

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at the township building. Bob Selert called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Terry Davis was absent.

The meeting was opened to the floor. Paul Bray attended the Carbon County Fire Operations Training Center. The Supervisors took an ad out in the book. Everybody that took an ad out gets a copy. There was quite a few people there and they thank you for your support.

Susie Gerhard made a motion to approve the minutes. Bob Selert seconded the motion. Vote 2-0.

Ordinances and Resolutions – Susie Gerhard made a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION OF PACKER TOWNSHIP, CARBON COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, WAIVING ANY LATE FEES OR PENALTIES OF TOWNSHIP REAL ESTATE TAXES IF SAID TAXES ARE PAID IN FULL AT THE BASE RATE WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR OF ISSUANCE PURSUANT TO ACT 57 OF 2022. Bob Selert seconded the motion. Vote 2-0
Discussion of AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RECOVERY OF EMERGENCY COSTS AND SERVICES AND KNOWN AS “REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY COSTS AND SERVICES” ORDINANCE. Bob Selert noted that Atty. Yurchak sent two sample ordinances from Nesquehoning and Coaldale. Atty. Yurchak will speak to Atty. Nanovic about the Weatherly ordinance so that Weatherly and Packer are on the same page. Paul Bray added that this came up because of the Carbon County Housing Authority. They don’t want to reimburse for using the services and that’s why they want an ordinance. Also, Geico insurance for car accidents that Geico won’t pay unless there is an ordinance. Bob is concerned about it in the township because car accidents would be the majority of what we are going to deal with and he doesn’t want the fire company getting stuck holding the bill for something that is going to cost thousands of dollars and not get reimbursed. Paul said these are the only two incidents they had prior to that’s why and he thinks the ordinance they had was a copy of Jim Thorpe’s. Jim Davis of DGK Insurance asked if it was from damage by a fire. Atty. Yurchak explained it was for reimbursement of emergency services. John Floyd described an example of the fire company responding to a car accident. They put flairs and absorbents down, we are looking to reclaim the cost of this stuff because actually a vehicle pays no taxes to the Township or the Borough so by enacting one of these ordinances we can bill for it through a billing company which we use now. The Housing Authority wants that in place, I guess to be legal, so that we can bill them. We go there quite a bit. Paul adds they are nuisance alarms. John said right, but we still have to respond. Bob asked what is causing the nuisance alarms and Paul responded that it is cooking mishaps in the individual apartments. Sometimes we have to ventilate the apartment. We have not had a real fire there besides what was on the stove. Atty. Yurchak offered to send copies of nuisance ordinances he did for other municipalities for the fire calls. Basically if there are so many calls to the same place and it’s due to nonsense, are not really legitimate, you can fine them. It may force the Housing Authority to address the problem. Paul said they were getting to the point where the fire company was going to turn it over to the solicitor. They are asking questions an attorney should be answering. A lot of places say if you have 3 alarms and we go there, the 4th one will be billed. The Borough said, no, if you go there, they are paying because they do have issues with the Housing Authority.

Reports of Officials and Committees –

Barry Isett & Associates – Permit/Zoning & Code Enforcement officer- Absent. **ZONING:** September 6, 2022: Responded to email inquiry to a real estate company requesting zoning information (rentals, resale, STRs, dumpster, etc.) September 7, 2022: Stopped by Magistrate’s office in Weatherly to get setup to issue Non-Traffic Citations September 8, 2022: Phone call with Jeffrey Hinkle concerning earth disturbance on Packer Dr. September 12, 2022: Phone calls and emails with Jeff Hinkle and Chris Storm concerning 374 Packer Dr. - Earth disturbance and work being done after posting a Stop Work order on the properties. September 19, 2022: Phone call with Chris Storm concerning work that was performed over the weekend at 374 Packer Dr. He stated that he did authorize owner to seed the disturbed area to curb erosion. Phone call and follow up email including application form and requirements for a residential accessory structure. (3511 Quakake Road - John Lech) September 21, 2022: Site visit 374 Packer Dr. Photos and phone call with Chris Storm from Carbon County Conservation Office. Site visit 5565 Quakake Rd. Tenant has moved, Closed Complaint. September 27, 2022: Email to Chris Storm asking for report on 374 Packer Dr. **PA UCC:** August 11, 2022 120C-45-D4B (Wallace Way): Permit approved and issued (Pole Building) Bob Selert asked Stephanie to provide a report of fees collected for building permits and inspections billed by Barry Isett.

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent. One subdivision plan review for Suravicz.

Old Business – Bob questions whether the Township should advertise the specs for a new truck. A dealership in Ohio has provided a quote. Bob asks Atty. Yurchak what would happen if a bidder came in, for example, \$10,000 less but they can't deliver it until next year. Atty. Yurchak responded that you can wait until next year or go somewhere else. You can bid it twice and then just make the arrangements. Susie said she talked to Fairway and Tamaqua. Neither one are COSTARS. Susie asked if a new truck will replace the truck we are fixing. Bob said we are not replacing, we are adding to the fleet so we have a backup. We had 3 at one time and we are down to two. Susie recommends fixing the one we have right now. Bob said ok, that's on the list. Regarding the Appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals as to the Hazleton City Authority tax exempt status, last month Bob attended the school board meeting. They were receptive and they want to meet in an executive session with more information that Bob will provide. HCA owns approximately 3200 acres in the Township and it's 4200 altogether between Packer, Lehigh and Lausanne. In the same time frame since the last meeting, Mr. Nothstein had comments about the County receiving in lieu of taxes. Bob continues that Atty. Yurchak and Mr. Frickland are supposed to have a conversation as to their options if they can join the suit. Bob asked Atty. Yurchak to follow up. Atty. Yurchak said he had spoken to him in the past and he was receptive to it at that point. Bob said that the Game Commission is at about \$1.50 an acre. Even if we get that out of them it's something. Even if we have to share it with the School Board but I think the Game Commission is only a local reimbursement. I don't think that goes to the school district. When the water company was working on the intersection, Paul asked them about the holes in the parking lot. They said it wasn't on their radar. He told them the holes that they dug up need to be paved. Mr. Berkhart was supposed to make note of that. PennDOT had HCA at the intersection. The water company has to put it out on bid to get it fixed. John Floyd mentioned another pipe that busted. Bob asked Paul if the township has enough pressure to run the pressure washer. He said yes.

New Business – Jim Davis with DGK Insurance reviewed the renewal. After some discussion Bob Selert made a motion to increase the deductible to \$1000 for a savings of \$298 and to approve the package as presented. Susie Gerhard agreed. Vote 2-0 Bob mentions the inquiry into adding 2 employees full-time for trash pick-up due to the large increase to the cost of the contract that all municipalities are facing. He notes the difficulty in finding employees and having to provide full-time employees benefits, the cost of insurance and equipment, etc. It is just not cost effective. Paul added that the Borough refused their bid for garbage. Bob responded that bids were opened yesterday at Lehigh Township. He explained how the company disposes of garbage. He knows the Borough re-advertised and he thinks they are making a mistake and explained the Borough bill doesn't provide the true amount. He wanted to give Harold a call to find out actual numbers because he knows people are going to be upset. Atty. Yurchak added that Beaver Meadows has a garbage bid due in two weeks. They put it on PennBid. Bob said the Township won't be advertising in the Standard Speaker again because advertising is expensive. The Journal will be used. Paul suggests getting together with other municipalities. Bob added that Larry Wittig did not bid because he can only find enough labor to handle his current contracts. He is having trouble finding people even after a wage increase but he found that the people were used to the amount of money they were getting so they will now work just 4 days instead of 5 at their old rate and take a day off. The people just aren't there. Bob addresses the dump box on the F450. He said Terry got a quote from a COSTARS vendor for a new box of around \$11,000. Terry then called Tamaqua Truck & Trailer. Bob reviewed the specs of a lifetime replacement with a Loadhandler Mason dump, tailgate, latches, lighting, mud flaps, removal and installation of new body and spreader welded on comes to \$9,050. A tarp that can be purchased in the Spring and installed ourselves is \$652 with a ground level crank. Manual crank is \$530. A discussion regarding the number of chutes that will be in the box took place. Adding 2 chutes will increase the cost by \$900. Susie inquired as to what would be easier to work with and Bob responded that it would depend on how many people we have. He doesn't foresee having enough people to have 3 wheel barrows going. Bob Selert made a motion to accept the bid from Tamaqua Truck & Trailer of \$9,050 for replacement of the truck body. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion. Vote 2-0

Bob Selert made a motion to ratify the request of the Weatherly Area Community Library to hold a basket raffle in the garage on October 1st. Susie seconded the motion. Vote 2-0

Bob made a motion to set the new quarterly garbage fee at \$115.15. Susie seconded the motion. Vote 2-0 Bob asked Stephanie to contact Ruth Isenberg about accepting credit cards with Quickbooks. The policy for delin-

quent collections is reviewed. Currently, at the end of the year, unpaid balances are turned over to Creditech. After 6 months, the solicitor attempts to collect prior to placing a lien on the property. Stephanie would like to have the solicitor send a letter prior to the account being sent to Creditech as this sometimes produces a better response. Bob would like to amend the procedure so that the process of collections begins after two late quarters. It is decided that after two late quarters, a notice will be sent by the Township. If no response, the solicitor will send a letter. It may then be turned over to Creditech who adds a 30% fee. Bob says to place this in the newsletter and Atty. Yurchak says to also include that this is collectable whether you take advantage of the service or not because too many are saying they don't use it and they don't want to pay for it. Bob also wants the new procedure to include that after 9 months a lien will be placed after the solicitor sends his letter after 12/31. Stephanie clarifies that this means anything from the previous year.

Bob Selert made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion. Vote 2-0

Bob Selert made a motion to sign and approve the checks drafted and Susie Gerhard seconded the motion. Vote 2-0

Bob Selert made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Susie Gerhard seconded the motion. Vote 2-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m. A total of 2 residents and 1 reporter attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Stephanie Stolpe
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer