

CENTRE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 22, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Centre Township Board of Supervisors was held on November 22, 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, Charles Zimmerman, and James Fitterling. Solicitor Liz Magovern, Zoning/Codes Enforcement Jeff Fiant and Secretary Jennifer Wassell-Bonser. Engineer Ryan Rhode was absent from the meeting.

HEARING OF VISITORS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Corporal Dave Beam of the Pennsylvania State Police Barracks, Hamburg was in attendance of the meeting to address the Board and audience in attendance relative to speeding problems. Corporal Beam confirmed that the State Police are well-aware of the speeding problems in the township as well as through-out the entire Commonwealth and reviewed steps being taken. It was noted that their efforts are being met to the best of their abilities while being faced with limited manpower. The Corporal invited community feedback and addressed questions and concerns. It was noted that concerns and complaints relative to specific vehicles speeding or driving recklessly in the township be made directly by calling into the Hamburg State Police Barracks. It was also noted that PA DOT would need to act in response to signage requests on state roadways.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Charles Zimmerman to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting. Seconded by James Fitterling. Upon roll call, Troutman, Zimmerman, and Fitterling voted yes.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS/SOLICITORS REPORT – Liz Magovern

The Township Solicitor reviewed details of the new requirement for all taxing districts that levy a property tax created by Act 57. Liz explained that Act 57 of 2022 amends the Local Tax Collection Law to allow taxpayers who fail to receive a tax notice during their first year of occupancy to apply for and receive a waiver of penalties and that each taxing district is required to adopt an ordinance or resolution implementing property tax penalty waiver provisions as required and outlined in the Resolution for consideration for adoption.

Jason Troutman made a motion adopting Resolution 2022-16 – Implementing Act 57 of 2022 Property Tax Penalty Waiver Provisions. James Fitterling seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Troutman, Zimmerman, and Fitterling voted yes.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Charles Zimmerman reviewed the Road Department Report which included cleaning out catch basins, tree cutting, in addition to shoulder clean-outs and cut-outs and miscellaneous work in the shop.

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ENGINEER'S REPORT – RYAN RHODE

Jeff Fiant presented the Engineer's Report and updated the Board that the developer of the Irish Creek Hills Subdivision has completed the dedication process for Trolley Court. The Township Solicitor confirmed that the documents have been recorded.

It was noted that the developer for the Pear Road Properties Preliminary Plan has submitted a time extension to February 24, 2023.

James Fitterling made a motion authorizing and accepting the 90-day time extension request to February 24, 2023 for Pear Road Properties Preliminary Plan; Charles Zimmerman seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Troutman, Zimmerman, and Fitterling voted yes.

Jeff also noted that Hafer Petroleum has submitted the yearly Sensor Functionality Testing Proposal and noted associated costs.

Jason Troutman made a motion approving Hafer Petroleum Sensor Functionality Testing Proposal; Charles Zimmerman seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Troutman, Zimmerman, and Fitterling voted yes.

ZONING OFFICER REPORT

Zoning/Codes Official Jeff Fiant provided his monthly report which included various issuance of four zoning enforcements and one property maintenance compliance issue, in addition to completion of thirty-three building inspections, issuance of eight building permits with an improvement value of \$120,139.90, and seven Certificates of Occupancy were issued.

SEO REPORT

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

NEW BUSINESS

Charles Zimmerman made a motion approving the 2023 Preliminary Budget; James Fitterling seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Troutman, Fitterling, and Zimmerman voted yes.

The Board reviewed details of increased Auditor Fees in relation to rates of surrounding municipalities and discussed negotiating a lower rate not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Jason Troutman made a motion for the Township Secretary to advertise Auditor Appointment for services to review 2022 financials at a cost not to exceed \$10,000; James Fitterling Seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Troutman, Fitterling, and Zimmerman voted yes.

Chairman Troutman reviewed details of a discrepancy with the millage listed on the Berks County Treasurer's Office 2023 Tax Bill Preparation Form, noting that it should reflect .0036.

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Jason Troutman made a motion authorizing a letter of support from the Board of Supervisors for the Municipal Authority's Grant Application submission for the Hillcrest Estates WWTP; James Fitterling seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Troutman, Fitterling, and Zimmerman voted yes.

Jason Troutman made a motion appointing Jarrod Emes as the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator; Charles Zimmerman seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Troutman, Fitterling, and Zimmerman voted yes.

MISCELLANEOUS

None at this time.

HEARING OF VISITORS - GENERAL

Tim Lehner indicated that he has filed a zoning hearing board application with the Township for a variance to operate a junkyard on his property. He further advised that the attorney fees he owes to the Township from the prior zoning hearing board appeal litigation are being held in escrow with the Court. The Solicitor advised Tim Lehner that she will look into it and contact the Court regarding the attorney fees being held in escrow.

James Fitterling questioned the possibly of granting a waiver to property owners who have a property that has mainly been unoccupied during the three-year pumping cycle. A discussion was held regarding procedures for considering of a waiver based upon receiving a written request outlining reasons for the property owner's request as to why a waiver from pumping within their three-year cycle should be granted.

ADJOURNMENT

It was that the Board of Supervisors would meet in Executive Session to discuss potential litigation upon adjournment of the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, James Fitterling made a motion and Charles Zimmerman, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Upon roll call, Troutman, Fitterling and Zimmerman voted yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer A. Wassell-Bonser
Township Secretary