

**Board of Supervisors**

**MINUTES**

**October 22, 2024**

**IN-PERSON MEETING**

**Supervisors Present:** Bill Ryker, Pete Kade, Jim Hopkins, Dave Long and Lorna Yearwood.

**Also present:** Rich Pursell (Township Manager/Public Works Director), Lisa Gerhart (Secretary/Assistant Zoning Officer), Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor), & Michael McDonald (Chief of Police).

Mr. Ryker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ryker advised the Board will meet in executive session after to discuss litigation matters and personnel.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Deputy Fire Chief Bob Heitz, Richland Fire and Rescue (Shelly) stated there was a fire on Mine Road Saturday. He said locks to the Rail Trail were cut to get quick access down there with rescue vehicles. He asked to make sure Coopersburg and Haycock Fire Departments get the access codes for future use. He also asked what the weight capacity is for the boardwalk portion of the Rail Trail as trucks were driving on it during the fire response. Manager Pursell said he would get that information from the county.

Mr. Dennis Gala, Pleasant View Road, commented on the non-existent speed enforcement on Pleasant View Road. Chief stated he stopped out to Mr. Gala's house to show him the speed data from the last time the speed boards were on Pleasant View, but Mr. Gala was not home. They will meet up to discuss the data. Mr. Gala asked about a new building his neighbor put up and worries about stormwater. Ms. Gerhart advised stormwater was done for the new building and inspected by the Township Engineer.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Ryker stated the financial report and balances are posted. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Hopkins and unanimously approved to accept the financial report as presented.

Fund Balances as of September 30, 2024

General Fund	\$1,745,529	COVID Relief Fund	\$186,317
- CD General Fund Reserve	- \$237,000		
Open Space Fund	\$137,019	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$159,558
- CD Open Space	-\$137,000	- CD Liquid Fuels	- \$236,00
Escrow Fund	\$1,485,753	Street Light Fund	\$5,212
Capital Reserve Fund	\$160,352	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$87,986
- CD Capital Reserve	- \$237,000		
Dedicated EMS	\$1,783	Dedicated Fire	\$53,747
General Fund Reserve	\$325,099		

**Payment of Bills**

(September 16, 2024 – October 15, 2024)

General Fund	\$36,945.93	Open Space Fund	\$2,508.57
Capital Reserve Fund	\$58,121.81	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$190,944.22
Escrows	\$19,832.40	Street Light Fund	\$549.94
PLGIT Credit Card	\$3848.07	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$0
Dedicated Fire Fund	\$0		

Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, and unanimously approved the payment of bills from September 16, 2024 - October 15, 2024.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously to adopt the September 24, 2024 & October 8, 2024, minutes.

#### BUSINESS ITEMS

**Discussion on Event Venues and Special Events** – Ms. Yearwood discussed the current E-8 and A-9 zoning uses in place. She suggested updating the existing Accessory Farm Entertainment Use ordinance to regulate events such as weddings on farms and implement a permit system for all large events. There was more discussion about non-profits being exempt, the amount of people that define an event and possible burdens being placed on already existing event venues. The Board decided to send the event venue topic back to the Planning Commission for further discussion. Mr. Long stated the Planning Commission will need specific direction on what the Board would like to see included. Mr. Hopkins suggested a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission. Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to have the Planning Commission discuss Event Venues again.

**Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2024-209 Establishing a Speed Limit of 35 mph on Cut Off Road and 40 mph on Passer Road** – Solicitor MacNair stated this ordinance is the result of a speed study done in July for Cut Off Road and August for Cut Off and Passer Road. This proposed ordinance was advertised October 5, 2024, in the Intelligencer. There was time allowed for public comment on Ordinance 2014-209 to which there was no response. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously approved to adopt **Ordinance 2024-209** establishing a speed limit of 35 mph on Cut Off Road and 40 mph on Passer Road.

**Zoning Hearing Board Application Discussion – Holley** – Solicitor MacNair discussed the application that will be before the Zoning Hearing Board on November 20, 2024, as being a setback issue. Mr. Holley, the applicant, is asking for a 15ft set back instead of the required 25 ft. The setback would be on the side of Mr. Holley's own property that abuts the subject property. Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Ryker, Mr. Kade and Mr. Long were in favor of the setback request. Ms. Yearwood was not in favor. Solicitor MacNair will send a letter to Solicitor Reiss, Zoning Hearing Board, advising of the Board of Supervisor's position.

**Purchase of Traffic Suite App for Speed Board Sign(s)** – Manager Pursell advised the Traffic Suite App is needed for the data off the speed boards. Mr. Hopkins stated there is no point to the speed boards without the data. The cost for the app is \$1,500.00 per year per speed board. Currently both speed board signs have the traffic suite app on them. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and move to authorize the purchase of the traffic suite App for two speed board signs at a total price not to exceed \$3,000.00.

**Website/Communication** – Ms. Yearwood presented a short presentation regarding the proposed scope of the Communications committee. The Board agreed for Ms. Yearwood to advertise for volunteers for the committee.

#### REPORTS / COMMENTS

**Zoning** – A report was received and is on file.

**Fire/EMS** – No reports submitted.

**Police** – A report was received and is on file. Ms. Yearwood asked if the speed board information presented each month shows the speeds declining. Chief McDonald stated unfortunately, no.

**Public Works** – A report was received and is on file.

**Solicitor** – A report was received and is on file

**Engineer** – A report was received and is on file.

**Planning Commission** – No report given. Mr. Long stated the Planning Commission members are still working on Comprehensive plan initiatives and Mr. Carson is working on Accessory Dwelling Units.

**Parks & Land Preservation Board** – No report given. Mr. Frank Hollenbach, Chair, stated they are working on the kiosk at Peppermint Park and stated they are going to offer EAC some space to post on Kiosk board as well.

**EAC** – No report was given. Ms. Yearwood stated the E-Waste event on 10/12/24 was a huge success. The EAC raised about \$1,200 and that goes towards the Hans Reiman Scholarship.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

None.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Gerri Anne Burke, High Meadow Rd, questioned getting a copy of the event venue ordinance. Manager Pursell explained, as previously discussed there is nothing to disperse as there is no draft and this is simply a discussion. Manager Pursell explained once something is agreed upon and ready for advertisement prior to adoption, then it can be viewed but we are nowhere close to that part in the process.

Mr. Mark Shadt, Pleasant Hollow Rd, stated regarding the event venue ordinance, he thinks transparency is needed. He also discussed enforcement of the noise ordinance. Mr. Schadt was told everyone can know what is happening by attending Planning Commission meetings. There is a public comment section at those meetings just as there is at the Board of Supervisors meetings.

Mr. Mike Clime, High Meadow Road, asked what the driving force regarding the event venue ordinance was. Mr. Ryker stated an increase in applications and people reaching out to the Township.

Mr. David Bretz, Peppermint Road, stated he thinks the noise ordinance needs to be enforced because the bottom line is people don't want to hear it.

Mr. Nick Rafferty, Pleasant View Road, stated someone near him tried a few years ago and it was denied. He stated he thinks the noise is the problem. He questioned also if the fire department still gives out smoke detectors.

Mr. Jay Ruhl, Hottle Road, stated the properties around him are owned by non-residents. He said he preserved his land because he loves it here. He stated allowing weddings can have a chain reaction.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hopkins stated he will be working on a citation for the resident Olympian and that will be given out on 11/12/24. Mr. Hopkins stated someone will be coming in to talk to the Planning Commission about waste water technology.

Mr. Ryker stated Friday from 6pm-8pm, PRFR they will be doing an open house. The Springtown Parade is Sunday, 10/27/24.

Mr. Kade stated he wanted to say what a good job the Police, Road Department and Administration do and thanked them for their hard work all year.

Mr. Long stated he and Ms. Gerhart will have something for the Board to look at in November regarding a possible property maintenance code.

Ms. Yearwood stated the EAC decided on 6 locations for the Litter signs. She stated when the Northern Lights were visible a few people went to Peppermint Park to look at them. Someone called the police and when the police responded they moved the people along as the park is closed at dusk. Ms. Yearwood stated perhaps there can be an exception for celestial events.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ryker noted there will be an executive session held after this meeting to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Gerhart  
Secretary