

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 6, 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. John Floyd asked how we are doing on our garbage collection. Stephanie responded that we have collected some and are working on others. Atty. Yurchak added that we have four judgements, 4 making payments and 3 pending. He needs to know if the Supervisors want to proceed with the execution of the judgements. Bob asked what happens if they haven't made any payments and Atty. Yurchak said the constable will go out and levy on the property and conduct a sale.

Paul asked to have more garbage cans delivered, there are only recycling cans.

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: October 2, 2023: Prepared for court hearing on 2006 Quakake Road. Researched a complaint regarding a perpetual yard sale on Quakake Road and fencing regulations. Received a phone call from the Magistrate's Office informing me that they just received a call from the Defendant's Lawyer asking to reschedule because the Defendant is out of the country. Issued a Zoning permit for a roof-mounted solar panel installation at 5999 Quakake Road. October 10, 2023: Returned phone calls regarding fence permit regulations, lot annexation and/or lot line adjustments, and a perpetual yard sale on Quakake Road. Prepared enforcement notice citing the Nuisance ordinance. Email sent to adjacent property owner for background information prior to mailing. October 12, 2023: Performed site visit/photographed earth disturbance at 3250 Quakake Road. (will continue to monitor). Performed site visit and photographed perpetual yard sale at 4129 Quakake Road. Performed site visit and photographed unsafe porch structure at 795 Quakake Road and updated file. Researched Pa. Code and Nuisance Ordinance. October 17, 2023: Amended the zoning permit for 227 Packer Drive; mailed a Notice of Violation for 795 Quakake Road. Review and approval of zoning permit for fence (571 Quakake Road). Upcoming Court Hearings: November 6, 2023 at 10:30 PM: 2006 Quakake Road – Change of use prior to Zoning approval. PA UCC: October 2, 2023: PA UCC permit approval for Roof-Mounted Solar Panels at 5999 Quakake Road. Bob Selert made a motion to enter the report into the minutes. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Bill Brior – Sewage Enforcement Officer – Absent. Site evaluation and test probe for Donna Gentile. File search for on-lot testing on Wetzell Run Road. Bob asks for more details on this. Preparation for Donna Gentile. Investigation into sewage complaint at 253 Packer Drive and correspondence. Maintaining files. Review of Jeff Hinkle to combine lots. No application received for planning yet.

**Old Business** – It was in the newspaper that the business manager of Weatherly Area School Board recommended approval of the agreement with the Township to Appeal the tax exempt status of Hazleton City Authority. Bob said we will wait to hear from the school district.

Bob has not heard from the engineer about the map being redrawn for the temporary bridge replacement on Ochre Mill Road.

Bob says we are still studying the Fire Protection Agreement with the Borough of Weatherly and the Supervisors will be meeting with the Borough again as soon as it can be arranged. John Floyd asked if they are asking for a multiple year agreement. Bob responded 10 years and Mr. Floyd asked if the Supervisors know

why they are doing that. The Supervisors responded yes and Bob added that it is to be able to get grants but it seems like they are holding our feet to the frying pan and I just don't know where the end of this is. Paul Bray asked if we are paying the same thing a borough resident would pay. Bob said right now, yes, I would imagine. We have a .97 mill rate for fire protection. John added that the fire company is looking at the future and how we have to adapt. If we can't look at a long range agreement then equipment that might be needed out here but we won't need in Weatherly, that's what we're looking at. We're looking at the fact that certain equipment is rural, certain equipment is the borough. Bob responded that in talking with another rural volunteer company, and believe me, if we could switch tomorrow somebody would provide, Weatherly is done because I am tired of having our feet held to the fire. I asked about the tire issue and he said that is not true. If you have tires that are outdated you don't have to change them, that fire code is all voluntary. Mr. Floyd asked who Bob spoke to. Bob is not at liberty to say who. This person gave some alternatives of what to do. Bob continued to say last year and this year we will pay \$28,000. The proposed agreement that we gave them, next year would increase to \$29,000, the following year to a little over \$30,000 and 2026 is \$31,500. At the end of the agreement that we just gave them, \$41,978. Susie added that they [the Borough] wouldn't go with it. Mr. Floyd responded that you've got to understand that's not the Citizen's Fire Company, that's the Borough. I'm talking about the Citizen's Fire Company and like I said, with the changing demands on fire service we have to look at, if we weren't going to take care of the township, and I live here right, but there are certain things we don't even have to have in our future budget as a fire company. Not at the borough level. See what I'm saying to you? Just like you making a five year plan to do something so that you have an idea what's going to go out 5 years or 10 years. The fire company does the same thing. So we have to look at that and that's why a multiple year contract for the fire company through the borough would be beneficial to us. Susie responds but we are here to represent the residents of the township and to keep everything fairly...John interrupts to say he understand that. I'm just telling you why they are talking about a multiple year contact. Bob says that was explained to us. The reasons are valid. We are going to meet with them again.

Susie provided an update to the LSA grant application. It was not rejected. They requested more information and that went out this week. Bob said one of the things in exploring these grants and talking with DCED, we need to get letters of recommendations from Mr. Heffley and Mr. Argall. So can you work on that? Susie will. Paul Bray pointed out that there is another LSA grant that is due at the end of November. Susie asked where to find that and Atty. Yurchak responded that it can be filed on the DCED Single Application form. Terry said maybe we need to look at spray foam installation for the ceiling in the garage. Bob said we need to look at a truck. Paul asked if that was the Covid money. Bob said no, we have technically used that, the way we were advised to use it was for general expenses so all the Covid money has been spent according to the standards. Susie asked if she would need a quote before she puts in for the LSA Statewide grant. Bob said Tom Figas was supposed to have someone come look at it. Paul Bray said if that is what you are putting in for you should add the windows on the buildings. All these windows here are rotten on the outside and these are probably original windows aren't they? Not from 1901 but when the Township took over. Always ask for more. Bob said we are going to do two roofs, the back one and this one.

Regarding delinquents, Atty. Yurchak said there are 4 judgements in varying amounts. The lowest is Bizarre at about \$1700 and Andjreco is almost \$6000, Mahon is over \$5000, Diaz is about \$4000-\$5000. The two Wilkinsons, Gerhard and Erdman are making payments. Stephanie added that Mahon is supposed to be making a payment on Wednesday. Atty. Yurchak said to keep in touch with her. Bob Selert made a motion to authorize Atty. Yurchak to move forward with execution of judgements. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Terry picked up the new zero turn lawn mower from JC Small Engine.

**New Business** – Bob Selert made a motion to advertise the proposed budget for 2024. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Bob Selert made a motion to sign a letter of support reauthorizing Chapter 53 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

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 and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Stephanie received a voice-mail from Paul Sholtis that a property owner was building something without a permit on Grist Mill Drive. Terry had checked on it and they were only doing some excavating and landscaping, no structure was being built.

Terry talked to Terry Shellock about the F450 truck at his garage. Shellock has someone making the rocker panels for it. Paul added that the F550 needs an auger. Bob plans to get a new one. He can get one for \$100.

Bob also discussed paving machines that are \$300,000. He has never seen any being sold by Penn-DOT. Knowing we cannot afford to buy that he is trying to find out when was the last County Supervisors Convention. It could be shared among several townships. Susie said this is what the Carbon County Council of Governments does but the Supervisors did not join it. Bob would still like to know why there hasn't been a convention. Bob will be attending a Townships Under 2000 Population Committee meeting. He will find out how much the township dues will go up if we join the PSATS legal defense fund. It is on November 15<sup>th</sup> in Camp Hill and he told Susie and Terry to let him know if there is anything they want him to bring up at the meeting. Bob continues, that meeting we went to in Jim Thorpe, I think we are covered as far as when we look at a PRD and all that green space and things they wanted. I think it covers it pretty good here. The only thing I was disappointed in and I was biting my tongue the whole time was that they cut us out of the funding if we wanted to update it but I didn't want to put anyone on the spot as to why and how. When you look at Hazleton, north, west, east and here, you look at all the development there and everything that is east of here, maybe they won't come here for these 5000 warehouse jobs. If it does come here, they have to follow our rules. I think we are covered. One of the things there on the planned residential development is minimum 50 acres. So that takes a whole bunch out but there is still lots of big chunks left.

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 6:24 p.m. A total of 2 residents attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Stephanie Stolpe  
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer