrades to existing cell tower equipment. August 19, 2022: Phone call regarding animal use as accessory to single family dwelling. August 24, 2022: Phone and email correspondence with Stephen Hinkle regarding permit application submission. August 26, 2022: Phone call and follow-up email with property owner of 1867 Wetzel Run Drive regarding permit application procedures. August 29, 2022: Site visit and discussion with Jeffrey Hinkle and Daryl Binder. August 31, 2022: Preparation and lamination of Stop Work Orders (374 Packer Drive); Properties posted and photographed. **PA UCC:** August 11, 2022 Final observation; Pass – 582 Quakake Road (Above-Ground Pool) *CO Issued August 16, 2022: Receipt of final approval documents (water test, blower door test); - 250 Tower Road *CO issued.

Bob again questions why a water test was needed for your own well and Atty. Yurchak also does not believe they have to test the water.

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent. One design review, permit issued for Joshua Halecky, 1 perc test for Brian Katchur, 1 interim inspection for Jeff Garvin, 1 subdivision plan review for Swinesburg.

Old Business – Bob-Terry secured some information on a truck. The specifications for a 2022 6500 4x4 Chevy Silverado were discussed. The truck is out of state so it is not a participating co-stars dealer. They gave a good price at \$130,000 delivered. Since it is not co-stars advertising will need to be done to give sellers around here an opportunity to bid. Atty. Yurchak said the specs can be tailored tightly. Paul Bray asked if the Supervisors checked with Rottet in Tamaqua. They are a Ford dealer. Susie offered to call Fairway Chevrolet. Jim Dino also suggested contacting Outten in the Lehigh Valley. Kovatch is also Ford and Bob would like to look at Chevys. Susie will contact Outten as well. Bob addresses the Hazleton City Authority tax-exempt status. He attended the Lehigh Township meeting who has a small amount of land owned by HCA and they agreed to sign on as a signatory. At least one of the school board members is interested and they were going to discuss it in an executive session. He hasn't talked to April yet. He is sure he will be able to get Lausanne to sign on as a signatory too. One reason he wants to see them on board is because of an inquiry he received as the zoning officer on a parcel of land adjacent to that 600-700 acre parcel that HCA has on Buck Mt. It was divulged that it was leased for

hunting which is not in the general idea of providing potable water for HCA. Bob asked Stephanie about payments from the Game Commission in lieu of taxes. A payment had been received for \$3240. He asked Stephanie to contact the Game Commission and find out how many acres that amount is based on because at minimum that is how much HCA should pay.

New Business – It was discovered that an additional pipe would be needed for the storm sewer project on Wetzel Run Drive. Terry Davis made a motion to approve the additional pipe at a cost of \$7500. Susie seconded the motion and Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0 Bob expects the work to begin next week.

Correspondence-A letter from Emergency Management asking the Emergency Coordinator to update the plan and have the Promulgation page signed by at least one elected official. Paul Bray updates it as officers are changed. Bob said the page needs to be signed annually confirming that the Emergency Operations Plan has been reviewed and updated. Bob asked Paul to get that ready for the next meeting. Bob reminded the Supervisors of the training center dedication on September 11th.

Bob discusses the Local Share Account grant application with the Supervisors to apply for money to finish all the roads. The deadline is September 30th. Susie will work on the application but asks Terry and Bob to gather the information and costs. Engineering fees will be incurred whether the grant is awarded or not. Bob estimates from the bridge at Grist Mill to Nyer's driveway is 1 mile, from the end of Round Head to the road going up the mountain is 2 miles, Sand Spring should be done and to finish Wetzel Run would be 4 miles total. Susie informs from the application that a current (within 1 year of submission) detailed estimate of the project cost, engineering and construction estimates must be provided by a PA licensed engineer or qualified professional. Estimates of costs for specific products, materials, equipment, etc. must be in writing form a qualified vendor. Terry doesn't believe this information can be acquired by the deadline and Bob suggested doing 2 miles to start. Susie is concerned about going through the process but not having all the information and not getting anything. Terry said we should work on this early in the spring to apply next year. Atty. Yurchak suggested that the Supervisors work on it now to get the framework together and submit it next year if it can't be submitted this year. Paul reminds that the CDBG should be applied for to fix the ramp. He said it will be approved because this is the voting location.

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 6:38 p.m. A total of 3 residents and 1 reporter attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Stephanie Stolpe
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer