

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 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. Terence Younker asked about generator permits. Mr. Younker also asked about calling in for burning brush, when it applies and when did it take effect. Terry responded that this should be done year round and that it has always been in effect but people didn't know. Stephanie confirms that this information has been printed in the newsletter occasionally. John Floyd added that if the fire company gets called to a fire that has not been reported to the Comm. Center with the fire department they are going to get a bill for the burning because it's illegal because the Comm. Center hasn't been notified not to call us out. Once our equipment goes on the road they are going to get billed for it. Paul Bray added that calling in started when they went 911. Once the County went 911 for everybody, everybody was required to call in a controlled burn so they weren't dispatching fire departments for controlled burns. We know there is a controlled burn there; they are not going to send the fire company we're not coming out. And that is in every town. If there is an issue they will call you back.

Bob addresses the generators. On June 20th, our secretary received an email from "Hurricane Permits". Bob reads the email "Good Morning, We are installing a residential generator at 6 Magdellen Dr, Lot 6 Weatherly, PA 18255. I was wondering if a permit is required for this or just the final electrical inspection." So, being a zoning officer in other townships, I know what the rule is. I did my due diligence and I called our zoning officer for his opinion. Any structure needs a permit. From the Zoning Ordinance Bob reads the definition of STRUCTURE: Any man-made object, the use of which requires an ascertainable stationary location on or in land or water, whether or not affixed to the land. Then from the Building Code: Code number 403.62 An owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, change the occupancy of a residential building or erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system regulated by the UCC shall first apply to the building code official and obtain a permit. The morning after or the morning the newsletter came out, I got a call from one of our local electrical contractors complaining that I was targeting his business and that is not true. We responded to a different firm and we clarified. So if anyone has an issue getting a permit to install an emergency generator call Barry Isett and talk to Phillip Prout and see what he has to say. That's the way it has always been. We are protecting the PPL linemen that come in here to work when there is a power outage to make sure that these things are hooked up right and they are not back feeding into the system.

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 5, 2023: Site visit to 702 Spring Mountain Road, photographs taken and uploaded to case file, spoke with Mary Beth from DEP.

July 13, 2023: Prepared a list of legislation relative to permitting regulations in PA. (per Supervisor's request)

July 26, 2023: Wrote a citation and dropped off at the Magistrate's Office for 2006 Quakake Road.

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

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent. Sewage Complaint at Kamila Farm and review of Quakake Tunnel Reverse Subdivision. Stephanie added that the application for repairs at Kamila Farms was submitted to the SEO. Terry Davis asked about no sewage permit requirement for the treatment plant. Bob confirms that this is correct. No people will be on site. Bob explained that a daily field check will occur. The applicant was questioned about this at the planning meeting.

Old Business – On the Board of Assessment Appeals Hazleton City Authority’s tax exempt status, Bob Selert said there are some more municipalities that are interested in challenging their tax exempt status. Atty. Yurchak listed them as Towamensing and Penn Forest. Bob asked Atty. Yurchak about recent legislation, Senate Bill 225. Atty. Yurchak said the bill talks about increasing the payments in lieu of taxes. The DCNR currently pays \$2/acre and the Senate Bill wants to increase it to \$2.85. The Game Commission pays \$1.25/acre and Fish & Boat Commission pay \$1.20/acre. For both of them, they want to increase it to \$1.70. So it’s a good rule of thumb to keep in mind moving forward. Bob asked if there was any information to pass on to the school board to encourage them. Atty. Yurchak is going to pass this on to them. Terry asked about the timbering happening again on the Broad Mt. Bob responded that he had a phone call on that and he investigated last year. We get money from the Game Commission. Basically what they are doing is selective cutting and the green biomass is used at a couple of institutions throughout the state. There are some private firms that are doing it but the Game Commission is well within their rights. Terry did not know if this was the Water Authority and Bob confirmed that it is the Game Commission.

Stephanie provided an update on the security system. The sensor has been fixed and the signal is being transferred to the Comm. Center. This will result in a savings of \$225/year.

Bob provided an update on the status of the property owner’s authorization to use adjacent property temporarily for bridge replacement on Ochre Mill Road. Right now we are waiting for the surveyors to identify the trees that we don’t want to touch and to make a more detailed map. Bob said that Mr. Kukles from Carbon Engineering said it is scheduled.

Susie provided an update on the CDBG application for the handicap ramp repairs. She talked with Dave Bodnar and he said it was brought up at the Commissioners meeting and they did approve it. It is going to go through. He said now it has to go on for another approval with DCED. Nothing will happen before March. She confirmed with Dave that it is pretty safe to say that it will go through and be approved. Terry asked how much money will be received. The application was for \$38,000 which was what was quoted.

New Business –

The fire agreement with the Borough is up at the end of the year. They have reached out to Bob to set up a meeting. They have a proposal and would like to meet the 3rd week of this month so we can meet with them the 16th, 17th or the 18th, in the evening. Let’s try for Wednesday or Thursday. Susie can only do the 16th that week. Bob asked Atty. Yurchak whether this is considered a workshop and if it is ok for only 2 supervisors to attend. He responded that it probably should be advertised but on the same token, it doesn’t mean you are going to take any action.

The Planning Commission gave conditional approval for the Minor Subdivision/Lot Consolidation of PA DEP BAMR/Barbara Genetti. Kevin Marmas with Benesch offered to answer any questions. He addressed two waivers dealing with plan scale and wetlands. The Township and County comments were addressed as well. Terence Younker asked about the treatment plant on Wetzel Run. Bob advised him that it is an acid mine drainage treatment plant. Mr. Younker asked how the property would be accessed. Kevin showed on a map where this would be and explained that 3 parcels owned by DEP are being combined into one parcel. Nothing has been submitted for land development yet. Bob Selert made a motion to approve the Minor Subdivision/Lot Consolidation of PA DEP BAMR/Barbara Genetti with the waivers granted. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Susie Gerhard agreed. Vote 3-0

LSA Grant writing was discussed. Bob said that the contact in Harrisburg said to put in for 4-5 things and expect to get one. Susie said you can do that but added that if you put in for an exorbitant amount, you’re not going to get anything. Susie asked if Atty. Yurchak agreed and he responded that yes, it sounds logical. Susie

added that she was told to not go for anything more than \$100,000 and that is on the high side because of the amount that we get in this area, a max of \$2,000,000 that has to be dispersed between 6 counties. First thing we have to do is get the project together. We don't have a lot of time on this. She also received a book with all the available grants. Maybe there is something else out there. Bob mentioned the road projects we are looking at are from the end of Round Head Drive to where it is fixed. But since then Grist Mill Drive has deteriorated from Nyers over to the entrance to Wallace Way. Drainage should be worked on there and from the ground cellar to the water plant. Terry said we should get prices for all the pipes on all the roads and try to get a grant to get that done so when it comes time for paving we will be ready to apply for that. Bob said the thing is this isn't going to be awarded until next June. So we'll work on all the drainage and get with Mike Kukles for estimates on all the pipes that are collapsing. Terry asked Paul if he has checked all the boxes. Paul had pulled branches out of the open ones. Bob asked about the ones with the new grates. The one by Nyer's has to be cleaned again since the rain before the last. Bob says he stops and clears them when he sees they need it. Paul opened it up and he thinks it needs to be done again. Bob said if you can bring the fire engine out to flush it out, I know if there is dirt going in the top there is dirt laying in the pipe going across. It took 4-5 hours to clear it out with the hydro laser so we have to keep after it. Paul and Bob agreed that pipe also needs a box on the other side of the road and a pipe further down.

Correspondence-An invitation to the opening ceremony of the Carbon County Fair on August 7th and complimentary tickets for the office holders were received. Susie and Bob are unable to attend. Terry will let Susie know if he can attend.

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

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

Bob asked if there were any comments. Paul asked if the Supervisors have looked into the zero turn mower that was on sale. Susie will talk to JC Small Engine tomorrow.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m. A total of 6 residents attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Stephanie Stolpe
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer