

NORTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

November 24, 2020

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, Supervisor David Pool and Supervisor Robert Klinger. Also in attendance were Chris Hartman, Township Solicitor, Jeff Fiant, Kraft Code Services and Township Secretary Tanya Taatjes.

Minutes – The minutes from the October 28, 2020 BOS meeting were reviewed with no additions or corrections. Chairman Wolfe made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Klinger 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 Pool seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only – Resident Bob Barshinger asked if a complaint had been received regarding burning on Reider Rd. It was explained that the complaint was on the agenda and would be addressed later in the meeting.

Tax Collectors Report- The monthly Tax Collector Report was reviewed by Kloma Kalbach. After December 31, 2020 all unpaid tax bills will be sent to tax claim.

Correspondence -

- a. Janice Rubendall has resigned as a representative of the Blue Marsh EMC. Chairman Wolfe has been appointed as a representative.
- b. Kraft Codes Official Jeff Fiant has received multiple burning complaints pertaining to Reider Rd and is currently working with DEP regarding a burning complaint at 624 Charming Forge Rd. A courtesy letter was sent to the property owner at 624 Charming Forge Rd by Mr. Fiant on October 29, 2020 addressing the complaint and reminding the property owner what items are prohibited from being burned within the Township under Ordinance 2009-1. The Township also received a letter dated November 21, 2020 requesting that the BOS address the ongoing complaints. It’s Mr. Fiant’s belief that Township Ordinance 2009-1 is not a burning Ordinance and only regulates outdoor solid fuel appliances. Solicitor Hartman agreed and doesn’t believe that the Township has effective action enforcement under the Ordinance. In addition, Township Ordinance #7 from 1967 appears to be a zoning regulation to regulate a sanitary landfill and is therefore not applicable for open burning. The BOS do not wish to enact an ordinance to address the regulation of backyard burning. It is Solicitor Hartman’s opinion that neither of the two existing ordinances effectively address the complaint and are not enforceable. It is therefore his opinion that the Township defer to DEP to handle the complaint. Mr. Fiant will continue to work with DEP. It was also noted by Fire Chief John Kissling that the fire company is not authorized to put out a controlled burn unless there is a safety issue or a burn ban due to weather.

- c. Berks County Sewer & Water Authority would like to remind residents that latex paint is not a hazardous material and should not be brought to their hazardous waste collection. A flyer was provided with instructions for proper disposal.

Planning Commission –

- a. The Joint PC is scheduled to meet on December 17th at 7:00 PM at the Robesonia Borough Hall to discuss the pending changes to the JZO. The advertising for the Rezoning Ordinance will be done in conjunction with accepting Marion Township into the Western Berks Joint Zoning, as well as the changes pertaining to Robesonia only to change the maximum number of dwelling units within an Active Adult Residential Community. The advertising will be handled by the borough of Robesonia. A quorum from each municipality will be required at the Joint PC meeting. The minutes from the Joint PC meeting on November 19th, 2020 are available for review.

Kraft Code Services Report-

- a. The 624 Charming Forge Rd burning complaint was discussed under Correspondence.

Road Report- The Township trucks are ready for plowing snow. The Township currently has a surplus of salt from last year and no longer uses ashes from the Wernersville State Hospital. Roadmaster Klinger is waiting to hear from the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the proposed cul-de-sac on Stump Lane.

New Business-

- a. Chairman Wolfe made a motion to authorize advertising a proposed Ordinance to amend the compensation for the office of tax collector for real estate taxes and per capital taxes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Klinger and the motion carried.

Solicitor- An executive session has been called for by the solicitor. Solicitor Hartman requested that Jeff Fiant be included in the executive session.

Old Business-

- a. Chairman Wolfe made a motion to accept Resolution 09-2020, which appoints Lettich & Zipay, CPA to make an examination of all Township accounts for the fiscal year 2020. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Klinger and the motion carried. Resident Walter Stewart questioned what information is required to be included on the year-end report.
- b. Chairman Wolfe made a motion to advertise the proposed 2021 budget. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Pool. Motion carried.

Public Comment- No update has been given by BCCD regarding the North Hill Rd project. Chairman Wolfe will be attending the Dirt & Gravel training course in December. Sheila Gallagher has not yet paid the final bill for escrow release.

Next Regular Meeting, Wednesday December 23, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

An executive session was called at approximately 7:53 PM to discuss possible pending litigation.

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 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Taatjes, Secretary

People in attendance:

1. Walter Stewart
2. Kloma Kalbach
3. Russell Getz
4. Roy Oxenreider
5. John Kissling
6. Jeff Schatz
7. Tony Oxenreider
8. David Hopkins
9. Bob Barshinger
10. Jeff Schlaybach