

Supervisors' Meeting

July 13, 2021



Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Morrow. In attendance were Supervisors Hunsinger, Klinger, Carr, and Howell. Meeting was held at the Buckhorn Fire Company.

Supervisor Morrow stated that an executive session was held prior to the supervisors meeting regarding police contract negotiations and Millville school district contract.

Approve June minutes – On a Carr/Hunsinger motion, June minutes were approved. Motion passed 5-0.

Solicitor – No report.

Police – Reported by Chief VanDine. See attached.

Zoning Officer – Reported by Melissa Matthews. See attached.

Planning Commission – No meeting was held this month.

Park Committee – Reported by Reverend Moore. See attached. Fernville Park will hold a community day on Saturday, August 9th from eleven to one. Reverend Moore also noted that the tether ball was taken again. He will be securing the new one so it cannot be removed. The Park is still in discussions about pickle ball. Supervisor Morrow was informed that the Buckhorn Boy Scouts with help with cleaning up the park. They requested if they could camp overnight at the park. Reverend Moore was told to contact the police with the date the scouts will be camping. On a Klinger/Morrow motion, the overnight camping is approved as long as the police are notified. Motion passed 5-0.

SEO – Not present

Roadmaster – Reported by Roadmaster Shawn Donbach. See attached. Supervisor Morrow asked Mr. Donbach to make a list of locations of dead ash trees on the right-of-way and work with a tree removal service to clear these out. Supervisor Klinger suggested that they close road down, have the tree service drop them and have the road crew move them. Supervisor Morrow stated either have the trees removed by the tree service or do as Supervisor Klinger suggest. Supervisor Carr asked the roadmaster to identify where the most dangerous locations are and work with the tree company so schedule the work.

Emergency Management – No report.

Manager's Report: Mr. Sutton thanked the road crew for the nice job they did landscaping around the monument. He also informed the supervisors that Chief VanDine requested that the police officers purchase exterior vests using their clothing allowance and then paying for the balance out-of-pocket. Chief VanDine said officers were interested in wearing their vests on the outside of the uniform. He stated that six months ago, their Geisinger trainer stated that an external vest is better for the back. Their tool belt will be over the shoulders instead of around the waist, which would evenly distribute the weight of the belt. He also said that several of the officers asked for this because it is very uncomfortable in the summer and there were some back issues. There were several comments regarding who would own the vest if the police officers paid half out of pocket.

Supervisor Carr felt that this should be part of the police negotiations. After further discussion, a Morrow/Klinger motion was made to wait and discuss this during contract negotiations. Motion passed 5-0. Mr. Sutton stated that it is time to update the secretary's computer, which will cost about \$1200.00. This has already been budgeted. Mr. Sutton informed the board that there will be a meeting on July 29th at 6:00pm on the Flood mitigation awarded by the town of Bloomsburg to discuss the findings of the that study. This will be held at Sawmill Road and there will also be a zoom meeting. If anyone is interested in attending, they need to call to register.

Mr. Sutton presented the financial report. See attached.

Citizen's Comments: **Reverend Moore, Fernville:** He thanked the police department and the road crew for doing an excellent job for the township.

Old Business:

1. **Township Meetings** – Mr. Sutton asked if we would continue holding our supervisors' meetings at 9:00am at the firehall. The firehall is available for the meetings if they are in the morning. Reverend Moore stated that there are people unhappy with the morning meetings because they cannot attend due to their work schedule. Supervisor Morrow pointed out that the township has not received any calls complaining of the meeting time. After further discussion, a Klinger/Morrow motion was made to keep the meetings to the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00am at the Firehall. Motion passed 5-0.
2. **Snyder Drive** – Supervisors Carr and Howell, along with the roadmaster went to look at Snyder Drive. Supervisor Carr estimated that it would need about 57 loads of shale. The Carr family is donating the bulldozer, labor, and fuel. Supervisor Howell spoke with Leo Yodock who said it would cost us \$100 a load to load and deliver the shale that we need. This will bring the road back up to level it should be and avoid the snow blowing it shut. This would be a cost of \$5,700 which is under the bidding threshold. The money is available for this project because the turnback road we agreed to take this year was allotted an amount of money to work on a piece of Red Mill/Perry. Any funds left over can be deposited in the liquid fuels account. On a Morrow/Hunsinger motion, permission was given to move forward with this project. Motion passed 5-0.
3. **Stimulus Consultant** – Mr. Sutton was advised that the Ceda-Cog is available to offer free assistance with the issues of how and where it is allowable to spend the stimulus money. Harry Matthias will also help with some questions if we have them. Supervisor Howell suggested that Mrs. Bella take on this project. After further discussion, he was informed that Mr. Sutton will take the lead and will ask Mrs. Bella for assistance if warranted.
4. **School Contract** – Discussed in executive session. We are in ongoing discussion with the Millville School District regarding the school resource officer.
5. **Health Insurance** – Mr. Sutton advised the board that Creative Benefits made an error when they told him the cost of our health insurance will only increase by 2%. It was increased by 14%. This line item was budgeted for a 23% increase, so we are covered.
6. **HMGP – 4408** – According to the information Mrs. Bella gave to Mr. Sutton, there are 21 homes considered for the flood buy-out project. Ten have signed for the buy-out, five removed themselves from the list, and we are still waiting for six to decide. She has spoken with our engineer regarding the DEP permits and Exact abstract for the title searching. The funds have not deposited in our account yet. Julie and Glen Millard's application for elevation was denied.
7. **Lexipol** – This company would support the police department in the writing and testing of officers on police policy and procedures at a cost of \$4,986.10 per year. This would keep the officers up to date on

current and new policies. Supervisor Howell asked for a brochure that identifies more specific information on what Lexipol provides. The discussion was tabled until next month when more information will be provided and then the board will vote.

New Business:

8. **Lowes Home Improvement Project** – Lowes would like to do a community project. Mr. Sutton suggested that they could plant a hedgerow at an empty lot at Drinker and Bloom Streets. Cars are avoiding the stop sign in that area by cutting through an empty lot. He also said that the park committee would like to do something in memory of Mr. Shaffer, a Fernville resident that passed away. He had been involved with the park. Mr. Sutton suggested that Lowes plant a tree for Mr. Shaffer at the park with surrounding landscaping and a plaque in the ground. The township would do the maintenance. On a Carr/Klinger motion, the township is allowed to work with Lowes on these projects. Motion passed 5-0.
9. **Rob Engelhardt Sub-Division Extension** – Ted Oman, the surveyor for the Engelhardt's sub-division, is requesting a ninety-day extension in order to review the approval of the sewer facilities. On a Carr/Klinger motion, extension is granted. Motion passed 5-0.
10. **Road Master - Probation** – Mr. Sutton reminded the board that our road master is currently in his probation period, and he recommend Shawn Donbach be moved to permanent full time Roadmaster. On a Morrow/Hunsinger motion, Roadmaster was moved to full time. Motion passed 5-0.
11. **New Hire – Road Crew** – Mr. Sutton, Mr. Donbach, Supervisor Carr and Supervisor Howell interviewed Ronald Gentzel for the permanent thirty-two hours a week part-time road crew position and recommended hiring him. His start date would be July 19, 2021, and his starting hourly pay will be \$17.99. On a Howell/Morrow motion, Mr. Gentzel was hired. Motion passed 5-0.
12. **Police Officer Association Negotiation Panel** – Chief VanDine has resigned as the collective bargaining liaison from the negotiation panel and is being replaced by Sergeant Traugh. The other members of the panel are Officers Craig Johnson and Chris Prescott.
13. **County Grant for Flood Buy-out** – FEMA is offering one resident \$10,000 for a property that was appraised at \$12,000. Mrs. Bella has applied for an Economic Development grant from the county to pay the difference of \$2,000.

Other Business:

Chief VanDine announced that Officer Travis Stotemyer will be resigning from the police force in approximately two weeks. The chief would like to start a search for a replacement. On a Hunsinger/Howell motion, permission is given. Motion passed 5-0.

Approve Bills as Posted – The secretary added one more bill to the list. Supervisor Howell asked several questions regarding the bills and was answered. On a Klinger/Carr motion, bills were approved as posted. Motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment of Meeting –Meeting was adjourned at 10:02.

Respectfully submitted,

Larina S. Kramer
Township Secretary