

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 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. There were no comments.

The minutes 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:**

February 5, 2024: Review of the submitted application for Special Exception Use (1458 Hudson Drive - Automobile Repair Business) and email correspondence with Stephanie.

February 6, 2024: Preparation of monthly report.

February 13, 2024: Phone call with property owner regarding the installation of a detached garage; a follow-up email was prepared with the application form attached. (269 Tower Road)

February 19, 2024: Email response to Attorney Seach regarding the formal withdrawal of ZHB application (1458 Hudson Drive)

February 22, 2024: Received a phone call from the Magistrate's office that Mr. Hinkle was on their warrant list. I sent an email to Mr. Hinkle and his Attorney. Subsequently, a letter was received requesting a Zoning Hearing Board meeting. I advised him to send a check to the Township for the application fee to formalize and schedule a hearing. I then called the Magistrate and told them that I will withdraw my citation next week. Spoke with Stephanie and compiled service hours relative to the ZHB application for 1458 Hudson Drive.

Upcoming Court Hearings: *No court hearings are scheduled.

PA UCC: February 19, 2024: Application received for New Modular Home at Parcel ID: 125-46-B1.03 (Spring Mountain 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. No report.

Old Business – Regarding the appeal process of the tax exempt status of the Hazleton City Authority, Bob-There was a glitch on getting the agreement signed between Lehigh and Lausanne. He was unable to follow-up from yesterday's meeting to see if they were signed. He expects Lausanne's to be signed next week and he believes Lehigh's was signed yesterday but he is not sure. Once we have their intention to sign as a signatory, Atty. Yurchak has the authorization to move forward with the complaint.

Bob asked Jason Maday if he had signed the agreement to authorize temporary use of his property for the bridge replacement on Ochre Mill Road. Jason had not but will sign it tonight. Terry asked when we would start getting bids out. Bob responded that first, once we have Jason's signed agreement, we will notify the engineer to proceed with the DEP approvals. There is no need to move forward with bids until we know when the DEP approvals are going to come in. Bob asked Susie if she had heard back from David Bodnar regarding the Community Development Block Grant. Susie said that David responded that the CDBG application as a whole is currently being reviewed by DCED. At this time his office has not received any further questions from DCED in regards to the project and anticipates the project being approved with the application. Bob-This is what we have right here, right now. Susie-Right. Bob-He had conveyed to me that there was \$132,000 set aside from previous years. Did you inquire about that money or did you inquire about the email for the next round of CDBG. Susie-No. I have that paperwork here. Bob-The question for him will be can we apply for the overages that we expect on the Ochre Mill project or should we put in for another project? We have the engineering estimates for the Ochre Mill project. Second-Did we get estimates for the closed cell insulation for the garages?

Susie-No. Bob-So if we cannot pursue CDBG for the overages for what we already have been approved, we should put in for that. Ask if we need engineering estimates or if we can use contractor bids for that. We will put in for both of them and hopefully we will get one of them. Susie-Ok.

Bob-A fire protection agreement was received today and we really did not have a chance to review it. We will hold an executive session following the rest of the meeting's business.

Susie obtained a quote on the park pavilion storm damage for \$4750. John Floyd asked about hurricane clips. Susie responded that the contractor said the posts are out of plumb. A second estimate was received to plumb the braces and replace the damaged framing members. So the total estimate to fix the storm damage is \$7500. The damage is all from the one storm. Bob made a motion to turn the estimate into the insurance company. Susie seconded the motion. It will be turned over to the insurance company.

Three written quotes for tree trimming on Wetzel Run Drive and Grist Mill Drive were reviewed and discussed. Bob noted that Cooper's states 25 feet of elevation over roadway, chip all debris at \$14,300. Buck Mt. Landscaping states cut back up to about 15', clean up branches for \$13,100. Hoffman's bid of \$15,800 includes trimming of Wetzel Run Drive 3.2 miles. So that is the whole road, all of Grist Mill Drive, 2.4 miles, trim overhanging branches as looked at and discussed with Mr. Terry Davis. His does not say 25'. Susie asked why Hoffman's has the entire road and the others have spot locations. Terry-They were told the entire road. He personally took each business out himself so there was no confusion. I told them exactly what was needed. Bob-Did he say how high he was going to trim? We will need to clarify how high Hoffman is going to trim. What did Cooper's say? Terry-Hoffman said normally when he trims for the State they go ground to sky. We don't really need that. We got complaints from bus drivers. Bob-But if you look at the trees, especially on Wetzel, the south side of Wetzel, it needs it along just about the whole road because you have branches halfway across the roadway. If he's going to go roadway to sky that is a better deal. Terry-He's not. I told him we don't need roadway to sky. Donny Yanac said it would help in the winter time with ice melt. Bob-We need to clarify the bids so that they are all apples to apples. Susie-Right. Terry-Ok. Bob-We will table the bids until next month pending further clarification.

New Business – Susie Gerhard made a motion to grant permission to Valerie Kane, Tax Collector, to dispose of records. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0

Correspondence- An email was received from Atty. Seach regarding his client's (Samler Property Management, LLC) withdrawal of an application for a Special Exception. Applicant seeks a refund if available. Stephanie explains that the withdrawal came after the scheduling of the hearing began so Barry Isett and Stephanie had hours in that total \$191. Bob asked Atty. Yurchak if a refund can be approved since it was not on the agenda. Atty. Yurchak replied that it is part of the bills anyway. Bob Selert made a motion to return the application fee to Samler Property Management, LLC for the zoning hearing board hearing requested less the Township expenses. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

A letter was received from John Bizarre, Jr., asking for a waiver from the garbage fee. The Supervisors had reviewed the letter. Bob gives examples of senior residents, retired, in their 80s and 90s who pay it. He continues to say that dozens of other retired residents are paying it. Mr. Bizarre has a residence that is capable of producing refuse. He must pay his garbage bill. Bob asks Atty. Yurchak to send Mr. Bizarre a letter with the verbiage needed. He can't be exempt.

The Supervisors reviewed an updated list of delinquent garbage accounts. Bob stated that the township incurs expenses to collect. A full year of unpaid bills for charges of \$460.60 will cost \$760.02 with interest plus filing fees, which we will get back. We have been successful at the magistrate office in collecting this. There are six which have just been filed with the magistrate and 6 more that now have 2 quarters past due.

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

The agreement with Jason Maday was signed.

An executive session was called. The meeting was reconvened following executive session. Bob read an email from the Borough received today. "Hi Stephanie, I have attached the Fire Protection Agreement from Citizens Fire Co No. 1. Have the supervisors give this serious consideration at their meeting tonight as Council does not want to negotiate this further. Harold." They have agreed to the 5.4% increase that they asked for in the beginning and another clause in there, "Any maintenance cost that exceed \$4000.00, Packer Township will cover ½ the cost for a maximum of five (5) occurrences in a year, payable in thirty (30) days." The last sentence-"This agreement shall not automatically renew. No services will be provided after December 31, 2024." Susie Gerhard made a motion to accept the agreement. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0 Terry added that in the summer months we will be sitting down with them to come up with a long term agreement. Bob-All of the back and forth, we ended up settling for what they asked for in the beginning for 1 year.

Bob asked if there were any comments. There were none.

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 6:35 p.m. A total of 5 residents attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Stephanie Stolpe
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer