

MAHONING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
MINUTES
August 14, 2019

DRAFT

CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce Steigerwalt called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Mahoning Township Building, 2685 Mahoning Drive East, Lehighton, PA 18235

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Bruce Steigerwalt led the Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT:

Bruce Steigerwalt, Supervisor; Myron Blahy, Supervisor; David Pollock, Supervisor; Thomas Nanovic, Solicitor; Natalie D. Haggerty, Secretary-Treasurer; Peter Eisenbrown, Engineer and Carl Faust, Zoning Officer and Code Official

ABSENT:

John Wieczorek, Chairman and Robert Slaw, Supervisor

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pastor Robert Johnson, Salem Bible Fellowship Church 1105 Fredericks Grove Road

July 1988 submitted plans for a 40' x 50' pavilion that were approved. The pavilion is utilized by several organizations in our area. Requesting permission to renovate the pavilion. The weather has not been good to the pavilion over the years. Original approval was for 2000 square feet allowing for an uncovered basketball court at one end. Asking for permission to renovate pavilion to 2100 square feet so that the entire pad would be shielded from the weather. Information passed along to Carl Faust, Building Code Official and Zoning Officer. Our desire as a church is to serve our community as best we can.

Shannon Kunkle, 394 Beaver Run Drive

August14,2019minutes

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Addressing the potential loss of our police department. Resided here since 1995 with my four children. I was told state police would be covering in lieu of local department. Curious of response times. My home has been broken into at least three times over the years, also there is a speed issue and a problem with dirt bikes and quads. Myron Blahy shared that he did talk to the chief about it and they cannot use some one's driveway, it has to be a public road to enforce. Myron has been called upon the speed issue on Pine Hollow and Beaver Run from many residents, sharing they say it's not 35mph its 55mph. We have been asking for more patrols. As far as annulling the police department, nowhere near that. Bruce, but we do have issues with police budget right now. Deb McGowan, we took money from our over time budget to bring on a full-time officer and that never transpired. Can we put that back? Bruce shared we placed it elsewhere in the budget. You have two people out sick. You have two officers filling in all those shifts because of the need. We still need to come up with the same amount of money in the police budget and when we are paying time and a half for shift coverages it chews up that budget even faster. We don't have a bottom less pit and when it is exhausted, we have nowhere to go. Deb McGowan you don't have enough officers to cover those shifts unless someone covers all that over time. Bruce Steigerwalt that is why we asked our Chief for some recommendations to tell us how to solve the problem. Myron Blahy and this is what we have been meeting about. Deb McGowan, have you asked OIC Danner for some suggestions, he was a past chief. Bruce, no we haven't. Deb McGowan perhaps he can come up with a better schedule. Bruce, its only going to be for a week. Deb McGowan, a lot can be accomplished in a week. Bruce, then it will go back to the way it was. Deb McGowan, exactly, there is a solution out there somewhere. We haven't made a decision, we put out questions on how best to solve the problem. Single shift coverage was suggested, attending court when the officers are available during the day. \$25,000 was budgeted and we are at \$50,000. It needs to come out of the police budget somewhere. Deb McGowan, I have a list from Facebook from July 1 to the 20th there were nine arrests between 11:40 AM and 2:20AM the next morning. You get an officer tied up and there is no one else to take other calls. So you must call the state. It can take the state hours to respond. It's not feasible to put the state on call to this township when we have officers that will work twenty-four hours if the schedule accommodates it. We need more patrols. Deb McGowan shared we don't have enough officers to cover your shifts. Myron Blahy, no one is looking to do away with the police department, but we are looking for ways to cut overtime. I am not here to argue, I'm here to make sure that this township in general has police coverage when we need it. Bruce asked how are we supposed to know when we approve a budget that two officers are going to be out on leaves. Deb McGowan asked to keep the line of communication open. Advised we are here the second and fourth Wednesday of each month and our minutes are posted on our website. Bruce shared that I have received just as many complaints that when our police are called, they don't show up.

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Keith Rex, here to concerning the police department, you made it perfectly clear nothing more to add.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION

Myron Blahy made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2019 Board of Supervisors Meeting. Seconded by David Pollock. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes; Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock, yes 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TRANSFERS

MOTION

David Pollock made a motion to approve the following transfers:

- \$537.97 Residential Street Light Money Market to General Checking
- \$595.20 Residential Fire Hydrant Money Market to General Checking
- \$17,363.67 General Checking to Payroll Checking pay date 7/18/19
- \$16,474.92 General Checking to Payroll Checking pay date 7/25/19
- \$15,367.42 General Checking to Payroll Checking pay date 8/01/19
- \$15,705.19 General Checking to Payroll Checking pay date 8/08/19
- \$16,365.16 General Checking to Payroll Checking pay date 8/15/19

Seconded by Myron Blahy. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes; Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock, yes 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

MOTION

Bruce Steigerwalt made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report for July 2019. Seconded by David Pollock. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes; Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock, yes 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

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PAYMENT OF BILLS AND PAYROLLS

MOTION

Myron Blahy made a motion to approve the following bills and payrolls:

Bill List #456 in the amount of \$201,368.42

General Check's #22464-#22509

State Check's #1662-#1668

Road Machinery Check #1053

Building Land Check #1010

Subdivision Land Development Check's #1094-#1097

Seconded by David Pollock. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes; Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock, yes 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS:

MOTION

Bruce Steigerwalt made a motion to approve the following reports:

Mahoning Township Road Department Activity Report for July 8, 2019-August 10, 2019

Mahoning Township Equipment Fuel Log July 2019

Mahoning Township SEO Report for June 21, 2019-July 3, 2019

Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes for July 25, 2019

Mahoning Township Zoning Officer Report for July 2019

Mahoning Township Building Code Official Report for July 2019

Seconded by David Pollock. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes; Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock, yes 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Route 443 Signal Improvements

Pete Eisenbrown, LTL Engineer: A general review was made and provided for feedback. Intersection of Lowes/Carbon Plaza, 9th Street and Graverville traffic light signals agreements were discussed as far as updating as a result of PennDOT upgrades. New features are being proposed such as ADA ramps, sidewalks, retaining walls, video detection and overhead lane control. All their signal control cabinets will have battery backup in addition to a generator plug. Perhaps revise agreements with Lehigh so each only maintains the signal for which it owns. Suggests an agreement with Carbon Plaza Mall. Made the township aware of other than the main centerline striping, similar to current conditions, all maintenance of all other pavement markings is the responsibility of the township. Be aware that the new plans contain more markings, in addition adjustments to the video detection for turns falls to the township. Need police emitters information. Unclear of changes if any to Mall Road and Mall Lane

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Recycling Event- September 10, 2019 3:00 -6:00 or until truck is full.

MOTION

Bruce Steigerwalt made a motion to approve the advertisement color paper insert in the Times News. Seconded by Myron Blahy. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes; Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock, yes 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

Extension of chip seal contract September 15, 2019 Pocono Spray Patch

MOTION

Bruce Steigerwalt made a motion to extend it to September 15, 2019 for the bituminous seal coat contract under two conditions: 1) There will be no material adjustment to the price after the 15th 2) if they don't complete by the August 26th that any work on the 26th or thereafter be scheduled when the busses are not operating. Seconded by David Pollock. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes; Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock, yes 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

James Danner Officer in Charge (Audie is on vacation August 9-16, 2019)

MOTION

Myron Blahy made a motion to ratify the appointment of James Danner as officer in charge while Audie Mertz is on vacation August 9 to August 16, 2019. Seconded by David Pollock. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes; Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock, yes 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

Times News Parking Lot: TABLE

Bruce Steigerwalt shared that he was hired by Times News to look at their parking situation. They will be closing their Blue Ridge Office and moving those employees out here. So, they will need additional parking.

OLD BUSINESS:

American Tower

TABLE

CORRESPONDENCE:

Myron Blahy made a motion to accept and place on file the correspondence dated August 14, 2019. Seconded by Bruce Steigerwalt. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes; Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

***PA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD, BL PEIFER, DIRECTOR

RE: NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TRANSFER APPLICATION FOR RADICAL WINE COMPANY LIQUOR LICENSE.

***DELAWARE AND LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

RE: NOTICE OF MANSION HOUSE BRIDGE OPENING, MONDAY AUG 12, 2019

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***DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION, PAMELA BUSH, COMMISSION
SECRETARY & ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL
RE: PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE, AUGUST 14, 2019

***PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES
RE: NOTICE OF ELECTRIC SERVICE INTERRUPTION, GRAVERVILLE, LEHIGHTON
AUG 21, 2019 9AM-1PM. ALTERNATE DATE AUG 22, 2019

***MODERN, BRISTOL GENERAC
RE: QUOTE FOR MAINTENANCE OF GENERATOR
Nevin will look into.

***ALONG THE CORRIDOR, SUMMER 2019 EDITION

****POCONO SPRAY PATCHING, JOHN MURPY
RE: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CHIP SEAL CONTRACT.

***COSTARS CONNECTION, SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

***ROBERT BATISTE, AMERICAN TOWER
RE: NOTICE OF SUBLEASING (AT&T)

***BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON, CLARK RITTER, MAYOR
RE: LEHIGHTON BOROUGH HALLOWEEN PARADE ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 19,
2019 4:00PM, REQUESTING FIRE POLICE ASSISTANCE
MOTION

David Pollock made a motion to approve the use of MTFP if anyone is available on October 19,
2019 and November 10 for Veterans parade. Seconded by Myron Blahy. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes;
Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock, yes 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

***PSATS NEWS BULLETIN AUGUST 2019

OFFICIALS:

Myron Blahy: Hoping neighbors were present regarding squatter on Pine Hollow.

David Pollock: Addressed Deb McGowan the scheduling problem will be fixed.

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Bruce Steigerwalt: Graverville Light electric service will be interrupted on August 21, 2019 9:00-2:00 with alternate date of August 22, 2019. Asked Nevin to put up portable stop signs. Flagstaff Road the township will be making repairs tentatively on September 4, 5 and 6th, 2019.

Mark Ebbert: When there is a power outage typically the fire company would go out and place generator at signals.

Carl Faust: Looking into the two areas that individuals are living in campers within the township.

Nevin Frey: Questioned the purchase of truck. Advised not in position with three supervisors present. Schedule a special meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION

David Pollock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Seconded by Myron Blahy. Bruce Steigerwalt, yes; Myron Blahy, yes and David Pollock, yes 3-0 vote. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie D. Haggerty

Secretary-Treasurer