

CENTRE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES OF
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Centre Township Board of Supervisors was held on September 27, 2022 at the Centre Township Municipal Building, 449 Bucks Hill Road, Mohrsville, PA. Supervisor Jason Troutman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a Moment of Silence. The following were present: Supervisors Jason Troutman and James Fitterling. Solicitor Liz Magovern, Engineer Ryan Rhode, Zoning/Codes Enforcement Jeff Fiant, and Secretary Jennifer Wassell-Bonser. Supervisor Charles Zimmerman was absent from the meeting.

HEARING OF VISITORS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The Director of the Schuylkill Valley Community Library provided handouts regarding new programs being offered at the library in addition to information about a new meeting space available at the Library. She also reviewed details about the process of how state and county funding is distributed to all of the county's libraries. It was noted that the county's goal is for municipalities to contribute \$5.00 per capita to their libraries; therefore municipalities are being asked to increase their donations to \$2.50 per person at this time. Centre Township currently donates \$1.00 per person.

The Board of Supervisors thanked the representatives of the Schuylkill Valley Community Library for attending the meeting and that all the information provided would be taken into the Township's budgetary consideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James Fitterling to approve the minutes from August 23, 2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting. Seconded by Jason Troutman. Upon roll call, Troutman and Fitterling voted yes.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by James Fitterling and seconded by Jason Troutman to approve the bills for payment. Upon roll call, Troutman and Fitterling voted yes.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS/SOLICITORS REPORT – Liz Magovern

Jason Troutman made a motion acknowledging receipt of an Ag Security Area Application submitted by Barry Kerschner for 12.42 acres; seconded by James Fitterling. Upon rollcall Troutman and Fitterling voted yes.

The Township Solicitor provided details relative to updates made to the Township Employee Handbook, specific to health care and pension plan benefits, as well as time-off for bereavement and jury duty upon completion of the 90-day probationary period

Jason Troutman made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-14, Amending the Township Employee Handbook. Seconded by James Fitterling. Upon roll call, Troutman and Fitterling voted yes.

CENTRE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES OF
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

The Township Solicitor explained that due to bonding issues, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Jason Troutman, can be appointed to the unpaid Township Treasurer position. The Township Solicitor stated the former Treasurer's Bond can be cancelled and then transferred into Jason's name.

James Fitterling made a motion to appoint Jason Troutman to the unpaid position of Township Treasurer; seconded by Jason Troutman. Upon roll call, Fitterling and Troutman voted yes.

James Fitterling made a motion to cancel the former Township Treasurer's Bond and transfer it to Jason Troutman as the unpaid Township Treasurer. Seconded by Jason Troutman. Upon roll call, Fitterling and Troutman voted yes.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Chairman Jason Troutman reviewed the Road Department Report which included road patching, brush and tree cutting, mowing, and various road and equipment maintenance work.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - RYAN RHODE

A motion was made by James Fitterling and seconded by Jason Troutman to amend the September 27, 2022 Board of Supervisors Agenda to include discussion to dedicate Trolley Court. Upon roll call, Fitterling and Troutman voted yes.

The Township Engineer stated that the Deeds of Dedication descriptions are in the process of being prepared for Trolley Court. Ryan also stated discussion of Liquid Fuels for the addition can be held at the October Board of Supervisors Meeting since the September 1st deadline has passed and it cannot be placed on the PA DOT Liquid Fuels Program until next year.

ZONING OFFICER REPORT

Zoning/Codes Official Jeff Fiant provided his monthly report which included issuance of fourteen building permits valued at \$373,395.00, ten zoning enforcements were issued, and 20 building inspections were completed.

SEO REPORT

A motion was made by James Fitterling, seconded by Jason Troutman accepting the SEO report. Upon roll call, Fitterling and Troutman voted yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Jason Troutman made a motion to acknowledge Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor Attorney Frederick Hatt's retirement and recommend that the Zoning Hearing Board appoint Attorney Alex Elliker the new Township Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. James Fitterling seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Troutman and Fitterling voted yes.

CENTRE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES OF
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

Jason Troutman made a motion to approve the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Township Pension Plan in the amount of \$2,890.00. Seconded by James Fitterling. Upon roll call, Troutman and Fitterling voted yes. Jason Troutman made a motion to approve the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Township Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$0. Seconded by James Fitterling. Upon roll call, Troutman and Fitterling voted yes.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Jason Troutman announced that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has declared a drought watch for 36 counties and that DEP is requesting voluntary water conservation at this time.

The Township Secretary informed the Board of Supervisors and audience in attendance about a Major Systems Program being administered by the Berks County Redevelopment Authority. Jennifer explained that the program is designed to assist low-income families in the county that are in need of a repair or replacement of a major system in their home with a form of a one-time deferred payment loan. It was noted that there are applications available in the Township Meeting Room and Office as well as on the Township's website.

HEARING OF VISITORS – GENERAL

Michael Fierro addressed the Board of Supervisors regarding follow-up to a complaint performed by Kraft Codes Services regarding pigs on his property. Zoning/Codes Official Jeff Fiant apologized to Mr. Fierro on behalf of Kraft Codes and explained that there was a miscommunication among their staff which he has handled relative to the complaint site visit previously performed. Jeff confirmed that Mr. Fierro's property was clean, there was no odor and that the pigs are grandfathered and may remain on the property.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, James Fitterling made a motion and Jason Troutman seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Upon roll call, Troutman, Fitterling and Zimmerman voted yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer A. Wassell-Bonser
Township Secretary