

**READING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Reading Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Township Building and called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Paul Bart, Chairman. Bob Zangueneh, Vice-Chairman, and Supervisor Donald Kauffman were present with Chairman Bart presiding.

Others in attendance included Victor Neubaum, Solicitor; Vince Wayne, Buchart Horn, Inc.; Marcia Weaver, Administrator/Treasurer; Karen Eakin, Secretary; Gerald Shank, Dana Shuman, and John Beise, Planning Commission; Bill Ceravola, Officer-in-Charge; Greg Morehead, Police Officer; Troy Reeve, Lake Meade Fire & Rescue; Eric Beyer, Harvey & Nancy Stimer, James & Dee Kenney, Fred Lawrence, CN McMaster, Emmert & Pat Hartzell, Sue Myers, Evelyn Howe, Pauline Brodbeck, Clarence Wooters, Jr., Jody Lobaugh, Gary Bullock and Kevin Holtzinger.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Zangueneh was absent from the July 21st Board meeting and stated his objection to the executive meeting portion of the July minutes. Attorney Neubaum reminded him that by not being present, the absentee vote is not counted. The minutes of the July 21, 2014 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Kauffman and seconded by Chairman Bart; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Accrued personal leave time in the amount of \$2,434.56 was approved by all board members to be released to Officer Beyer.

The Board met on August 14th regarding personnel matters involving the Public Works Department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Regarding the elimination of a police position, Mr. Zangueneh stated that the police need to be heard when the board makes decisions relating to public health and safety. He got a two-time felon off the ballot so Mr. Bart could run. The Lake Meade Property Owners Association elected to remain silent and his message to them is that they just lost police coverage because the township lost 33% of police coverage. He stated his fellow board members failed to advertise the subject matter, failed to place the matter on the agenda, and did not advise the Officer-In-Charge and Vice-Chairman of their actions prior to the meeting. Mr. Zangueneh accused his fellow board members of conspiracy, lying and deceiving the public. Members of the public including Mr. Shank, Mr. Wooters and Mr. Thomas asked Mr. Zangueneh to stop, stating they had enough and it was time to give others a chance to comment.

Mr. Stimer expressed displeasure with the way the police run the township. He wants the Board to listen to the people.

Mr. Bart stated that the township had two consecutive years of over-spending and eliminating one police position was a financial decision. Earned income tax is at its maximum rate the township can collect and the only other option available to the township was to raise the real estate tax. There is concern for DCED oversight if General Fund expenditures exceed income for three years in a row. A decision needed to be made to reduce expenditures rather than raise the real estate tax.

Mr. Zangueneh accused his fellow board members of reducing police services because there was not enough crime. Officer Ceravola confirmed that he and Chairman Bart did have a meeting approximately six weeks ago and discussed various options to reduce spending. Chairman Bart said none of those other options would save enough money at this point for the remaining half of the year. The township had to balance the work and the public works department needs to spend time mowing dangerous intersections to prevent accidents. Officer Ceravola said the township police can respond faster to accidents and that the state police will only respond to emergencies.

Mr. Keeney inquired if the issue is related to fines and would the position have been eliminated if the officers were more aggressive. Chairman Bart said when he spoke with Officer Ceravola there were no good answers. Mr. Beyer stated that the township only received half of the fine money brought in by the department and that being more aggressive would still not bring in enough revenue to cover expenses.

Mr. Harvey expressed concern regarding the purchase of a new tractor. Mr. Kauffman stated the previous tractor was 17 years old.

Mr. Holtzinger stated the township lost \$600,000 within the last 4 to 5 years. Isn't now the time to take the finances seriously? He is proud of the board for not raising taxes. People are hurting with the last assessment and the last thing they need is another tax increase.

Mr. Wooters expressed concern regarding the way Officer Beyer and the police handled a family matter.

Mr. Wickline said the public works road crew just mowed Sowers Road and Fish & Game Road and you can see now if a deer comes out on the road. He said that the new tractor is amazing and worth every penny and stated "that is safety in my mind."

Officer Ceravola expressed concern for call volume issues. A DUI is a minimum of 4 to 5 hours on one case. He said the police don't have time for traffic stops. Mr. Bart expressed concerns regarding liability issues with special duty assignments. Mr. Hartzell said the public does not know the statistics. Mrs. Brodbeck stated that there should be police coverage.

Mr. Holtzinger wanted to take a moment to express his gratitude to all three police officers for all they do. He expressed his appreciation for the difficult decision the board made in this matter and said they are setting precedence for the rest of government to follow.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Hampton Heights

Mr. Wayne attended the meeting in place of Mr. Mains. He stated that Mr. Mains has been working on a draft Stormwater Management Amendment regarding Hampton Heights.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The General Fund had a negative income balance of \$18,000 for the month of July. There were no unusual expenditures with the exception of \$4,600 for the property appraisals. Mr. Neubaum stated that the Township received the highest and best appraisals but property values have come down in recent years. Chairman Bart stated that he and Ms. Weaver will attend a budget workshop in September held by the Adams County Association of Township Officials. Chairman Bart made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted, Mr. Kauffman seconded; motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chairman Bart stated that the opening of Brough Hill Road is scheduled for Thursday, August 21st. There was a discussion of the emergency responders and the purchase of a fire engine.

Department Reports, for the month of July, submitted from the Police, Public Works Department, and Building Inspector were approved as submitted on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Kauffman; motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

Church Building Property

Pastor Fontanez & Maggie Paulino expressed interest in purchasing the church property and asked to set a date for a meeting with Township representatives. Solicitor Neubaum stated that information was given to Pastor Fontanez and that there would need to be offsets to cover the expenses involving a separate well, septic system, and subdivision. He suggested that details need to be worked out and that he should attend the meeting when scheduled. Mr. Hartzell inquired whether alternative buyers were sought.

Purchase of Torque Wrench

The Public Works Department requested the purchase of a ¾" drive torque wrench for \$455.00. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the purchase of the torque wrench, Chairman Bart seconded; motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Reading Township Municipal Authority Loan Repayment Agreement

Mr. Zangueneh made the motion to accept the agreement, seconded by Chairman Bart. The loan was given to the Municipal Authority for the purpose of reimbursing P&G Partners regarding the Municipal Authority and Township's execution of P&G Partner's Letter of Credit for the Laughman's Bottom Sewer Project. The Authority will repay as funding is available. Solicitor Neubaum suggested that a footnote be added to the Balance Sheet stating that the loan is a receivable for historical purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hartzell stated that the Little League Baseball Team has been playing at the Hampton ball field. Mr. Wickline stated there are no recreation areas in the Township.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Kauffman; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Eakin
Secretary