

Supervisors' Meeting

September 14, 2021



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

Approve August minutes – On a Howell/Klinger motion, August minutes were approved. Motion passed 5-0.

Solicitor – No report,

Police – Reported by Jeffrey Sutton. See attached.

Zoning Officer –Reported by Melissa Matthews. See attached.

Planning Commission – No meeting this month.

Park Committee – Reported by Dennis Garrison. See attached.

SEO – Not present

Roadmaster – Reported by Shawn Donbach. See attached. Supervisor Carr stated that since the tree removal went well, Mr. Donbach needs to generate a new list for the next set of trees that can come down.,

Emergency Management – Mr. Traugh stated that the last storm went more to the north, so we were lucky. He kept everyone up to date on information he received through the EMA and the county. Fliers with this information were delivered to residents in Fernville

Manager's Report – Informed the board that the salt contract has not been approved yet. The state advised us we are not allowed to purchase any salt until the contract is official. Mr. Donbach stated that we have plenty of salt, so this should not be a concern.

Schoolhouse Road, Dutch Hill Road and Dahl Road are scheduled to have yellow double line painting done at a cost of \$8,660.00. That money will come out of liquid fuels.

The drainage issue regarding the runoff on Mowery Drive and Frosty Valley Road was discussed with Steve Kehoe, our PennDOT rep. Several years ago, Mr. Klinger had an agreement with an employee of the state to have PennDOT replace the pipe, but this was not done. Steve Kehoe stated the state will give us permission to tap into their box. We would be responsible to lay the pipe and PennDOT would be responsible for the box and the pipe that crosses under Frosty Valley Road. Once we install the pipe, it should keep the box and the pipe crossing under to stay clear. This can be covered by liquid fuels. We are waiting to hear from Paul Sokol regarding this project.

Mr. Sutton wanted to discuss the stimulus funds allowable spending. The rules have not been released yet so we were told to try to limit our spending yet. We have until 2026 to spend the monies. He asked the board if our

employees could be paid as an incentive to get the covid shot - \$500.00 for initial shots and \$200.00 for the booster. Supervisors Carr does not believe this would be a wise expenditure to pay for the shots. He feels it is not a benefit to the citizens of the township. After further discussion, a Morrow/Hunsinger motion was made to decline the use of monies for this. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Mr. Sutton read the financial report.

Citizen's Comments: Dennis Garrison, Spring Garden Ave., asked when the Lowes project will be completed in Fernville. Mr. Sutton stated that this project may not happen until after the fair. Mr. Garrison also stated that a person is parking his trailer in the parking lot in Fernville, but he lives in Bloomsburg. Supervisor Morrow said that unless there is garbage left out, there is no problem

Mr. Garrison then asked Mr. Donbach when the pooling of water near Holmes Lane on Creek Road will be fixed. He is concerned from a safety angle. He was told that this would be worked on next year. Mr. Donbach said he will keep an eye on it in case it freezes.

Mr. Sutton stated that an amendment to the agenda needs to be made. The agenda items did not include the Columbia County Redevelopment Authority regarding the handicapped assessable project and the hiring of a new road crew employee. On a Carr/Hunsinger motion, amendment was approved. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business:

1. **Old Case Backhoe** – Mr. Donbach stated that the backhoe needs a new transmission. He received an estimated cost of \$14,440.00. The core charge of \$3,780.00 will be deducted, reducing the amount to \$10,660.00. The cost of a new backhoe is much higher. After further discussion, a Carr/Klinger motion was made to repair the backhoe. Motion passed 5-0.
2. **Redevelopment Authority Presentation** – Betsy Rubio, from the Columbia County Redevelopment Authority, provided the board with an overview of the handicapped ramp work to be done. Ms. Rubio asked the board for permission to move ahead with the bidding process. The project would be completed by April of 2022. The current bathrooms will still be single use and handicapped accessible. They need the bid proposal to get a cost. After some discussion, a Morrow/Hunsinger motion was made to move forward with the bidding process. Motion passed 5-0.
3. **PMRS – Minimum Municipal Obligation – “MMO”** – Mr. Sutton presented the Municipal Minimum Obligation received from PMRS. The police pension is \$57,848.00 and the non-uniform pension is \$32,767.00. The township receives funds from the pension and this amount usually covers the cost.
4. **Police Contract** – Mr. Sutton stated the wage increase for the police three-year contract is as follows:

Chief, Corporal and Patrolman III – 5% for 2022, 3% for 2023, 4% for 2024
Sergeant – 3.5% for 2022, 3% for 2023, 4% for 2024
Patrolman 1, 2 and part-time – 3.5% for 2022, 3% for 2023 and 3% for 2024.

Julie Klinger asked if the other municipalities that the township provides service to contribute to this. She was told that they pay for the hours requested in their contracts. On a Klinger/Hunsinger motion, the police contract was approved. Motion passed 5-0.
5. **Glen Millard water issue** – Mr. Sutton met with Glen Millard, a resident of 33 Walnut Street, to discuss the water that funnels into his yard. Part of the problem is Mr. Millard has no downspouts, the other part is the lay of the land where two houses next to him were torn down, so the water also goes into Mr. Millard's yard. Our engineer, Andy Keister, will be working on ways to correct the problem. There are several options that would fix this. The board directed Mr. Sutton to get prices from the engineer and this will be decided at the October meeting.
6. **Open Police Officer Position** – Candidate Thomas Crawford was interviewed. He has very little experience, so it was recommended he be hired starting as part-time for thirty-two hours a week. If he works out, he will be made full-time to replace the officer that resigned. On a Morrow/Howell motion, permission is given to hire Thomas Crawford as a part-time officer. Motion passed 5-0.

7. **Fire Company Vehicle Insurance** – Scott Traugh met with Mr. Sutton and stated that in the past, the township has paid for their vehicle insurance. Several years ago, they switched insurance carriers because they needed replacement cost. The new carrier did not separate the charges on the invoice, so the fire company has been paying its own vehicle insurance in the amount of \$5,942.00 per year. Mr. Traugh requested that the township take over the payments. Mr. Sutton also stated that the fire tax could be raised to cover the cost. Supervisor Carr asked if this is causing any financial strain for the fire company and the answer was no. After further discussion, it was decided that Mr. Sutton will check out the costs and report back at the October meeting.
8. **Budget Workshops** – The budget workshops have been scheduled for September 20, 21 and 22 at 9:00 am at the township building.
9. **Stimulus Vaccination Incentive – Managers Report** – Discussed earlier under manager's report.
10. **Other Business:**

Mr. Sutton stated that there is an opening for a part-time road crew worker since Alan Peters gave his notice. They would like to interview Ryan Gentzel as a possible candidate. He asked if the committee that interviews could be authorized to hire a candidate they choose. On a Morrow/Klinger motion, permission is given for the interviewing committee to hire a part-time employee for the road crew. Motion passed 5-0.

Approve Bills as Posted – Ms. Kramer presented a revised bill list. On a Klinger/Hunsinger motion, revised bills as presented are approved. Motion passed 4-0. Supervisor Carr stepped out of the room for a few minutes therefore missing the vote.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Larina S. Kramer
Township Secretary