

**CENTRE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Centre Township Board of Supervisors was held on December 20, 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

Tim Lehner expressed his position on the process and time and costs associated for himself and the Township for his recent submission of a zoning hearing board appeal application with the Township for a variance to operate a junkyard on his property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Charles Zimmerman to approve the minutes from the November 22, 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 Jason Troutman to approve the bills for payment. Upon roll call, Troutman, Zimmerman, and Fitterling voted yes.

A motion was made by James Fitterling and seconded by Charles Zimmerman to approve the township's annual donations, which included the Pension MMO/State Fund, Borough of Centerport Worker's Compensation, the Volunteer Fire Company, as well as increasing the donation to \$1.50 per capita for the Schuylkill Valley Community Library for \$6,054.00 donation. Upon roll call, Troutman, Zimmerman, and Fitterling voted yes.

A motion was made by Charles Zimmerman and seconded by James Fitterling to re-affirm the approval of bills for payment as of December 31, 2022. Upon roll call, Troutman, Zimmerman, and Fitterling voted yes.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS/SOLICITORS REPORT – Liz Magovern

The Township Solicitor confirmed that the Township has received a Zoning Hearing Application variance request from Timothy Lehner to operate a junkyard on his property. Solicitor Magovern provided the Board of Supervisors with options of taking a position or not taking a position in favor or opposition of the variance request.

A motion was made by Charles Zimmerman authorizing the Township Solicitor to send a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board advising of the Township's position to deny to the variance request as submitted by Timothy Lehner and to submit the prior Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor's Decision and Orders as Exhibits for the record for the upcoming hearing; Jason Troutman seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Troutman, Zimmerman, and Fitterling voted yes.

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ROAD DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Charles Zimmerman reviewed the Road Department Report which included cindering and mowing roads, cutting shoulders, and various vehicle maintenance work.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – RYAN RHODE

Jeff Fiant presented the Engineer's Report and informed the Board that the developer for the Pear Road Properties Preliminary Plan has not submitted revised plans for Planning Commission review and noted the time extension deadline of February 24, 2023.

Jeff also noted recently received complaints regarding Noecker's poultry barns have been addressed.

ZONING OFFICER REPORT

Zoning/Codes Official Jeff Fiant informed the Board that he anticipates the Data Road property owner to submit the required Zoning Application for an accessory structure that has been constructed on the property in order to bring the outstanding property issue into compliance. Jeff also noted the Township Solicitor's Office is monitoring the Plum Road property issue and noted the property owner has been in communication with the Conservation District with a plan to resolve the issue of stones and dirt washing into the road and stormwater basins. Jeff also noted that he will review the issue of vegetative over-growth on Garfield with the Township Roadmaster to ensure his satisfaction with the growth that has been cut back from the Township's right-of-way.

Zoning/Codes Official Jeff Fiant provided his monthly report which included various issuance of seven zoning enforcements and one property maintenance compliance issue, in addition to completion of thirteen building inspections, issuance of five building permits with an improvement value of \$97,826.00, and three Certificates of Occupancy were issued.

SEO REPORT

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

NEW BUSINESS

The Township Secretary informed the Board that the Auditing Firm, RKL, has agreed to perform services to review the 2022 financials at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00 as previously discussed.

Jason Troutman made a motion approving the PMRS Revised 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation township pension plan payment from \$2,890.00 to \$2,942.00 due to an error made with PMRS worksheet calculations, seconded by James Fitterling. Upon roll call, Troutman, Fitterling, and Zimmerman voted yes.

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The Board of Supervisors acknowledged notification from the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board regarding the enrollment of property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Levan, Jr. into Tilden Township's Agricultural Security Area with 6 acres of the 59-acre parcel are located in Centre Township.

James Fitterling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-17, Approving the 2023 Final Budget General Fund and Street Light Fund; seconded by Charles Zimmerman. Upon roll call, Troutman, Fitterling, and Zimmerman voted yes.

Charles Zimmerman made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-18, Approving the Tax Rate of .54 mills for Real Estate and to provide the tax rate to the Berks County Treasurer's Office; James Fitterling seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Troutman, Fitterling, and Zimmerman voted yes.

James Fitterling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-19, Approving the Street Light Tax of \$.85 per front footage; 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 noted his dissatisfaction of the Township's position on the zoning hearing board appeal application for a variance to operate a junkyard on his property.

The Board of Supervisors confirmed a question raised by Wade Houck clarifying that the .54 mills Real Estate Tax Rate increase is .18 mills and reflective in the 2023 Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, James Fitterling made a motion and seconded by Charles Zimmerman, 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