

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at the township building. Bob Selert called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Terry Davis was absent. A moment of silence was observed for Bounce Titus.

The meeting was opened to the floor. Donald Stump had a question about ambulance service. He had called Lehigh Valley today and it was their understanding the Packer Township is staying with Lehigh. Bob explained that Lehigh was approved as the assigned call sheet for Packer Township at last month's meeting. It was reported that Lehigh Valley took over one of the Hazleton stations that had 4 or 5 ambulances and they cut it down to one. Lehigh has 2 or 3 ambulances in Jim Thorpe. The comment was made at the Weatherly Borough that they went with Lehigh Valley because they don't have to contend with the Broad Mountain in the winter time. Broad Mountain, over the years, has been kept up pretty well. It will take 10-15 minutes to come from Jim Thorpe or from Hazleton. Paul Bray added that there was an accident in Beaver Meadows and Lehigh came up because Lehigh Valley didn't have an ambulance available and they have been running up to Weatherly. Mr. Stump asked if Lehigh Ambulance will be canvassing. It is confirmed that Mahoning Valley did not do a membership drive for 2023. Stephanie had sent an address list to Lehigh and their response was that they would hold off on the membership drive until the whole area has settled down.

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

Ordinances and Resolutions – Robert Selert motioned to table AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PACKER AND PROHIBITING NOISE DISTURBANCES ABRIDGING THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF PACKER TOWNSHIP. This has been forwarded for additional review. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion. Vote 2-0

Bob Selert made a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION OF THE SUPERVISORS OF PACKER TOWNSHIP, CARBON COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, REGARDING THE LAND APPLICATION OF SEWAGE SLUDGE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF PACKER TOWNSHIP. This resolution will be sent to our representatives to look at the laws that govern sludge disposal in the Commonwealth. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion. Vote 2-0

Abandon buildings is being worked on.

Reports of Officials and Committees –

Barry Isett & Associates – Permit/Zoning & Code Enforcement officer- Absent. **ZONING:**

March 1, 2023 Site visit to 374 Packer Drive and 1867 Wetzel Run Drive in preparation for a hearing on Monday, March 6.

March 6, 2023 Hearing with Judge Homanko. Defendant for 374 Packer Drive. will comply with E&S application and zoning permit. Hearing scheduled for May 8 at 10:00 AM. If all requirements are completed, we will dismiss the charges. Hearing with Judge Homanko. Defendant for 1867 Wetzel Run Drive will comply with filing a Zoning permit and cleaning up the property. Hearing scheduled for May 8 at 10:00 AM. If all requirements are completed, we will dismiss the charges. I received the zoning permit application and gave his information to Stephanie for payments arrangements.

Filed a citation for 2006 Quakake Road for running a business out of a building that is not zoned commercial.

March 9, 2023 Phone call with magistrates office about continued hearings and citation that was filed for 2006 Quakake Road. Received emails for two zoning permits that I will process tomorrow,

March 10, 2023 Processed two zoning permits.

Accessory structures; two sheds and a small greenhouse for 1867 Wetzel Run Drive.

Accessory structure pole building 3511 Quakake Road.

March 15, 2023 Attempted site visit at 227 Packer Drive for a drainage issue. Snow drifts made it impossible to view. Phone call with Chris Storm who brought me up to speed on the issue. I also spoke to Atty. Yurchak on the issue and he told me of the conflict as he has represented Mr. Katchur in the past. I will do research and reach out to Mr. Katchur. Also spoke about 374 Packer Drive and that his E&S plan was only for stabilization and he would either need a new plan or amend the current plan if he does any other work. He still has not submitted a zoning application. We have a second hearing set for May 8, 2023. Also spoke about Jim Dulcey and the Fish Commission and DEP fines. I also spoke to Atty. Yurchak about those properties and getting an administrative search warrant.

March 16, 2023 Started a case in for 227 Packer Drive and researched problem.

Spoke with Phil Prout and an engineer from BIA. I will arrange a site visit with the property owner. Sent Brian Katcher an email. Issued a zoning permit for the sheds at 1857 Wetzel Run Drive and 3511 Quakake Road for a garage.

March 21, 2023: Phone call with Brian Katcher concerning 227 Packer Drive. Made appointment for 3:00 PM on March 22, 2023. Phone call with Chris Storm. Received a phone call from Terry Davis concerning a complaint on 227 Titus Road.

March 23, 2023 : Drove by 1847 Wetzel Run, mattress still in yard, Attempted a site visit 229 Titus Lane. Road is posted with no trespassing signs. Drove Railroad Drive looking for access to building on mountain without permit. Noted that 1458 Hudson Dive appears to be moving. Meeting with Brian Katcher at 227 Packer Drive.

March 23, 2023: Uploaded photos and started a report on my findings for 227 Packer Drive. Phone call with Brian Katcher for clarification. Sent report to Chris Storm and Phil Prout for input.

March 29, 2023: Follow up site visits on 1867 Wetzel Run Road, 2006 Quakake Road, 277 and 374 Packer Drive. No change. Phone call from Jeff Hinkle.

March 30, 2023: Phone call with Brian Katcher concerning 227 Packer Drive and the road flooding. Uploaded photos from yesterday's site visits. Phone call with Rick Hinkle concerning zoning permit. Returned phone call with Jeff Hinkle. Spoke with Phil Prout about zoning Application for 2006 Quakake Road.

March 31, 2023: Compiled a list of requirements that need to be clarified on the change of use application for 2006 Quakake Road. Sent email to Stephen Hinkle. Sent my findings on 227 Packer Drive to Solicitor for review.

Upcoming Hearings: May 8 @ 9:50 AM 374 Packer Drive - No zoning permit or E&S plan.

May 8 @ 10:00 AM 1867 Wetzel Run Dr. No zoning permit, garbage, and debris.

2006 Quakake Rd. No zoning permit for change of use.

PA UCC: None

The report was reviewed and Bob commented that it is a shame that the township has to expend money with the zoning officer and file charges at the magistrate to get people moving. Fortunately the ordinance does work.

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent. One each- a new permit application was received, test probe, site evaluation, design review and two malfunction inspections.

Old Business – On the Board of Assessment Appeals Hazleton City Authority's tax exempt status Bob requested an official letter from the School Board. Paul Bray asked if the County will help. Bob Selert conferred with Atty. Yurchak who stated the County will not initiated an appeal but they will work with the Township on it.

Upgrading of the security system is still being looked into.

Delinquent garbage accounts were discussed. The quarterly newsletter is reviewed and it is noted that credit card payments are now accepted and information on the garbage bids received is included. Atty. Yurchak provided a letter drafted for the purpose of encouraging delinquents to pay. Bob stated that Nicole Denicola was at the last meeting and asked for some type of forgiveness. It is decided that if they pay the account in full we would take 10% off of the delinquent fees. For those that cannot pay in full in 30 days, some range from \$2400 to \$5394, we will take 5% off if they start a payment plan of a minimum of \$100/month. If they fail to make payments as planned the 5% is added back on and liens are pursued. Ten delinquent names will be printed in the

newsletter. The letter they will receive states that if you make no payments or arrangements to make payments within 30 days, this matter shall be filed with the magistrate court in Weatherly for collection. We plan to go after personal property. Notification about Lehighon Ambulance is included and information on roadwork is to be added.

Paul Bray asked if the water company responded about fixing the parking lot. Stephanie-They said it is on their schedule.

Paul Bray also asked about the rail on the handicap ramp that fell over and asked the supervisors to look into getting a grant. Susie is working on a grant for it. Bob stated that the Township is a non-entitlement community because the average income of residents above poverty level. Paul added that this means we get money after the entitled communities if there is anything left over. He also wanted to make sure the grant application includes that the township building is the voting location for the township.

New Business – Bob said we have a map prepared by the engineer for the Ochre Mill project. A temporary pipe below the bridge will have to be installed so fire trucks have access just in case. That will require encroaching on Jason Maday's property. Bob Selert made a motion to authorize the solicitor to send a letter to Mr. Maday requesting the use of his property for the duration of the project. Bob spoke to Mr. Maday and showed him the letter from the engineer that states the project will probably be 2 weeks. As a good gesture on our part, I propose that we pay him last year's property tax on that parcel which was \$7.85 for the Township, \$61.25 for the County and \$249 for the School District for the temporary easement. Susie seconded the motion. Vote 2-0

A brief discussion took place regarding the paving of Wetzel Run Road that took place today. An email was received rescheduling from Monday to Tuesday due to the weather. Carbon Engineering had an inspector on site.

Paul Bray asked about the park. They took 2 of the 3 machines out of there. You still have that big pile of wood. The other tree that is leaning by the pavilion was not taken down. The fence hasn't been repaired yet. Susie has a call into the contractor. She also talked to Josh at JC Small Engine about prices for a mower and a weedwacker to use at the park only. Paul asked that he weedwacker is one in which you can change the head, that has the hedge trimmer so we can cut the vines on the fence. He has been cutting them by hand. Susie confirmed and it is prepared.

Bob asked Atty. Yurchak if we need a resolution for him to vote on the PSATS resolutions at the conference. Bob Selert made a motion to authorize him to support the resolutions at the PSATS conference. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion. Vote 2-0

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. 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 4:16 p.m. A total of 8 residents attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Stephanie Stolpe
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer