

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at the township building. Bob Selert called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. All were present.

Bob Selert announced that an executive session would be held after the regular meeting to discuss the fire contract. The meeting was opened to the floor. There were no comments.

The minutes from the January 2nd and 10th meetings were approved with a motion from Susie Gerhard. 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:

January 2, 2024: Phone discussion with property owner of 1801 Wetzel Run Drive regarding installing a detached garage. A follow up email was sent providing the application form and instructions for submittal. Monthly report prepared and emailed to Stephanie.

January 15, 2024: Printed and laminated placards for the Zoning hearing that is scheduled for January 30, 2024.

January 18, 2024: Posted the property for the upcoming Zoning Hearing Board and sent out mailings to adjacent properties.

January 23, 2024: Printed packets for zoning hearing board meeting on January 30th.

January 24, 2024: Reviewed and issued Zoning Permit for accessory structure. (1801 Wetzel Run Drive)

January 29, 2024: Composed and sent a letter to Stephen Hinkle with findings from my December 19th visit to the property (2006 Quakake Road). The property is being used for both Commercial and Agricultural purposes. Sent via email and regular mail.

January 30, 2024: Attendance of Zoning Hearing Board meeting (Gentile - dimensional variance); Submission of Annual Floodplain Management Activity Report to PEMA; confirmation email sent to Stephanie for Township records.

Upcoming Court Hearings: *No court hearings are scheduled currently.

PA UCC: *No applications were received during the month of January.

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. One new application, site evaluation and test probe for a lot on Railroad Drive. Bob Selert made a motion to approve the SEO report. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Zoning Hearing Board-Bob-The Zoning Hearing Board met on January 30th for the request of Donna & William Gentile who sought a variance to the minimum side yard and front yard. The request was approved.

Citizens Fire Company-Bob-The Supervisors are still in discussions about the fire agreement and will be meeting in executive session following the meeting.

Old Business – Regarding the appeal process of the tax exempt status of the Hazleton City Authority, Bob forwarded copies of the Intermunicipal Agreement to Lehigh Township and Lausanne Township. He had some questions from Lehigh Township and plans to attend Lausanne Township’s meeting on Monday. The agreements for Lausanne and Lehigh were signed.

Bob asked Stephanie if she had taken pictures of the additional storm damage discovered at the park pavilion and if estimates for repairs were required by the insurance company. She said she was told by the adjuster that quotes are good to review before repairs in case they come back high but that repairs can also be done and submitted without quotes. Susie said someone is scheduled to look at it. Bob explained that the wind storm in August that knocked trees down and damaged the fence also damaged the pavilion. It’s got a little bit of a lean to it. All the bracing from the north side is pulled out at the bottom. The insurance company has been contacted and will follow through with getting estimates for repairs. Paul Bray asked if the supervisors want caution tape around it. The supervisors did not think that was necessary because it is winter and not that extreme.

Bob asked Jason and Diane Maday if they have had a chance to review the agreement regarding the Right-of-Way for the Ochre Mill Road bridge replacement with their attorney. Jason said yes and asked about parcel numbers that were mixed up. Jason said he will show Bob after the meeting. It is a typo that says 112 but should read 122. He wants to double check some measurements and other things. Jason said yes, we are pretty good with that. Bob-We will look at that right after the meeting.

New Business – Susie Gerhard made a motion to accept the Packer Township/Carbon County Exoneration and Delinquent List for 2023 as presented by the Packer Township Tax Collector, Valerie Kane. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0

Bob noted that there had been some complaints about the trees along Grist Mill Drive. We will look to see what needs to be done now and solicit bids for cleaning up overhanging trees, limbs and other dangerous areas on all the roads. On Wetzell Run Road from Elmer Hinkle's down to Bittner's on the east side and at Busher's trees are encroaching.

Correspondence-A letter was received from Fell Township and reviewed by all. Bob Selert and Atty. Yurchak summarize the situation as follows: The DEP commissioned an experimental procedure that involved the use of municipal waste mixed with concrete to backfill previously mined areas. It leached and was considered a failure but the company that was involved applied for a statewide license anyway. That is why they are saying it is a state wide issue. Fell Township is a party to a case before the PA Environmental Hearing Board. DEP is negotiating with contractor for a settlement without including Fell Township. The case is expected to go to appellate court. Bob asked Atty. Yurchak if they should refer Fell Township to PSATS. Atty. Yurchak responded yes and that they can be referred to their state senator and representatives. I don't think you are in a position to give them financial help which is what they want essentially.

A letter received from Casella Waste Systems, Inc. sharing that they acquired the GFL Environmental waste management operations. Nothing formal was received from GFL.

A letter received from Breezeline was received regarding rate increases that would be going out to residents.

A letter received from the Weatherly Post Office regarding concerns of the Ochre Mill Road bridge. Terry has contacted the post office about this.

Bob-Regarding personnel issues, all employees must clear all work with one of the supervisors before doing any work. Stephanie is going to get a letter out to everyone. Unless the work is cleared by one of the 3 of us, no work.

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

Terry asked if Stephanie had heard anything about internet for 3 homes without it on Round Head Road. She had not. Bob said the latest that he heard talking with Lukasevich that it is in the county's hands and they have the proposal and they knew where these are and are pursuing a federal grant. Stephanie added that there is a FCC map of all the locations that would need service or everybody and those 3 were on the map. Terry will try to call Mr. Ahner to see where they are at with that.

Bob said he got an email for NEPA Alliance Anthracite Regional Commission. They want to have training for local government leaders for grant money. He asked Susie if she can attend the training. She said yes.

An executive session was called. The meeting was reconvened following executive session. 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 6:33 p.m. A total of 7 residents attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Stolpe, Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer