

As advertised in the Journal Herald newspaper, the Packer Township Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at the township building. Bob Selert called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Bob Yurchak was absent.

The meeting was opened to the floor. Alicia Nyer asked about the Ochre Mill Road bridge project. She wants to know when it will be started and how long it will take to finish. She wants to know the measurement of the width of the bridge and after each rain storm you're supposed to re-measure to find out the deterioration on that bridge. She says, even underneath the plates, it is sinking, it is bowed and it is not even safe. There is no posted weight limit sign. There will be people going in and out of there from out of state. It needs to be handled a little differently as far as caution tape and stuff like that. Bob replied that the bid specifications from the township engineer went to the county yesterday. The county is handling the bid process from two contractors. One who has done this before and one who brought the plates that has expertise in this. I think they have waived the bid process because it is an emergency situation. The county is allowed to solicit bids from the two contractors we have selected. I don't have a timeframe on how long they will allow them to look at the bid. Terry added that the bridge still has to be manufactured. Bob added that one contractor wants to assemble the bridge and drop it in, the other wants to drop in an assembled bridge so we are looking at 4 different bid packages. Once the bridge is ordered, either assembled or not, it is 3 weeks. They are giving them 18 hours to complete the project. If they don't get it done in 18 hours there will be liquidated damages. That is what we know right now. Bob says it should be completed by May 15th going by the 3 week timeframe to get it ordered. For the width of the bridge, it has to go by federal standards because it involves federal money and is why we are going through this process. Alicia asked the Supervisors if they understand that it is getting worse and Bob responded that we understand it is getting worse. Jason Maday added that by the hand rail by Josh's, every time it rains it just swirls out further and further. We are supposed to get more heavy rain today, tomorrow and the next day. Bob responded that the engineer says we are to monitor this and if there is any significant change we are to call him. Jason added that every rain storm the erosion gets worse. Alicia said that the fact that they clear cut it on the Broad [worsens the situation]. Bob responded that is out of our hands and we understand that. Casey Grover asked if a temporary bridge will be put in. Bob said right now, they are giving them 18 hours to get it done. We anticipate asking the fire company to park a fire truck on the other side before construction starts. We anticipate the contractor will have to provide a vehicle on the other side of their bridge for taking people back and forth to their houses. Right now they have a foot bridge to cross during construction. Casey asked if they are going to give fair notice as to when they are putting it in. Terry said yes, everybody will be kept posted. Jason asked about footers and Bob responded that the specs came yesterday afternoon and he has not looked at the bid today. Bob also mentioned that it is an aluminum box design and he is not sure if there are cement footers. If not, that extends the 18 hours. Paul Bray asked if plastic barriers can be obtained instead of using caution tape. Susie said we will look into it.

Paul asked if the supervisors received a correspondence from the county 911 for the fire training center open house on June 1st. Bob said yes. Paul said the fire company was notified that on Friday, July 19th at the training center the Carbon County Community Foundation is honoring the Weatherly fire company at an open house from 11:30-1:00. They gave the fire department several grants over the last couple years and they want to showcase the fire department to other eligible donors that support this organization. So you are welcome to come to that in support of the fire company.

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 – Susie Gerhard made a motion to approve A RESOLUTION OF PACKER TOWNSHIP, CARBON COUNTY, SUPPORTING THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0

Reports of Officials and Committees –

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

March 5, 2024: Preparation of Zoning/UCC report.

March 12, 2024: Patrolled the Township and noted that 795 Quakake Road has gotten worse. I wrote a Notice of Violation.

March 19, 2024: Site visit 795 Quakake Road - No Change.

2006 Quakake Road, Postings for Zoning Hearing Board Meeting are still posted and visible.

March 21, 2024: Sent an email with photos and Notice of Violation from 795 Quakake Road to the Supervisors via Stephanie. I am monitoring the property and waiting for the return receipt from the Post Office.

Updated 2006 Quakake Road file.

March 26, 2024: Site visit to 2006 Quakake Road; property remains posted.

Site visit to 795 Quakake Road; porch appears worse. (12 days since Notice of Violation was issued)

March 28, 2024: Updated Notice of Violation for 795 Quakake Road and Wrote an Unsafe Structure Placard, sent to the Township's BCO and Solicitor for review before I post the property on April. 2, 2024.

Wrote end of month report and forwarded it to the BCO.

Upcoming Court Hearings: *No court hearings are scheduled.

PA UCC: March 19, 2024: Received application for antennae upgrades and generator equipment at 101 Tower Access Road. A Code Review Memo was issued to the applicant on March 20, 2024, for revisions.

March 25, 2024: Issued permits for: 1586 Spring Mountain Road (Single-Family Dwelling) 162 Binder Lane (Demo of Manufactured Home)

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. Mandatory SEO training and file maintenance were reported. Bob Selert made a motion to enter the report into the minutes. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Old Business – Regarding the appeal process of the tax exempt status of the Hazleton City Authority, Bob has the last two agreements from Lausanne and Lehigh. We have already given Atty. Yurchak permission to proceed with filing of this appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Susie Gerhard made a motion to approve Atty. Yurchak to proceed. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Bob Selert agreed. Vote 3-0

Bob acknowledges that the engineer has submitted the required documents to the Carbon County Office of Planning & Development for the Community Development Block Grant to move forward with seeking bids and proposals for the bridge. Bob Selert makes a motion to move forward in this process. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Stephanie spoke to the adjuster on the park pavilion storm damage claim. He is sending the quote to an outside adjuster for evaluation. It can be fixed but a payment has not been released yet. Susie asked if they are going with the full amount submitted. Stephanie responded that they are going to look at that.

Terry talked to Buck Mountain regarding tree trimming and clarification of their quote which was the lowest bid at \$13,100 to do Wetzel Run Road and Grist Mill Drive. Terry Davis made a motion to accept the bid and Bob Selert seconded the motion. Susie Gerhard agreed. Vote 3-0

Bob talked about garbage delinquents who have no valuable assets when the constable surveys property to cover what is owed on the bill. We have to look for another avenue and will discuss with Atty. Yurchak at the next meeting.

New Business – Bob Selert made a motion to ratify the change to the PSATS voting delegate from Susie Gerhard to Bob Selert. Susie Gerhard seconded the motion and Terry Davis agreed. Vote 3-0

Terry asks if it is known if anyone in the township uses the Electronic Recycling Events at Weatherly Borough. The events are June 1st at a cost to the township of \$169 and September 26th at a cost of \$148. Paul has taken stuff and he has asked how many Packer Township residents come in. The Board decides it will be included with the garbage bills to contact the office if interested in the event and a decision to participate will be made at the next meeting.

Paul asked if a Facebook page can be added for the Township because not everybody is on the People of Packer Township page. Not everyone follows it. Not everyone has computers. If we had a Facebook page that only you can post. Bob may talk to Donny and see if we can get something on there.

Correspondence- A PennDOT notification that the Liquid Fuels allocation for 2024 is \$48,390.68 which will be paid via ACH on April 4th was received.

Bob Selert made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Terry Davis seconded the motion and Susie Gerhard 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

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 6:16 p.m. A total of 8 residents attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Stolpe
Packer Township Secretary/Treasurer