

NORTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

March 27, 2019

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, Bethany Emkey, Township Solicitor, Ryan Rhode, Township Engineer, and Township Secretary Tanya Taatjes.

Minutes – The minutes from the February 27, 2019 BOS meeting were reviewed with no additions or corrections. Chairman Mitch Wolfe made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Supervisor Robert Klinger seconded the motion, and the 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 – There were no public comments.

Tax Collectors Report- Township Tax Collector Kloma Kalbach reviewed the February report. Both the County and The Township audits for 2018 have been completed. Kloma is now a member of the Berks County Tax Commission Authority and the Pennsylvania Tax Commission Authority. The Township website has been updated and the 2019 sitting hours were reviewed. The Township Real Estate Tax Bills and The Census Forms were mailed out. Chairman Wolfe motioned to accept the Tax Collector’s Report. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Klinger and the motion carried.

Correspondence –

- a. The second request from the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a donation to the “A Farm Forever” signage project was tabled until the next meeting when Supervisor Pool is present.

Planning Commission –

- a. The March 21st Planning Commission meeting was canceled.
- b. After a brief summary of Tom Jones job experience, Chairman Wolfe made a motion to appoint Tom Jones to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Klinger and the motion carried.

Some residents expressed frustration because the Planning Commission vacancy was not posted on The Township website and some information on the website is outdated. Some residents also expressed frustration that Laura Sheetz was not reappointed to the PC.

Kraft Code Services Report-

- a. 6 permits were issued form 1/27/19-2/23/19.

Road Report-

- a. A Special Meeting was held at The Township on March 27th at 1:45 P.M. to open the two road bid contracts. After opening the bids, it was determined that Grandview Road would be removed from both contracts due to budgetary concerns. Ronnie Folk, Inc. was the lowest bidder at \$91,063.90 for the base repair project, and Asphalt Maintenance Solutions (AMS) was the lowest bidder at \$122,012.50 for the sealcoat project. Solicitor Emkey explained that deviating from the original contract by removing Grandview Road is permissible under the 2nd Class Township Code as well as the bid contract. A motion was made by Chairman Wolfe to accept Ronnie Folk, Inc. as the contractor for base repair. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Klinger and the motion carried. A motion was made by Chairman Wolfe to accept AMS as the sealcoat contractor. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Klinger and the motion carried. Both motions are subject to review by PennDot.

Old Business- Mr. Reazor requested clarification on the PC vacancy and wanted to know why Laura Sheetz wasn't reappointed to the PC Board. It was explained that her term had ended and the PC members serve at the pleasure of the board. It was further explained that both Walter Stewart and Jeff Schatz had resigned from the PC without explanation.

A heated argument ensued over the vacancy. Questions were raised about background checks and drug testing for Board members. It was explained that neither are done. Numerous opinions were expressed and it was noted by Chairman Wolfe that Supervisor Pool (who was absent from the meeting) was included in the decision to appoint Tom Jones to the PC and that the decision was unanimous.

New Business- No New Business

Solicitor Items-

- a. A public hearing was opened for the Comcast Franchise Ordinance 2019-2. Solicitor Emkey explained that there will be an increase in the franchise fee for The Township to the maximum allowable by law. There were no public comments. A motion was made by Chairman Wolfe to approve the Ordinance and seconded by Supervisor Klinger. Motion carried.

Action Items- None

Public Comment- A question was raised about permit information being open for review by the public. The Right To Know process was explained by Solicitor Emkey.

Walter Stewart requested an update on the North Hill Rd project. Chairman Wolfe explained that there were some discrepancies in the materials to be used by the Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) in the preliminary sketch. Township Engineer Rhode further explained that the roadwork bids were first priority and that the Township will continue to work with BCCD on bringing the North Hill Rd project together. Mr. Stewart expressed concerns over emergency vehicles accessing the road as well as run off from recent heavy rains.

Chairman Wolfe stated that Texas Eastern will be updating their equipment within the next two years.

Laura Sheetz wanted to know what was on her resume that precluded her from being reappointed to the Planning Commission. Chairman Wolfe again explained that the BOS decided to appoint someone else and that her resume was not at issue.

A comment was raised about the level of bickering and discontent during the meeting. An apology was given by a resident for a comment made during the meeting.

Supervisor Klinger suggested supplying the Fire Chief with a list of addresses of homeowners with solar panels which could pose a safety concern to emergency personnel.

Mr. Lange wanted to know who updates The Township's website. He expressed frustration over the lack of content currently provided and the PC page not being updated. Chairman Wolfe explained that both he and the Township Secretary, along with a Berks County representative, at no charge are responsible for the website.

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 8:35.

Next Regular Meeting, April 24, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Taatjes, Secretary

People in attendance:

1. Joan Ferrero
2. George Ferrero
3. Thomas Jones
4. Donna Terefenko
5. Walter Stewart
6. Ken Kiebach
7. LuAnn Wolfe
8. John Ruth
9. Kloma Kalbach
10. Sharon Gruber
11. Barry Goodhart
12. Laura Anne Scheetz
13. J David Lange Jr
14. Roy Oxenreider
15. David Hopkins
16. Brian Swanson
17. Tom Oxenreider
18. Russell Getz
19. John Kissling
20. Keith D.
21. Jim Reazor
22. Toni Reazor

