

NORTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 26, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of North Heidelberg Township was called to order at 7:00 P.M. The pledge of allegiance to the flag followed. Supervisors present were Chairman Mitch Wolfe and Supervisor Robert Klinger. Also in attendance were Township Solicitor Chris Hartman, Township Engineer Ryan Rhode, and Township Secretary Tanya Taatjes.

Minutes – The minutes from the December 22, 2021 BOS meeting were reviewed. Resident Jeff Schatz disagreed with the statement on Page 2 that there are no regulations in the JZO when discussing the proposed Solar Farm Ordinance. He cited page 3-15 of the JZO. It is Solicitor Hartman’s opinion that the JZO refers to a public utility facility and does not provide regulations for solar farm use. It was his opinion that the minutes are correct, but suggested clarifying by changing the minutes to state that there are currently no regulations in the JZO regarding solar farms. Chairman Wolfe made a motion to accept the change. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Klinger and the motion carried. The minutes from the January 3, 2022 Reorganization meeting were reviewed with no additions or corrections. Chairman Wolfe made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Klinger. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report – The treasurer’s report was provided for review. Chairman Wolfe made a motion that the treasurer’s report be accepted as submitted subject to audit. Supervisor Klinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only – Resident Walter Stewart wanted to know why his RTK appeal was not included on the agenda. Solicitor Hartman explained that it is automatic for his office to prepare a response on behalf of the Township to a RTK appeal and that it is considered an administrative action and does not require any official action by the BOS. He further stated that it would be irresponsible for the Township to not reply to an appeal.

Tax Collectors Report- The monthly Tax Collector Report for December was reviewed by Kloma Kalbach. All unpaid county and school real estate tax bills have been sent to tax claim and all unpaid per capita bills have been sent to tax recovery. Sitting hours have been scheduled. The 2021 yearly report was reviewed.

Correspondence -

- a. Kennon Rice was present representing the Robesonia Library. He wished to thank the Township for its previous donations to the library and provided a request for increase of financial support handout. The handout was reviewed and discussed. The library is currently facing financial and personnel shortfalls. The Township donated \$789.00 in 2021. The BOS will discuss the donation amount for 2022 further. No action was taken.

Planning Commission –

- a. Both the North Heidelberg PC and the Joint PC met on January 20 to discuss an ordinance to provide for solar farms as a special exception use in HC, LI, and GI zoning districts. PC Chairman Jim Tomanelli explained that the PC tabled its recommendation

to the BOS based on the lack of information provided. The primary concern was that there is no area within the Township that is zoned industrial. He also noted that the Berks County PC review letter cited that the best use of land should be used to create a significant amount of employment opportunities and the current proposal conflicts with that. He indicated that the PC would like to see an ordinance from other townships and gather more information. The proposed ordinance was prepared by Solicitor Hartman and was based on an existing ordinance from Richmond Township. It was revised after addressing the comments in the Berks County PC review letter.

There was a general discussion regarding solar farms and their use, along with decommissioning, storm water management, farmland preservation and other aspects of the proposed ordinance. Although it is the role of the PC to recommend to the BOS, Mr. Tomanelli stated again that he did not feel that the PC had enough information and was not comfortable making a recommendation. The Joint PC made a motion to proceed with advertising the Solar Farm Ordinance and will vote at the February 17th, 2022 meeting which will be held at Heidelberg Township. The PC would like to consider changing the date of their meetings since both meetings fall on the same date. Chairman Wolfe stated that he would approve advertising a date change. The PC will discuss the issue further.

Kraft Code Services Report- Township Engineer Ryan Rhode reviewed the estimates received to install guide rail on a portion of Hill View Road due to safety concerns. A report was provided from LTAP which recommended installing guide rail due to the pond and the road sloping toward the pond. Caitlyn and John Gibbel expressed their concerns over installing the guide rail and the urgency at this particular location. They suggested pursuing other options that were suggested in the report such as signage or installing fencing or a wooden guide rail. It was Engineer Rhode's opinion that a wooden guide rail would not be PennDOT compliant and a metal guide rail is warranted based on the report provided. A motion was made by Chairman Wolfe and seconded by Supervisor Klinger to table a vote until the next BOS meeting. Motion carried.

Road Report- The blades were replaced on the Ford 550. More salt has been ordered. Supervisor Klinger would like to have a light installed above the main door. Resident Jeff Schatz suggested placing one on the salt shed as well and replacing the EXIT lights. He will provide a proposal.

Old Business- None

New Business- None

Solicitor- None

Public Comment- Resident Walter Stewart complimented the work done by Texas Eastern to reduce noise. In addition, his RTK appeal is part of open records.

Next Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Bills- A motion was made by Chairman Wolfe and seconded by Supervisor Klinger to pay bills and adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Taatjes, Secretary

People in attendance:

1. LuAnn Wolfe
2. Jim Tomanelli
3. Randy Lutz
4. Russell Getz
5. John Kissling
6. John Kalbach
7. Kloma Kalbach
8. Walter Stewart
9. Dave Hopkins
10. Jeff Schatz
11. Donna Terefenko
12. Mindy Cohen-Robeson Library
13. Kennon Rice-Robeson Library
14. John & Caitlyn Gibbel
15. ?