

Supervisors' Meeting

February 8, 2022



Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Mark Morrow. In attendance were Supervisors Carr, Hunsinger, and Howell. Supervisor Klinger was not present. Meeting was held at the Buckhorn Fire Company. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel.

Approve January minutes – On a Hunsinger/Carr motion, January minutes were approved as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

Solicitor – Attorney Lewis stated that the American Rescue Plan has made available approved uses for the federal stimulus money.

Police – Reported by Chief VanDine. See attached.

Zoning Officer – Reported by Renee Moist. She informed the board that she has the junk yard application and fee for the license from Mrs. Spencer. She also has the land development plan for the County Christian School. They requested a variance for the height which was approved in December. County did not present their comments in the thirty-day window due to illness in the office. All the township and engineering comments have been addressed and the preliminary waiver needs to be accepted. This will be voted on under new business.

Planning Commission –.

Park Committee – No report.

SEO – Not present

Roadmaster – Reported by Shawn Donbach. See attached.

Emergency Management – Scott Traugh was not present..

Manager's Report – Mr. Sutton stated that Ken's Property presented their fee schedule for 2022 for mowing and the rates remained the same as last year. The township will retain his services for 2022. Mr. Sutton also announced that Denise Ottaviani has selected Burt Leiby as the Deputy Tax Collector. The Sewer Co-op informed Mr. Sutton that there are enough EDUs for all Geisinger projects in the township. He then presented his financial report.

Citizen's Comments:

Dennis Garrison, Fernville: Mr. Garrison asked if the lines on Creek Road can be painted. It is a heavily traveled road. Mr. Sutton stated that the road will be tarred and chipped next year. The lines will have to be painted after the work is done. The cost will be around \$2,000.00. Mr. Sutton stated that the curve signs that were placed have helped slow down traffic.

Old Business:

1. **Special Taxes** – Last month, Attorney Lewis and Sutton talked about a special tax for police in a business district. After research, it was discovered that the tax is only for a specific purpose and not adaptable for how we would like to use it. The EIT tax is at the highest rate, so nothing can be done with that.
2. **Police Vehicle** – Mr. Sutton stated that Chief VanDine spoke to him about getting a new police vehicle. Chief VanDine stated there were two 2021 Tahoes in at Blaze Alexander in Muncy but they were already taken. Rapid Response out of Danville ordered 375 Tahoes, they were allotted 305 and all but thirty were spoken for. They will not hold any cars. There is 2022 Tahoe will be coming in at the cost of \$40,400, outfitting will be another \$12,000. Supervisor Carr asked when the new year cars become available? The 2023 will arrive late winter of 2023. The police budgeted for a new car in June or July. Supervisor Morrow stated he feels we should wait until the second half of the year to purchase. Supervisor Carr agrees. Chief VanDine stated that it was put in the budget because we would be receiving money from Cristian Faust's development projects. Supervisor Carr would like to wait and see if Madison renews their contract before making any decision to buy a car. At the Madison meeting in January, Mr. Sutton requested that their board let us know in several months if they plan to renew the contract so we could work our budget accordingly. They also discussed the cost of health care for the township being a high-cost item in our budget. Supervisor Howell asked if Creative Benefits looks at health plans outside of Geisinger. He was told they look at Geisinger and Blue Cross plans. Mr. Sutton was then asked to speak to Creative Benefits about doing more research with other insurers. Supervisor Morrow asked how many police car payments we currently have and was told two. He would rather focus on purchasing a new tractor for the road crew

because the current one needs to be replaced. On a Howell/Morrow motion, the purchasing of a police car will be on hold until July 1st of this year due to unforeseen expenses. Motion passed 4-0.

3. **Auditors Wage Document** – The auditors met and set the hourly payrate for working supervisors at \$20.50 per hour, which is a 3.50% raise from last year.
4. **Stimulus** - Mr. Sutton said we spent about \$80,000 from the stimulus money to balance the 2022 budget. This money came out of the first allotment of the stimulus, and the remaining balance is about \$24,800.00. We will receive another \$188,710.00 of stimulus money in June of this year. He suggested that police chief and roadmaster make a list of things they would like for their department. He would then meet and discuss this with Mrs. Bella. There will be work session to discuss purchase requests.

New Business:

5. **Spencer Junk Yard License** – Discussed above. Five signatures are needed for the license. These will be provided by the supervisors at the end of the meeting.
6. **Columbia County Christian School** – Ms. Moist stated that she needs the waiver for the prelim/final plan along with signatures. On a Morrow/Carr motion, the waivers for the preliminary/final plan, which have been addressed, were approved. The signatures will be provided after the meeting. Motion passed 4-0.
7. **Geisinger Medical Center Land Consolidation** – Ms. Moist stated that Geisinger Buckhorn MSK plans were submitted with a lot consolidation plan from Borton-Lawson engineering firm. No comments have been received from township engineer or county. They are looking for a waiver for a final/prelim. There are three large lots and one tiny post stamp size lot. Sam Stiner, from Borton-Lawson, presented arial drawings of the plan, and answered questions from the supervisors.
8. **Sunland Letter of Credit Reduction** – Sunland Preserve was looking for a reduction in their letter of credit. Mr. Reedy contacted our engineer in early December. He went out to look at the site and estimated the amount of work that needs to be done. He prepared an estimate at that point of time of reduction to \$170,000. Mr. Keister received another call yesterday stating that more work has been done since December. He looked at it this morning and stated there is still work that needs to be completed. They are also required by the Sewer Co-operative to hold back 10% of the sewer cost for one year to make sure that everything is properly functioning. Mr. Keister suggested reducing the amount to \$125,778.84. This includes all the work that needs to be done based on our engineer's recommendation along with 10% on top of that. On a Howell/Car motion, the letter of credit will be reduced to \$125,778.84. Motion passed 4-0.
9. **Fireworks Permit** – A gentleman from the Foxtail development requested a fireworks permit. He had a professional pyrogenic person choose a site and had the fire chief, Ken Wenner, check it out. Mr. Wenner felt it was secure and offered his services for that evening to make sure it is safely conducted.
10. **Advertise for Road Dust Material** – Mr. Sutton requested permission to advertise for road dust oil. On a Hunsinger/Howell motion, consent was given to advertise. Motion passed 4-0
11. **Guide Rail Damage – Creek Road** – Mr. Sutton stated that back in December, a young man was in a car accident and damaged the guide rail on Creek Road. He was not listed as a driver on his parent's insurance, so the damage is not covered. The cost of repair would be \$4,250.00. The young man is willing to pay but asked if he could make monthly payments. Solicitor Lewis drew up an agreement for payment to be \$177.00 per month until payment is complete. This included interest and fines to be paid if it is late. On a Marrow/Hunsinger motion, approval was given to enter into an agreement for monthly payments. Motion passed 4-0.
12. **Advertise for Equipment/Hauling and Materials** – On a Hunsinger/Carr motion, consent is given to advertise. Motion passed 4-0.
13. **Memorandum of Understanding with Conservation District** – This agreement is renewed every year so the conservation district can assist us with erosion control problems, dirt and gravel road issues, storm water run-off, etc. On a Hunsinger/Morrow motion, approval was given to enter into this agreement. Motion passed 4-0.

Other Business:

Ms. Moist stated she has the plans for Geisinger if any of the supervisors would like to look at them. Solicitor Lewis asked if he could have a copy. He will stop by the office after the meeting. Geisinger is asking to amend our zoning ordinance to allow medical center to be in the interchange zone. Ms. Moist stated that she has other ordinances that need to be tweaked. She asked if these can all be approved at the same time. Supervisor Howell asked if the fees we set covers all the work involved. The fees are set in the ordinance. There was further discussion regarding the placement of fire hydrants and who is responsible for choosing the location. Mr. Keister felt that the township should direct where they are placed, not the developer.

Ted Oman had a question regarding the developer's agreement and letter of credit for the Columbia County Christian School. Solicitor Lewis will work with Mr. Keister on getting these done.

Supervisor Carr asked if we have an ordinance for solar farm. Solicitor Lewis said we have a solar ordinance, but he feels that we need to update it. We can tag this onto the ordinances we are working on. Every quarter Ms. Moist and Solicitor Lewis will work on ordinances that need to be updated, so things can be done in a timely manner.

Supervisor Morrow asked for a moment of silence in memory of Stephanie Haney, our previous township manager. She passed away several weeks ago.

Approve Bills as Posted – On a Hunsinger/Morrow motion, bills as presented were approved. Motion passed 4-0.

Adjournment of Meeting – Meeting was adjourned at 10:19 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Larina S. Kramer
Township Secretary